

CAT Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension

Sample Paper – 15

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 — Algorithmic Bias, Fairness, and the Governance of Automated Decision-Making (Q1 – Q5)

Passage 1

Algorithmic decision systems have spread rapidly through domains that directly shape human life chances. Hiring platforms use machine learning to screen résumés; banks deploy credit-scoring models to determine loan eligibility; criminal courts in the United States rely on tools such as the COMPAS recidivism algorithm to inform sentencing and bail decisions; and hospital triage systems allocate scarce resources across competing patient needs. Proponents argue that replacing human judgement with statistical models eliminates the caprice and prejudice that have historically distorted these decisions, substituting objective, data-driven inference for subjective intuition.

The promise of objectivity, however, conceals a foundational difficulty: algorithmic systems are trained on historical data, and historical data encodes the discriminatory patterns of the societies that produced it. A hiring model trained on past promotion decisions will reproduce the gender and racial biases embedded in those decisions; a credit model trained on repayment records from economically segregated neighbourhoods will penalise residents of those neighbourhoods independently of their individual creditworthiness. The clearest example of this dynamic appears in facial recogni-



tion technology, where multiple independent audits have shown error rates for darker-skinned female faces running to more than thirty percent — ten to twenty times the error rates recorded for lighter-skinned male faces. Algorithmic systems do not merely reproduce bias: because they are applied at scale and with an aura of scientific authority, they risk amplifying and legitimising it.

The aspiration to build *fair* algorithms has generated a rich but contested theoretical literature. Researchers have proposed at least three competing formal definitions. *Statistical parity* requires that positive outcomes be allocated equally across demographic groups regardless of any other variable. *Equalised odds* requires that the algorithm's true positive and false positive rates be equalised across groups. *Calibration* requires that the algorithm's probabilistic predictions be equally accurate across groups. The COMPAS controversy laid bare a fundamental mathematical theorem: these three definitions are mutually incompatible in any realistic setting in which base rates differ across groups. Satisfying one necessarily violates at least one of the others. There is, in the formal sense, no solution — only a choice between competing conceptions of injustice.

Governance responses have begun to emerge. The European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act, which entered into force in 2024, classifies certain algorithmic systems — including those used in employment, credit, and law enforcement — as “high-risk” and imposes obligations of transparency, explainability, and human oversight. Regulators increasingly demand that consequential algorithmic decisions be explainable to those affected and subject to audit by independent parties. Yet a persistent tension remains: the training data and model architectures that constitute a firm's competitive advantage are simultaneously the very artefacts that need to be scrutinised. Corporate intellectual property claims and public accountability demands pull in opposite directions, and the resolution of that tension will define the contours of algorithmic governance for the coming decade.

Q1. The passage cites the COMPAS system primarily to:

- (A) demonstrate that probabilistic risk tools are constitutionally impermissible in criminal sentencing.
- (B) illustrate how transparency requirements can make algorithmic decision-making more fair.
- (C) show that recidivism prediction is more accurate when performed by statistical models than by human judges.
- (D) illustrate how algorithms trained on historically biased data can perpetuate discriminatory outcomes in high-stakes decisions like criminal sentencing.

Q2. According to the passage, the “impossibility result” in algorithmic fairness refers to:

- (A) the practical impossibility of collecting unbiased training data from



historically segregated societies.

- (B) the technical difficulty of deploying facial recognition systems at scale without significant error rates.
- (C) the mathematical impossibility of simultaneously satisfying all competing formal definitions of fairness.
- (D) the legal impossibility of holding a corporation accountable for the outputs of a proprietary algorithm.

Q3. Which of the following would the author most likely regard as a genuine step towards accountable algorithmic governance?

- (A) Regulatory mandates requiring explainability of high-stakes algorithmic decisions and independent audit rights for affected individuals.
- (B) Voluntary corporate commitments to publish diversity statistics for algorithmically screened job applicants.
- (C) Judicial bans on all use of algorithmic tools in any decision affecting individual rights or liberties.
- (D) Replacing human decision-makers entirely with calibrated statistical models in hiring, lending, and sentencing.

