

CAT Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension

Sample Paper – 13

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 — The Philosophy of Language: Wittgenstein's Later Thought and the Social Constitution of Meaning (Q1 – Q5)

Passage 1

In his early masterwork, the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1921), Ludwig Wittgenstein articulated a picture theory of meaning: language functions by depicting, or picturing, states of affairs in the world. Each meaningful proposition mirrors an atomic fact through a correspondence of logical form; the structure of language and the structure of reality share a deep isomorphism. On this account, the limits of language are coextensive with the limits of the world that can be meaningfully described, and what cannot be pictured must be passed over in silence.

The later Wittgenstein of the *Philosophical Investigations* (1953) repudiated this framework with striking completeness. Language, he argued, is not a uniform logical calculus but a motley of practices he called *Sprachspiele* — language games. The meaning of a word is not its correspondence to a worldly object but its use within a rule-governed social practice. “Don’t look for the meaning, look for the use,” is the slogan that captures the shift. These language games are not free-floating but embedded in what Wittgenstein termed *Lebensformen* — forms of life — the shared biological, cultural, and social conditions within which human linguistic activity takes place. Meaning, on this revised view,



is irreducibly social: it is constituted by the normative practices of a community rather than by any private correspondence between word and world.

The private language argument, advanced in sections 243–315 of the *Investigations*, extends this social constitution of meaning into the philosophy of mind. Wittgenstein asked: could there be a language whose terms refer to sensations known only to the individual speaker, a language in principle inaccessible to any other person? His answer is no. A private ostensive definition — pointing inwardly at a sensation and mentally labelling it — cannot establish a standard of correctness, because any subsequent application of the term would be unchecked. Without a community to distinguish correct from incorrect use, there is no meaningful difference between applying a term correctly and merely believing one is doing so. The implication is devastating for Cartesian models of mind: the inner life does not constitute a self-sufficient semantic domain.

Wittgenstein's legacy in the philosophy of language is paradoxical. He refused to offer a systematic theory, insisting instead that philosophy's task is therapeutic: to dissolve rather than solve traditional metaphysical puzzles by revealing how language had “gone on holiday.” Yet his influence proved enormous, animating the ordinary language philosophy of Ryle and Austin at Oxford, and continuing to provoke debate in cognitive science and the theory of mind.

Q1. According to the passage, what does Wittgenstein mean by the term ‘language games’?

- (A) formal logical calculi that map the structure of reality through pictorial correspondence.
- (B) rule-governed social practices embedded in specific forms of life that give words their meaning through use.
- (C) private mental acts by which individual speakers attach labels to inner sensations.
- (D) rhetorical devices used by philosophers to make abstract arguments more accessible to ordinary readers.

Q2. The phrase ‘forms of life’ as used in the passage most nearly means:

- (A) the biological and evolutionary conditions that determine the range of possible human thought.
- (B) specific cultural artefacts such as literature, music, and religious ritual through which a society expresses itself.
- (C) the logical structures underlying all possible languages, discoverable through formal analysis.



(D) the shared social and cultural practices that constitute the background against which language acquires meaning.

Q3. Which of the following best describes the relationship between the early Wittgenstein of the *Tractatus* and the later Wittgenstein of the *Philosophical Investigations*?

- (A) the later work is a fundamental repudiation of the earlier, replacing the picture theory of meaning with a use-based, social account.
- (B) the later work refines but essentially preserves the logical atomism of the *Tractatus*, extending it to cover social phenomena.
- (C) the two works address entirely different domains — logic in the early phase, ethics in the later — and cannot meaningfully be compared.
- (D) the later work concedes the failure of ordinary language philosophy and returns to a correspondence theory of truth.

Q4. The private language argument, as described in the passage, most directly implies that:

- (A) sensory experience is inherently unreliable and cannot provide a foundation for empirical knowledge.
- (B) language is a purely formal system that has no necessary connection to subjective mental states.
- (C) meaningful language cannot be purely internal or subjective but must be grounded in publicly accessible communal practice.
- (D) Cartesian dualism is internally consistent but has no practical consequences for the philosophy of language.

Q5. What is the primary argumentative purpose of the passage?

- (A) to defend the picture theory of meaning as articulated in the *Tractatus* against subsequent misreadings.
- (B) to trace Wittgenstein's intellectual development and show how the later philosophy dissolves rather than solves traditional problems



about meaning and mind.

(C) to argue that ordinary language philosophy is the most practically useful tradition in twentieth-century analytic philosophy.

(D) to demonstrate that the private language argument fails on its own terms and cannot undermine Cartesian models of mind.

Set B: Reading Comprehension — Microfinance, Collateral Substitution, and the Paradox of Women's Economic Agency (Q6 – Q10)

Passage 2

The founding of the Grameen Bank by Muhammad Yunus in Bangladesh during the 1970s represented a radical reconceptualisation of credit access for the poor. Conventional banking institutions refused loans to landless rural borrowers on the grounds that they lacked physical collateral. Yunus's insight was to substitute social collateral: borrowers were organised into small peer groups whose members bore collective moral responsibility for one another's repayments. The model attracted an overwhelmingly female clientele — by the 1990s women comprised more than ninety per cent of Grameen borrowers — and achieved repayment rates that embarrassed the commercial banking sector. Critics of conventional poverty lending were compelled to notice.

The empowerment thesis that quickly attached itself to microfinance held that credit access would generate a virtuous cycle: loan capital invested in small enterprises would generate income, income would produce economic independence, and independence would translate into enhanced bargaining power within the household and the broader community. Women who controlled their own earnings, it was argued, would negotiate better outcomes on nutrition, education, and health for their children, creating measurable inter-generational development gains.