Q4. The word “triage” as used in the passage most nearly means:

- (A) the surgical procedure of removing damaged tissue to prevent infection.
- (B) the process of prioritising cases or patients according to need or urgency when resources are limited.
- (C) the bureaucratic process of classifying insurance claims by severity for reimbursement purposes.
- (D) the statistical method of sorting data points into ranked categories before model training.

Q5. The author’s view of algorithmic decision-making can best be described as:



- (A) unambiguously enthusiastic — algorithmic systems are more objective than human judgement and should replace it wherever possible.
- (B) deeply sceptical — algorithmic bias is so entrenched that no governance framework can adequately address it.
- (C) neutral and descriptive — the author refrains from evaluating algorithmic systems and merely surveys competing scholarly positions.
- (D) cautiously critical — acknowledging potential efficiency gains while insisting that bias, opacity, and accountability gaps must be systematically addressed.

Set B: Reading Comprehension — Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, Biocultural Diversity, and Conservation Policy (Q6 – Q10)

Passage 2

For millennia before the emergence of formal natural science, indigenous and traditional communities developed intricate systems of ecological knowledge through unbroken cycles of observation, experimentation, and intergenerational transmission. This body of understanding — encoded not only in explicit verbal instruction but in ritual practice, land management technique, place names, and oral narrative — is now studied under the umbrella term indigenous ecological knowledge, or IEK. Linguists and ecologists have independently noted a striking correlation: regions of highest biological diversity tend to coincide with regions of greatest linguistic diversity, a phenomenon captured in the concept of *biocultural diversity*. The implication is that the world's endangered languages are not merely cultural artefacts but repositories of accumulated ecological intelligence about specific habitats.

Concrete examples demonstrate the practical conservation value of IEK. Aboriginal communities in Australia have long practised controlled, low-intensity burns across the landscape at ecologically strategic times — a technique known as “cultural burning” or “fire-stick farming.” Research published in the past decade confirms that these burns reduce fuel loads, create habitat heterogeneity, and dramatically lower the probability of the catastrophic megafires that have devastated large areas of southern Australia. In the Amazon basin, satellite data consistently show that indigenous-held territories exhibit significantly lower deforestation rates than surrounding unprotected or commercially managed lands, even when controlling for remoteness. In the Himalayan foothills, community forest management systems developed over centuries have sustained forest cover and regulated resource extraction in ways that externally imposed government forestry schemes repeatedly failed to replicate.

Despite this evidence, the integration of IEK into formal conservation science has been slow, contested, and frequently exploitative. Academic ecologists have sometimes dismissed traditional knowledge as anecdotal, insufficiently rigorous, or difficult to operationalise within standard scien-



tific frameworks. Where indigenous knowledge has been incorporated into commercial products — particularly in the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries — the originating communities have often received no compensation or formal recognition, a practice critics call “biopiracy.” Perhaps most corrosive has been the paradox of fortress conservation: the displacement of indigenous communities from areas designated as protected national parks in the name of wilderness preservation, despite extensive evidence that human-managed indigenous landscapes support higher biodiversity than strictly “untouched” ones.

Emerging policy frameworks attempt to address these failures. The Convention on Biological Diversity has formally recognised IEK as a legitimate input into conservation planning. Community-based conservation initiatives that place management authority with indigenous peoples have shown encouraging results in contexts ranging from West African savannah to Arctic marine environments. Increasingly, practitioners and scholars alike call for co-management arrangements governed by the principle of *free, prior, and informed consent* (FPIC) — the requirement that indigenous communities be consulted in advance, be fully informed, and affirmatively agree before any project affecting their lands, resources, or knowledge is undertaken.

Q6. According to the passage, “biocultural diversity” refers to:

- (A) the variety of traditional arts, music, and ritual practices that indigenous communities maintain alongside their ecological stewardship roles.
- (B) the documented correlation between the richness of indigenous languages and the biodiversity of ecosystems those communities inhabit.
- (C) the legal doctrine that biological resources and cultural heritage must be protected under a single unified international convention.
- (D) the academic discipline that studies the mutual influence of biological evolution and cultural change in human populations.