The empirical record, however, is considerably more ambiguous. A series of careful studies found that loan funds were frequently fungible within the household: although the woman was the nominal borrower, her husband or male relatives often appropriated the capital, directing its use while leaving her with the liability of repayment. Women bore the full social cost of the peer group's sanctions when repayments were missed, yet in many cases controlled neither the enterprise nor its proceeds. The commercialisation of the microfinance sector in the 2000s, as for-profit MFIs entered the market seeking returns, intensified these problems: aggressive loan disbursement and high interest rates pushed already-marginal households into destructive debt spirals, with several regional markets — most notoriously Andhra Pradesh — experiencing borrower crises of significant severity.

The debate over microfinance's net contribution to women's empowerment thus remains unresolved. Credit access is a necessary but not sufficient condition for economic agency. Without parallel interventions in household decision-making norms, property rights, and women's mobility, structural change in gender relations does not automatically follow from a loan.

Q6. The primary mechanism by which the Grameen Bank model extends



credit to poor borrowers, as described in the passage, is:

- (A) replacing physical collateral with social accountability through peer group lending.
- (B) subsidising interest rates through government grant funding channelled to rural women.
- (C) partnering with commercial banks to guarantee individual loans against a shared risk pool.
- (D) extending credit exclusively to women who can demonstrate prior entrepreneurial experience.

Q7. The high repayment rates among women borrowers in the Grameen model, as discussed in the passage, primarily reflect:

- (A) the superior financial literacy of women borrowers relative to male borrowers in the same communities.
- (B) the profitability of the small enterprises funded by the loans, which generated reliable income streams.
- (C) the strength of social pressure within peer groups rather than straightforward evidence of financial empowerment.
- (D) the effectiveness of government regulation in enforcing loan repayment among vulnerable borrowers.

Q8. Which of the following findings, if true, would most weaken the microfinance empowerment thesis as presented in the passage?

- (A) evidence that women who receive microfinance loans spend a greater proportion of household income on children's education than women who do not.
- (B) data showing that for-profit microfinance institutions charge interest rates significantly higher than those of non-profit institutions.
- (C) research indicating that peer group lending models have been successfully adapted for use in urban as well as rural settings.



- (D) evidence that in the majority of borrowing households, male relatives make the final decision on how loan funds are used.

Q9. The word ‘fungible’ as used in the passage most nearly means:

- (A) legally enforceable and binding on all parties to an agreement.
(B) freely interchangeable or transferable in value without meaningful distinction.
(C) subject to rapid deterioration in value when exposed to market competition.
(D) resistant to external control and therefore difficult to regulate effectively.

Q10. The author’s overall tone towards the microfinance empowerment thesis can best be described as:

- (A) critically nuanced — acknowledging the model’s genuine innovations while questioning whether credit access alone generates meaningful gender equity.
(B) enthusiastically supportive, arguing that the microfinance model represents the most effective development intervention of the past half-century.
(C) comprehensively dismissive, concluding that microfinance has done more harm than good and should be abolished.
(D) politically neutral, presenting all sides of the debate without offering any evaluative judgement.

Set C: Reading Comprehension — Nehruvian Planning and India’s Development Model: Commanding Heights and the Mixed Economy (Q11 – Q15)

Passage 3

Post-independence India inherited an economy that was overwhelmingly agrarian, weakly industrialised, and structurally dependent on imported manufactured goods. Jawaharlal Nehru’s response



was a dirigiste development model that assigned the state a commanding role in economic transformation. Drawing on the Mahalanobis input-output model, the Second and Third Five-Year Plans prioritised heavy industry — steel, power generation, machine tools, and heavy engineering — as the foundation on which a self-reliant industrial economy could be built. The public sector was installed at the “commanding heights”: strategic industries were brought under state ownership or control, while private enterprise was confined to sectors deemed less critical to national development. Import substitution industrialisation provided the protective environment within which this infant industry strategy would mature.

The achievements were real and not trivial. The steel townships of Bhilai, Rourkela, and Bokaro represented, in their time, the largest industrial projects independent India had undertaken. The atomic energy programme, the Indian Institutes of Technology, and the network of national laboratories built a scientific and technical institutional base from near nothing. A capital-goods sector — the capacity to produce the machines that make machines — was assembled in a generation. These were formidable accomplishments for a newly sovereign state beginning from an extremely low industrial base.

Yet the model generated structural pathologies that proved durable. The system of industrial licensing — colloquially known as the licence-permit raj — required entrepreneurs to obtain state permission for investment, capacity expansion, and product diversification. Protected from import competition and insulated from market discipline, Indian industry developed chronic inefficiencies: high cost, low quality, and technological stagnation became systemic features rather than temporary growing pains. Agriculture received comparatively meagre investment relative to heavy industry, contributing to recurrent food shortages and vulnerability to external food aid. Consumer goods were perpetually scarce, and real wages in the organised sector stagnated for extended periods.

The legacy of Nehruvian planning is therefore genuinely contested. Those who credit Nehru argue that without the state-directed accumulation of industrial capital in the 1950s and 1960s, India would have remained a supplier of raw materials to the global economy, perpetually dependent on foreign technology and foreign manufactures. Critics counter that the licence-permit raj embedded rent-seeking, corruption, and industrial inefficiency so deeply into the economy that the benefits of the 1991 liberalisation — when they arrived — were partly a dividend of dismantling Nehru’s own system.

Q11. The phrase ‘commanding heights’ in the passage refers to:

- (A) the mountain ranges of the Himalayan frontier that India’s defence establishment was required to secure after 1947.
- (B) the senior bureaucratic positions in the Planning Commission that directed the Five-Year Plans.
- (C) strategically important industrial sectors such as steel, power, and heavy engineering that the state placed under public ownership.
- (D) the macroeconomic aggregates — GDP growth, investment ratios,



and savings rates — that the Mahalanobis model was designed to optimise.

Q12. The word ‘dirigiste’ as used in the passage most nearly means:

- (A) characterised by direct and extensive state intervention in the management and direction of the economy.
- (B) oriented towards export-led growth and the integration of the domestic economy into global trade networks.
- (C) committed to free-market principles and the withdrawal of the state from productive activity.
- (D) focused primarily on agricultural development and rural livelihood improvement.

Q13. What does the passage identify as the central tension within Nehruvian planning?

- (A) the conflict between the Planning Commission’s technocratic ambitions and the democratic accountability demanded by elected state governments.
- (B) the contradiction between India’s formally non-aligned foreign policy and its practical dependence on Soviet technical assistance for the steel plants.
- (C) the incompatibility between rapid capital accumulation and the Gandhian vision of village-based, small-scale economic self-sufficiency.
- (D) the ambition to build a heavy industrial base rapidly conflicted with the chronic neglect of agriculture and consumer goods production.

Q14. What does the passage imply about the licence-permit raj?

- (A) it successfully channelled private investment into sectors that aligned with national development priorities, demonstrating the effectiveness of indicative planning.



- (B) it produced industrial stagnation and rent-seeking by shielding producers from competition, rather than directing economic activity towards national goals.
- (C) it was essential in the early years of planning but was successfully reformed in the 1970s before becoming a source of inefficiency.
- (D) it primarily harmed small and medium enterprises while leaving large state-owned enterprises free to operate efficiently.

Q15. Which of the following best captures the author's conclusion about Nehruvian planning?

- (A) Nehruvian planning was an unqualified success that transformed India into a major industrial power and should be recognised as such.
- (B) Nehruvian planning was a historic failure that consigned India to poverty and underdevelopment for four decades through misguided statism.
- (C) it achieved significant industrial milestones but embedded structural rigidities that imposed costs on the Indian economy for decades.
- (D) the correct verdict on Nehruvian planning cannot be reached until India's performance is benchmarked against comparable post-colonial economies.

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: Data Colonialism and Digital Sovereignty

P. The extraction of this data by platforms headquartered in the Global North constitutes, on this analysis, a new form of colonial resource appropriation — one in which the raw material is not land or labour but the behavioural traces of billions of users.



Q. The response, still nascent, has taken the form of digital sovereignty movements that seek to subject data flows to national jurisdiction and to ensure that the economic value generated by local data accrues to local communities rather than to distant shareholders.

R. Every search query, purchase decision, and social interaction conducted on a major platform generates data that is captured, processed, and monetised by the platform's algorithms.

S. This asymmetry — users in the Global South generating data whose value is captured in the Global North — reproduces, at the level of digital infrastructure, the structural logic of colonial extraction that development economists long identified in commodity trade.

T. The remedy, digital sovereignty advocates argue, requires not merely regulatory adjustment but a fundamental rethinking of who owns the infrastructures through which digital life is conducted.

Which of the following is the correct order?

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

Q17. Para Jumble: Buddhist Doctrine of Dependent Origination (*Pratītyasamutpāda*)

P. Because no entity has independent self-existence, the concept of a fixed, enduring self is revealed as a cognitive construction rather than a metaphysical fact — a central implication of the *anātman* doctrine.

Q. The doctrine of dependent origination (*Pratītyasamutpāda*) is among the most philosophically consequential teachings of the Buddha, holding that all conditioned phenomena arise in dependence upon causes and conditions.

R. The ethical implications are equally far-reaching: if the self is not a fixed essence but a relational process, then compassion and moral responsibility extend naturally to all sentient beings caught in the same web of interdependence.



S. Nothing, on this view, possesses *svabhāva* — intrinsic or self-sufficient existence; every phenomenon is empty of independent being and arises only in relation to other phenomena.

T. Suffering, in particular, is understood to arise through a chain of twelve interdependent links (*nidānas*) beginning with ignorance of this very truth, and liberation consists in seeing through that ignorance to the conditioned nature of all experience.

Which of the following is the correct order?

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

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

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

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

Q18. Para Jumble: The Enlightenment and the Emergence of the Social Sciences

P. Adam Smith's political economy, Auguste Comte's positivist sociology, and the nascent discipline of political science all claimed to apply the methods of natural philosophy — observation, hypothesis, and systematic generalisation — to the study of human conduct and social organisation.

Q. The Enlightenment project was animated by a conviction that reason, freed from ecclesiastical authority and superstition, could illuminate the laws governing both nature and human society.

R. Yet the universalist ambitions of Enlightenment social science attracted a powerful counter-current: critics from Herder to contemporary post-colonial theorists have argued that what presented itself as universal reason was in fact the particular cultural outlook of educated European men, encoding assumptions that marginalised non-Western knowledge traditions.

S. This ambition — to place knowledge of society on the same footing as knowledge of physics or chemistry — gave birth to the social sciences as



a recognisable cluster of academic disciplines in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

T. The legacy of this moment is therefore double-edged: the social sciences opened new possibilities for rigorous inquiry into collective life, but they also carried within them the epistemic assumptions and exclusions of their founding cultural moment.

Which of the following is the correct order?