Q7. The passage cites Aboriginal fire management in Australia primarily as:

- (A) an example of traditional ecological knowledge that demonstrably reduces catastrophic wildfire risk, illustrating IEK’s practical conservation value.
- (B) evidence that indigenous peoples should be granted exclusive authority over all land management decisions within national park boundaries.



- (C) a case study showing that low-intensity burns are universally applicable across different forest ecosystems worldwide.
- (D) an argument that formal scientific research is unnecessary where long-standing indigenous practices already exist.

Q8. Which of the following is described in the passage as a tension between indigenous knowledge and formal conservation science?

- (A) The reluctance of indigenous communities to share their ecological knowledge with academic researchers for fear of exploitation.
- (B) The difficulty of encoding oral and ritual-based knowledge in formats compatible with peer-reviewed scientific publication.
- (C) The displacement of indigenous communities from national parks in the name of conservation, despite evidence that indigenous stewardship maintains biodiversity.
- (D) The tendency of governments to adopt IEK only after it has been validated by Western scientific methods, delaying its practical application.

Q9. The concept of “free, prior, and informed consent” (FPIC) as used in the passage primarily refers to:

- (A) the legal requirement that academic papers citing indigenous knowledge must be reviewed by indigenous community representatives before publication.
- (B) the principle that conservation organisations must fund and freely distribute their research findings to the communities they study.
- (C) the international trade rule that biodiversity-derived pharmaceutical products must carry labels identifying their indigenous knowledge sources.
- (D) the principle that indigenous communities must be consulted and must agree before projects affecting their lands and knowledge are undertaken.



- Q10.** The author's attitude towards indigenous ecological knowledge can best be described as:
- (A) cautiously neutral — presenting both the conservation value and the practical limitations of IEK without taking a clear position.
 - (B) sympathetic and advocacy-oriented — arguing that IEK deserves recognition within conservation policy and that its marginalisation reflects historical power imbalances.
 - (C) sceptical but open-minded — acknowledging anecdotal evidence for IEK's value while insisting on rigorous scientific validation before policy adoption.
 - (D) enthusiastically uncritical — presenting indigenous ecological knowledge as superior to formal science in all conservation contexts.

Set C: Reading Comprehension — Globalisation, Trade Liberalisation, and the Politics of Backlash (Q11 – Q15)

Passage 3

The post-1945 international economic order was constructed on the premise that reducing barriers to trade would raise aggregate welfare across all participating nations. Successive rounds of tariff negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and later the World Trade Organisation, steadily dismantled import duties across manufactured goods, agricultural products, and services. The acceleration of this process after 1990 — marked by China's accession to the WTO in 2001, the proliferation of regional free trade agreements, and the emergence of complex global value chains in which a single smartphone might incorporate components from forty countries — seemed to confirm the textbook prediction: that nations specialising in accordance with comparative advantage would collectively generate more wealth than a world of self-sufficient autarky.

The aggregate picture, however, conceals a distributional reality that economists were slower to document and policymakers slower still to address. Trade liberalisation benefits accrue disproportionately to the owners of capital and to workers whose skills are globally scarce. The concentrated costs fall on workers whose tasks can be reassigned to lower-wage economies. Research by economists David Autor, David Dorn, and Gordon Hanson — the so-called “China shock” studies published from 2013 onward — demonstrated that US manufacturing communities exposed to surging Chinese imports suffered sustained job losses, depressed wages, and elevated rates of opioid dependency, disability claims, and out-of-wedlock births. Crucially, the adjustment mechanism that economic models had assumed — displaced workers retraining and migrating to expanding sectors — functioned poorly in practice, leaving entire regions economically stranded for a generation.