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

Q19. Para Jumble: Post-War Decolonisation and the Challenges of Nation-Building in Sub-Saharan Africa

P. The administrative borders bequeathed by colonialism had been drawn with reference to European strategic interests and the outcomes of European rivalries rather than to the ethnolinguistic or ecological realities of African societies, creating states whose internal coherence was perpetually contested.

Q. The wave of independence that swept Sub-Saharan Africa between 1957 and 1975 was carried by nationalist movements that had mobilised diverse populations around a shared demand for self-determination, even as those populations held widely divergent visions of what independence would bring.

R. The structural legacy of extraction — economies oriented towards the export of primary commodities, thin domestic manufacturing bases, and educational systems designed to produce colonial administrators rather than developmental professionals — constrained the options available to new governments from the outset.

S. Pan-African intellectuals and the first generation of post-colonial leaders such as Nkrumah, Nyerere, and Senghor articulated ambitious visions



of African socialism and continental unity as the only adequate response to these inherited structural constraints.

T. In the decades that followed, the practical difficulties of building coherent national identities across these fault lines, and of generating equitable economic development within structurally dependent economies, confounded many of those aspirations.

Which of the following is the correct order?

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

Para Summary (Q20 – Q22)

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

Q20. The authority of experts — scientists, doctors, economists, epidemiologists — rests on specialised knowledge that the non-expert cannot easily evaluate directly. For most of the twentieth century, democratic publics broadly deferred to this authority, particularly in domains with high technical complexity. The digital revolution has disrupted this deference in paradoxical ways: as scientific findings become more widely accessible than at any previous moment in history, populist politicians and social media ecosystems have simultaneously amplified distrust of expert institutions, depicting them as self-serving elites whose consensus is a form of ideological gatekeeping. The consequences are visible in vaccine hesitancy, climate denial, and the rejection of economic evidence in policy debates — precisely those domains where expert guidance matters most.

Which of the following best summarises the above paragraph?

- (A) The authority of experts has always been contested in democratic societies, and the digital revolution has merely intensified a pre-existing tendency to distrust specialised knowledge.



- (B) Social media platforms should be more tightly regulated to prevent the spread of misinformation, since unchecked misinformation is the primary driver of vaccine hesitancy and climate denial.
- (C) Scientific consensus has been weakened by the failure of experts themselves to communicate their findings in accessible language, leaving a vacuum that populists have exploited.
- (D) Even as expert knowledge becomes more widely accessible, populist politics and social media have deepened public distrust of expertise, with damaging consequences for evidence-based policy.

Q21. CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing has opened the prospect of treating single-gene disorders such as sickle-cell anaemia and Huntington's disease with a precision that earlier molecular tools could not achieve. Clinical trials in somatic gene therapy — editing the cells of living patients without affecting heritable DNA — have produced striking early results. Yet the technology's potential extension to germline editing, in which changes to embryonic DNA are heritable by future generations, has generated acute ethical concern: a germline edit is, in effect, a unilateral decision made for all descendants of the edited individual. Compounding these ethical anxieties is a structural equity concern: the costs of CRISPR-based therapies are likely to remain prohibitive for the foreseeable future, raising the prospect that genetic enhancement becomes a privilege of wealthy nations while the global burden of genetic disease continues to fall disproportionately on low-income populations.

Which of the following best summarises the above paragraph?

- (A) CRISPR's promise for treating genetic disease is countered by ethical concerns about heritable germline editing and the risk that benefits will accrue disproportionately to wealthy nations.
- (B) CRISPR gene editing is a revolutionary medical technology whose benefits will eventually be distributed globally, once regulatory frameworks are standardised across jurisdictions.
- (C) The primary obstacle to the clinical application of CRISPR is not



ethics but the technical difficulty of delivering gene-editing machinery to target cells with sufficient precision.

- (D) Somatic gene therapy and germline gene therapy are ethically equivalent procedures, and the distinction drawn between them in public debate rests on a misunderstanding of molecular biology.

Q22. The history of grassroots environmental activism in India contains a striking pattern: women have been disproportionately prominent among those who organised and sustained protest movements against ecological destruction. In the Chipko Andolan of the 1970s, women in the Himalayan foothills literally embraced trees to prevent commercial felling, articulating a connection between forest survival and the subsistence livelihoods that depended on forest resources. The Save Silent Valley campaign in Kerala similarly drew on local women's networks that understood the link between biodiversity loss and the agricultural and water security on which poor rural households depended. What emerges from these episodes is not incidental: ecological degradation and gendered poverty are structurally connected, and it was women who bore the double burden of environmental destruction most acutely and who therefore had the sharpest material incentive to resist it.

Which of the following best summarises the above paragraph?

- (A) Indian women's environmental activism was primarily symbolic rather than substantive, serving to draw national media attention to issues that male activists had already identified.
- (B) The Chipko Andolan and the Save Silent Valley campaign succeeded primarily because they secured the support of national political leaders who legitimised the protesters' demands.
- (C) India's grassroots environmental movements were driven substantially by women, whose activism revealed that ecological degradation and gendered economic vulnerability are structurally connected.
- (D) Environmental activism in India has historically been confined to rural women, whereas urban women have focused their political en-



ergies on labour rights and electoral participation.