The political consequences were not long in arriving. Deindustrialised communities in the American Rust Belt, the English Midlands, and the French *périphérie* became the electoral base for movements that rejected the premises of the liberal trade order. The Brexit referendum of 2016 drew heavily on working-class votes from communities whose manufacturing base had been hollowed out over three decades. Donald Trump's presidential victory in the same year was built on precisely the geographies most damaged by import competition. Across Europe, far-right and far-left parties converged on protectionist economic platforms, presenting trade liberalisation as a policy that enriched cosmopolitan elites at the expense of rooted, working-class communities. The WTO dispute resolution mechanism, once regarded as a cornerstone of the rules-based international order, was rendered nearly non-functional as the United States blocked new appointments to its appellate body.

Economists and policymakers now debate whether the appropriate response to this backlash lies in managed trade — selective industrial policy, strategic tariffs to nurture domestic capacity in key sectors, and localisation requirements — or in deeper domestic redistribution that compensates trade losers through expanded social insurance, retraining programmes, and place-based investment in deindustrialised communities. The debate is not merely technical; it implicates fundamental disagreements about whether the gains from openness are worth pursuing if the political coalitions necessary to sustain them cannot be maintained.

Q11. The “China shock” research cited in the passage is used to argue that:

- (A) trade liberalisation with China concentrated job losses among manufacturing workers in specific US regions, with lasting economic and political consequences.
- (B) Chinese import competition primarily damaged the service sector rather than manufacturing, disproving the assumptions of comparative advantage theory.
- (C) the United States should have used anti-dumping measures under WTO rules to block Chinese exports before they reached American markets.
- (D) economic displacement from trade is temporary and self-correcting, provided workers receive adequate retraining support from federal programmes.

Q12. According to the passage, the political backlash against globalisation is most closely linked to:

- (A) the ideological rejection of free markets by a new generation of left-wing political movements across the Western world.



- (B) the failure of the WTO dispute resolution mechanism to adequately enforce intellectual property protections for developed economies.
- (C) the concentrated and uncompensated costs of import competition falling on manufacturing workers and their communities.
- (D) cultural anxieties about immigration and ethnic diversity, which merely correlated with trade-affected regions by coincidence.

Q13. The passage implies that the post-1945 trade liberalisation consensus was founded on the assumption that:

- (A) all workers in all sectors would benefit equally from trade openness, making compensation mechanisms unnecessary.
- (B) aggregate welfare gains from trade would be large enough to justify tolerating distributional costs, whether or not those costs were actually compensated.
- (C) the mobility of labour between sectors and regions was sufficiently high that displaced workers would quickly find equivalent employment.
- (D) trade surpluses in manufacturing would automatically fund the social safety nets required to support workers displaced by import competition.

Q14. Which of the following best describes the current state of the debate as presented in the passage's final paragraph?

- (A) A contested choice between managed trade with industrial policy and deeper redistribution to compensate losers from free trade.
- (B) A broad consensus among economists and policymakers that strategic tariffs are the most effective tool for restoring manufacturing employment.
- (C) An emerging agreement that the WTO framework must be fundamentally reformed before trade liberalisation can resume.



- (D) A settled preference among electorates for autarky over free trade, rendering further negotiation of trade agreements politically impossible.

Q15. The author's treatment of the globalisation debate is best characterised as:

- (A) strongly in favour of trade liberalisation — the passage treats distributional costs as a temporary inconvenience that sound economic management can address.
- (B) strongly against trade liberalisation — the passage presents the political backlash as proof that free trade has failed and should be reversed.
- (C) structurally balanced — presenting the welfare gains of trade liberalisation alongside its distributional costs and political consequences without advocating for a single policy response.
- (D) primarily historical — the passage is concerned with documenting past events rather than engaging with contemporary policy debates.

Section II: 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: Cold War Nuclear Deterrence and Mutually Assured Destruction

P. The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 subjected this logic to its sharpest empirical test, bringing the two superpowers to the edge of nuclear exchange before back-channel diplomacy and presidential restraint allowed both sides to step back.

Q. Critics of MAD argued that the doctrine rested on an implausibly optimistic assumption: that decision-makers on both sides would, under



any conceivable circumstances, remain rational enough to calculate that launching a first strike was irrational.