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 Harlem Renaissance

- A. The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s represented an extraordinary flowering of African American literary, visual, and musical art, centred on the New York neighbourhood that had become the cultural capital of Black America.
- B. The devastation of cotton crops by the boll weevil from the 1910s onwards, combined with labour demand in northern factories generated by the First World War, drove hundreds of thousands of Black Southerners to migrate to cities such as New York, Chicago, and Detroit.
- C. Writers such as Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Claude McKay gave voice to a new racial consciousness that rejected both the accommodationism of an earlier generation and the invisibility imposed by a segregated society.
- D. Visual artists including Aaron Douglas developed a distinctive modernist idiom that drew on African artistic traditions and Egyptian motifs to express the historical depth and cultural pride of the African diaspora.
- E. Musicians from Duke Ellington to Louis Armstrong transformed jazz from a regional folk tradition into a nationally recognised art form that would go on to shape the entire subsequent history of popular music.

Identify the sentence that does NOT fit:

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



Q24. Odd Sentence Out: Modernist Literature and the Phenomenology of Time and Memory

A. Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time* made subjective, involuntary memory — the famous *mémoire involontaire* triggered by the madeleine dipped in tea — the very engine of narrative, dissolving the conventional distinction between past and present.

B. Virginia Woolf's technique of free indirect discourse and shifting temporal focalization allowed her to render the ceaseless, layered quality of conscious experience in a way that the conventions of the Victorian novel had never attempted.

C. James Joyce's *Ulysses* compressed a single day in Dublin into nearly eight hundred pages, demonstrating that the interior life of even the most ordinary consciousness is inexhaustibly rich when rendered with sufficient fidelity.

D. A landmark neurological study conducted at the University of California, Los Angeles, found that patients who underwent slow-wave sleep deprivation in a hospital setting showed measurable deficits in episodic memory consolidation within forty-eight hours.

E. What unites Proust, Woolf, and Joyce is a shared conviction that the conventional novel's linear chronology and omniscient narrator are inadequate to the phenomenological truth of how human beings actually inhabit time.

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 / Definition of a term: The question asks for what Wittgenstein means by ‘language games’ as explicitly described in the passage.

Step 1 — Locate the relevant sentence: The passage states that language is “a motley of practices he called *Sprachspiele* — language games” and that “meaning of a word is not its correspondence to a worldly object but its use within a rule-governed social practice,” embedded in *Lebensformen* (forms of life). Option (B) is a precise paraphrase.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): This describes the *early* Wittgenstein’s picture theory, which the later work repudiates.
- Option (C): Private mental labelling is precisely what the private language argument shows to be impossible.
- Option (D): Language games are a philosophical concept about meaning, not rhetorical devices for accessibility.

Final Answer: Language games are rule-governed social practices in forms of life that give words their meaning ⇒ **B**

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

Sol. 2.**Solution**

Concept — Vocabulary in context: The question tests the meaning of ‘forms of life’ (*Lebensformen*) as used in the passage.

Step 1 — Contextual analysis: The passage defines *Lebensformen* as “the shared biological, cultural, and social conditions within which human linguistic activity takes place” and says meaning is “constituted by the normative practices of a community.” Option (D) accurately captures this: forms of life are the shared social and cultural practices that form the background for language.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): While biological conditions are mentioned, the passage empha-



sises social and cultural practices rather than evolutionary determinism.

- Option (B): Cultural artefacts are too narrow and specific; the concept covers the entire background of social practice.
- Option (C): The passage explicitly rejects the idea of universal logical structures underlying all languages.

Final Answer: Forms of life are shared social and cultural practices constituting the background for meaning $\Rightarrow$

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

Sol. 3.

Solution

Concept — Relationship between positions: The question asks how the early and later Wittgenstein relate to each other.

Step 1 — Identify the key phrase: The passage says the later Wittgenstein “repudiated this framework with striking completeness,” replacing the picture theory with a use-based, social account. Option (A) accurately captures this as a fundamental repudiation.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): The passage explicitly says the later work “repudiated” the *Tractatus*; it does not preserve or refine logical atomism.
- Option (C): Both works address language and meaning; the claim that they address entirely different domains is false.
- Option (D): The later Wittgenstein does not return to a correspondence theory; he moves further away from it.

Final Answer: The later work fundamentally repudiates the *Tractatus*, replacing picture theory with use-based social meaning $\Rightarrow$

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



Sol. 4.

Solution

Concept — Inference from an argument (RC): The question asks for the direct implication of the private language argument as described.

Step 1 — Reconstruct the argument: The passage argues that a purely private mental language cannot establish a standard of correctness; “without a community to distinguish correct from incorrect use, there is no meaningful difference between applying a term correctly and merely believing one is doing so.” The implication is that meaningful language must be public and communal. Option (C) captures this precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The unreliability of sensory experience is an epistemological point not directly implied by the private language argument.
- Option (B): The passage does not claim language has no connection to mental states; it claims the mental cannot *alone* constitute meaning.
- Option (D): The passage says the implication is “devastating for Cartesian models of mind” — the opposite of internally consistent and inconsequential.

Final Answer: Meaningful language cannot be purely private but must be grounded in communal practice ⇒

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

Sol. 5.

Solution

Concept — Author’s purpose / Main idea: The question asks for the primary argumentative purpose of the passage as a whole.

Step 1 — Map the passage’s structure: Paragraph 1 covers the early Wittgenstein (*Tractatus*); paragraph 2 covers the later Wittgenstein (*Investigations*) and language games; paragraph 3 covers the private language argument; paragraph 4 covers the therapeutic legacy and influence. The passage traces an intellectual development and culminates in the idea of dissolving rather than solving philosophical problems. Option (B) captures this arc precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The passage does not defend the *Tractatus*; it describes its repu-



diation.

- Option (C): Ordinary language philosophy is mentioned as a legacy, not as the passage's primary argument.
- Option (D): The passage presents the private language argument as successful, not as a failure.

Final Answer: The passage traces Wittgenstein's development and shows how his later philosophy dissolves rather than solves problems ⇒ **B**

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

Sol. 6.

Solution

Concept — Main mechanism identification (RC): The question asks for the primary mechanism by which the Grameen Bank extended credit to poor borrowers.

Step 1 — Locate the causal explanation: The passage states: "Yunus's insight was to substitute social collateral: borrowers were organised into small peer groups whose members bore collective moral responsibility for one another's repayments." Option (A) is a direct paraphrase — physical collateral replaced by social accountability through peer groups.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): Government grant subsidies are not mentioned as the mechanism; the model relies on peer group accountability.
- Option (C): Commercial bank partnerships are not described; Grameen itself was the lender.
- Option (D): The passage says the bank lent to women lacking assets; prior entrepreneurial experience is not mentioned as a criterion.

Final Answer: Physical collateral replaced by social accountability through peer group lending ⇒ **A**

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



Sol. 7.

Solution

Concept — Inference / Causal reasoning (RC): The question asks what the high repayment rates *primarily* reflect, as discussed in the passage.

Step 1 — Identify the passage's implied reasoning: The passage describes peer groups in which “members bore collective moral responsibility for one another’s repayments” and notes that “women bore the full social cost of the peer group’s sanctions when repayments were missed.” This suggests repayment reflects social pressure and the fear of sanction, not financial success. Option (C) captures this implication; the passage pointedly distinguishes high repayment rates from evidence of empowerment.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Financial literacy of women vs. men is not discussed in the passage.
- Option (B): Enterprise profitability is not presented as the explanation; the critique section shows loans were often appropriated before generating returns.
- Option (D): Government regulatory enforcement is not mentioned as a driver of repayment.

Final Answer: High repayment rates reflect peer group social pressure, not evidence of financial empowerment ⇒

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

Sol. 8.

Solution

Concept — Weakening an argument (RC): The question asks which finding most weakens the empowerment thesis as presented.

Step 1 — Identify the empowerment thesis's key premise: The empowerment thesis holds that women access credit, invest it in enterprises, and thereby gain economic independence and bargaining power. The passage's critique already identifies the flaw: men often appropriate the loan funds. Option (D) — evidence that men make final decisions on loan fund use — directly attacks the premise that women control and benefit from the credit.

Why other options are wrong:



- Option (A): This evidence would *support* the empowerment thesis by showing women's credit use benefits children.
- Option (B): High for-profit interest rates weaken borrower welfare but do not directly address whether women gain bargaining power.
- Option (C): Urban adaptation of peer lending speaks to the model's scalability, not the empowerment question.

Final Answer: Male control of loan funds directly undermines the claim that women gain agency from credit access ⇒ **D**

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

Sol. 9.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: The question tests the meaning of 'fungible' as used in the passage.

Step 1 — Contextual reasoning: The passage says "loan funds were frequently fungible within the household" — meaning that although the loan was notionally given to the woman for a stated purpose, the money was freely interchangeable with other household funds and could be redirected by male relatives. 'Fungible' means interchangeable or freely substitutable. Option (B) captures this accurately.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Legal enforceability is the opposite of what is implied; the passage describes the *failure* to control loan use.
- Option (C): Rapid loss of value under competition describes depreciation, not interchangeability.
- Option (D): Resistance to regulation is unrelated to the meaning of fungible in this context.

Final Answer: Fungible means freely interchangeable or transferable without meaningful distinction ⇒ **B**

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



Sol. 10.

Solution

Concept — Author's tone / attitude: The question asks for the author's overall tone towards the microfinance empowerment thesis.

Step 1 — Identify tone markers: The passage opens by describing Grameen as a "radical reconceptualisation" achieving results that "embarrassed the commercial banking sector" (positive), then systematically introduces empirical evidence that complicates the empowerment claim (critical). The final paragraph says the debate "remains unresolved" and that credit access is "necessary but not sufficient." This is the voice of critical nuance, not dismissal or enthusiasm. Option (A) captures this tone precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): The author is not enthusiastically supportive; the entire third paragraph introduces contrary evidence.
- Option (C): The author acknowledges the model's "genuine innovations" and does not call for abolition.
- Option (D): The author clearly takes a position (critically nuanced); the passage is not politically neutral.

Final Answer: Critically nuanced — acknowledging genuine innovations while questioning whether credit alone generates gender equity ⇒ **A**

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

Sol. 11.

Solution

Concept — Definition of a term in context: The question asks what 'commanding heights' refers to in the passage.

Step 1 — Locate the definition: The passage states: "The public sector was installed at the 'commanding heights': strategic industries were brought under state ownership or control" — specifically naming "steel, power generation, machine tools, and heavy engineering." Option (C) is an accurate paraphrase of this definition.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The phrase refers to industrial sectors, not geographic or military



terrain.

- Option (B): Bureaucratic positions in the Planning Commission are not what the phrase denotes in the passage.
- Option (D): Macroeconomic aggregates are what the planning model sought to optimise, not what the phrase names.

Final Answer: Commanding heights refers to strategically important industries placed under state ownership ⇒

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

Sol. 12.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: The question tests the meaning of ‘dirigiste’ as used in the passage.

Step 1 — Contextual analysis: The passage describes a “dirigiste development model that assigned the state a commanding role in economic transformation,” including state ownership of industry, Five-Year Plans, industrial licensing, and import substitution. ‘Dirigiste’ comes from the French *diriger* (to direct) and means characterised by extensive state direction of the economy. Option (A) is accurate.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): Export orientation is the opposite of the import substitution strategy the passage describes.
- Option (C): Free-market principles are exactly what the Nehruvian model rejected; the state did not withdraw from production.
- Option (D): The passage emphasises heavy industry and manufacturing, not agricultural development.

Final Answer: Dirigiste means characterised by direct and extensive state intervention in economic management ⇒

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



Sol. 13.

Solution

Concept — Identifying the central tension: The question asks what the passage identifies as the core tension within Nehruvian planning.

Step 1 — Locate the tension in the passage: The passage discusses the achievements of heavy industrialisation (Bhilai, Rourkela, Bokaro) in paragraph 2, and then in paragraph 3 introduces the pathologies: the licence-permit raj, industrial inefficiency, “agriculture received comparatively meagre investment relative to heavy industry, contributing to recurrent food shortages,” and “consumer goods were perpetually scarce.” The central tension is the trade-off between heavy industry investment and the neglect of agriculture and consumer goods. Option (D) captures this precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The Planning Commission vs. state governments conflict is not identified as a central tension in this passage.
- Option (B): The non-alignment/Soviet assistance tension is not discussed in the passage.
- Option (C): The Gandhian village economy is not contrasted with Nehruvian planning in this passage.

Final Answer: The ambition for heavy industry conflicted with chronic neglect of agriculture and consumer goods ⇒ D

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

Sol. 14.

Solution

Concept — Inference / What the passage implies about a specific phenomenon: The question asks what the passage implies about the licence-permit raj.

Step 1 — Locate the passage’s characterisation: The passage says the licence-permit raj “required entrepreneurs to obtain state permission for investment, capacity expansion, and product diversification. Protected from import competition and insulated from market discipline, Indian industry developed chronic inefficiencies: high cost, low quality, and technological stagnation.” Option (B) accurately restates this: shielding from competition produced stagnation and rent-seeking



rather than effective direction of economic activity.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The passage presents the licence-permit raj as generating inefficiency, not as successfully channelling investment.
- Option (C): No successful reform in the 1970s is mentioned; the passage implies the system persisted until 1991 liberalisation.
- Option (D): The passage describes the harm as systemic across industry, not limited to small enterprises.

Final Answer: The licence-permit raj produced stagnation and rent-seeking by shielding producers from competition ⇒ **B**

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

Sol. 15.

Solution

Concept — Author's conclusion / Overall argumentative structure: The question asks which option best captures the author's conclusion about Nehruvian planning.

Step 1 — Map the final paragraph: The passage's final paragraph says the legacy is "genuinely contested." Supporters credit it with preventing raw-material dependency; critics argue it embedded rent-seeking and inefficiency such that the 1991 liberalisation was partly about dismantling the system's own distortions. The author does not endorse either side unreservedly, but describes real achievements alongside structural costs. Option (C) captures this balanced conclusion.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): "Unqualified success" contradicts the passage's detailed account of structural pathologies.
- Option (B): "Historic failure" contradicts the passage's acknowledgement of real industrial achievements.
- Option (D): The passage does reach evaluative conclusions; it does not defer judgment entirely.

Final Answer: Nehruvian planning achieved industrial milestones but embedded structural rigidities that imposed lasting costs ⇒ **C**

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



Sol. 16.

Solution**Concept — Para Jumble: Data Colonialism and Digital Sovereignty****Step 1 — Identify the logical chain:**

- **R** opens by establishing the basic fact: every platform interaction generates data that is captured and monetised.
- **P** makes the colonial analogy explicit: this extraction reproduces the logic of colonial resource appropriation.
- **S** specifies the structural asymmetry: users in the Global South generate data whose value is captured in the Global North, mirroring commodity-trade extraction.
- **Q** introduces the response: digital sovereignty movements seeking national jurisdiction over data flows.
- **T** deepens the remedy: the solution requires rethinking infrastructure ownership, not mere regulatory adjustment.

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

Sol. 17.

Solution**Concept — Para Jumble: Buddhist Doctrine of Dependent Origination****Step 1 — Identify the logical chain:**

- **Q** opens with the fundamental doctrine: all conditioned phenomena arise in dependence upon causes and conditions.
- **S** unpacks the core ontological claim: nothing has *svabhāva* (intrinsic self-existence); everything is relational.
- **P** draws the implication for self: since no entity is self-sufficient, the concept of a fixed self is a cognitive construction (*anātman*).
- **T** applies the doctrine to suffering: suffering arises through the twelve *nidānas* beginning with ignorance of dependent origination.
- **R** closes with the ethical implications: if the self is relational rather than fixed, compassion and moral responsibility extend to all sentient beings.



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

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

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

Sol. 18.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble: The Enlightenment and the Emergence of the Social Sciences

Step 1 — Identify the logical chain:

- **Q** opens with the Enlightenment's animating conviction: reason can illuminate laws governing both nature and human society.
- **P** gives concrete instances: Smith, Comte, and nascent political science applied natural-philosophical methods to human conduct.
- **S** draws the institutional consequence: this ambition gave birth to the social sciences as a recognisable academic cluster.
- **R** introduces the counter-current: critics from Herder to postcolonial theorists challenged the universalist claims as encoding European particularity.
- **T** offers the culminating evaluation: the legacy is double-edged — new rigorous inquiry combined with the epistemic exclusions of the founding moment.

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

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

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

Sol. 19.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble: Post-War Decolonisation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Step 1 — Identify the logical chain:

- **Q** opens by establishing the historical moment: the wave of independence between 1957 and 1975 carried by nationalist movements with diverse visions.
- **P** identifies the first structural constraint: inherited colonial borders drawn



without reference to African social realities, creating contested internal coherence.

- **R** identifies the second structural constraint: economies of extraction, thin manufacturing bases, and education systems designed for colonial administration.
- **S** introduces the intellectual and political response: Pan-African visions (Nkrumah, Nyerere, Senghor) of socialism and continental unity.
- **T** concludes with the outcome: the practical difficulties of nation-building and equitable development confounded these aspirations.

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

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

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

Sol. 20.

Solution

Concept — Para Summary: Erosion of Expert Authority

Step 1 — Identify the main idea: The paragraph makes two core points in tension: (1) scientific knowledge is now more widely accessible than ever; (2) populist politicians and social media have simultaneously deepened distrust of experts, producing vaccine hesitancy and climate denial. Option (D) captures this paradox accurately — increased accessibility has not prevented deeper distrust with damaging policy consequences.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The paragraph does not say distrust is merely “intensified” from a pre-existing baseline; the digital revolution has changed the dynamic in a qualitatively new way.
- Option (B): The paragraph does not recommend a policy solution such as regulating social media.
- Option (C): The paragraph attributes the problem to populist politicians and social media, not to experts’ own communication failures.

Final Answer: Greater accessibility of expert knowledge coincides paradoxically with deeper populist distrust and policy damage $\Rightarrow$ **D**

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



Sol. 21.

Solution**Concept — Para Summary: CRISPR Gene Editing**

Step 1 — Identify the main idea: The paragraph covers: (1) CRISPR's therapeutic promise for single-gene disorders; (2) the ethical alarm around heritable germline editing; (3) the equity concern that only wealthy populations will benefit. Option (A) integrates all three dimensions accurately: therapeutic promise offset by ethical concerns about germline editing and inequitable distribution of benefits.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): The paragraph does not predict eventual global distribution; it raises the equity concern as a problem.
- Option (C): Delivery precision is not identified in this paragraph as the primary obstacle; ethics and equity are.
- Option (D): The paragraph explicitly distinguishes somatic therapy (less ethically contested) from germline editing (highly controversial); calling them equivalent contradicts the passage.

Final Answer: CRISPR's promise is countered by ethical concerns about germline editing and inequitable access ⇒ **A**

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

Sol. 22.

Solution**Concept — Para Summary: Women and India's Environmental Movements**

Step 1 — Identify the main idea: The paragraph makes two linked claims: (1) women were disproportionately prominent in Indian grassroots environmental activism (Chipko, Silent Valley); (2) this pattern is not incidental — ecological degradation and gendered poverty are structurally connected. Option (C) accurately captures both the empirical observation (women drove these movements) and the structural explanation (the connection between ecological destruction and gendered economic vulnerability).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The paragraph presents the activism as substantive (protecting



livelihoods), not merely symbolic.

- Option (B): National political leaders' support is not mentioned; the paragraph focuses on local women's networks.
- Option (D): The paragraph does not contrast rural and urban women; it makes a claim about grassroots environmental movements specifically.

Final Answer: Women drove India's grassroots environmental movements, revealing the structural link between ecological degradation and gendered poverty ⇒ **C**

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

Sol. 23.

Solution

Concept — Odd Sentence Out: The Harlem Renaissance

Step 1 — Identify the coherent paragraph: Sentences A, C, D, and E all deal directly with the cultural and artistic movement of the Harlem Renaissance: sentence A introduces the movement and names Harlem as its centre; sentence C discusses literary figures (Hughes, Hurston, McKay) and the new racial consciousness; sentence D covers visual artists (Aaron Douglas) and the modernist African-influenced idiom; sentence E covers musicians (Ellington, Armstrong) and jazz as an art form. Together they form a coherent discussion of the Harlem Renaissance as a cultural flowering.

Step 2 — Identify the odd sentence: Sentence B describes the boll weevil devastation of cotton crops and northern labour demand as drivers of the Great Migration. This is historical-demographic context explaining *why* Black Southerners moved northward — it is background to the conditions that made Harlem possible, not a discussion of the cultural movement itself. It breaks the artistic-cultural focus of the other four sentences.

Final Answer: Sentence B is the odd one out — economic migration push-pull factors, not the cultural movement ⇒ **B**

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



Sol. 24.

Solution

Concept — Odd Sentence Out: Modernist Literature and the Phenomenology of Time and Memory

Step 1 — Identify the coherent paragraph: Sentences A, B, C, and E all engage with literary-critical analysis of how Proust, Woolf, and Joyce revolutionised fictional representations of subjective time and memory: sentence A discusses Proustian involuntary memory and the dissolution of past/present; sentence B discusses Woolf's free indirect discourse and temporal focalization; sentence C discusses Joyce's *Ulysses* and the inexhaustible richness of interior consciousness; sentence E articulates the shared conviction that unites all three about the inadequacy of linear chronology and omniscient narration. These four sentences form a coherent literary-critical argument.

Step 2 — Identify the odd sentence: Sentence D describes a neurological study at UCLA involving patients undergoing slow-wave sleep deprivation and episodic memory deficits. This is a clinical neuroscience finding about a hospital setting — it shares the theme of “memory” in a superficial sense but is entirely unrelated to the literary-critical discussion of the other sentences. It breaks the argument's genre (literary criticism) and register (clinical science).

Final Answer: Sentence D is the odd one out — clinical neuroscience study breaks the literary-critical discussion ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [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	C	12	A	13	D	14	B	15	C

Quick Reference: Correct Answers

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

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