R. The doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction, which gave nuclear strategy its apt acronym MAD, held that the certainty of devastating retaliation rendered a first nuclear strike by either superpower militarily irrational.

S. What emerged from this logic was a paradox at the heart of Cold War security: each side's accumulation of ever larger and more sophisticated nuclear arsenals was, simultaneously, the mechanism by which peace between them was maintained.

T. The risk of accidental war — through technical malfunction, misread radar data, or the miscalculation of a regional commander acting without authorisation — remained a persistent and underappreciated threat throughout the decades of apparent stability.

Which of the following is the correct order?

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

Q17. Para Jumble: The Zamindari System, Colonial Land Revenue, and the Dispossession of Indian Peasants

P. Zamindars were legally obligated to deliver fixed revenue sums to the colonial administration regardless of harvest conditions, an arrangement that drove many into debt and compelled them to squeeze their tenants ever more harshly in bad years.

Q. The Permanent Settlement of Bengal, enacted by the East India Company in 1793, created a class of intermediary landlords — zamindars — who were granted heritable proprietary rights over land in exchange for payment of a fixed annual revenue to the colonial state.

R. For the peasant cultivator, the Permanent Settlement was a catastrophe: stripped of customary occupancy rights, exposed to rack-renting



and arbitrary eviction, and chronically indebted to moneylenders, the ryot entered the nineteenth century as an economically precarious subject of a dual extraction system.

S. Post-independence India addressed this legacy through the zamindari abolition acts passed by most state governments between 1947 and 1955, which transferred ownership rights directly to cultivating tenants and eliminated the intermediary tier, though implementation was uneven and zamindari interests successfully lobbied for generous compensation.

T. The colonial state's interest in this arrangement was fiscal efficiency: the Permanent Settlement guaranteed a predictable revenue stream without the administrative burden of direct assessment, transferring the risk of agricultural variability onto the zamindar class and, through them, onto the peasantry.

Which of the following is the correct order?

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

Q18. Para Jumble: John Locke, Natural Rights, and the Social Contract

P. Unlike Hobbes, whose state of nature was a condition of relentless war in which life was solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short, Locke described the pre-political condition as one governed by natural law, in which rational individuals respected each other's natural rights.

Q. These natural rights — to life, liberty, and property — were not grants from government but pre-political possessions that individuals carried into any political arrangement they chose to enter.

R. The influence of this framework on Anglophone political culture was immediate and enduring: Thomas Jefferson drew directly on Locke's language and structure when drafting the American Declaration of Independence in 1776.



S. Government, on Locke's account, was formed when individuals in the state of nature collectively consented to establish a political authority charged with a single purpose: the protection of their pre-existing natural rights.

T. If government systematically violated the rights it was instituted to protect — through arbitrary seizure of property, suppression of liberty, or the destruction of life — citizens retained a right to resist and, ultimately, to replace it.

Which of the following is the correct order?

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

Q19. Para Jumble: The Gut Microbiome and the Human Body's Hidden Ecosystem

P. Advances in DNA sequencing over the past two decades have revealed that the human gut harbours a complex ecosystem of trillions of microorganisms — bacteria, archaea, fungi, and viruses — whose collective genome dwarfs the human genome itself.

Q. The practical implications for medicine are significant: probiotic supplementation, dietary interventions, and faecal microbiota transplantation — a procedure in which the microbiome of a healthy donor is transferred to a diseased recipient — have shown therapeutic promise for conditions ranging from *Clostridioides difficile* infection to inflammatory bowel disease.

R. Disruption of this microbial community — through broad-spectrum antibiotic use, ultra-processed diets low in fibre, or chronic stress — has been linked to increased susceptibility to autoimmune conditions, metabolic syndrome, and anxiety disorders.

S. This gut-brain axis, as researchers have termed it, operates through the vagus nerve, through immune signalling molecules, and through the



production by gut bacteria of neuroactive compounds including serotonin precursors, implicating the microbiome in mood regulation and even cognition.

T. Far from being passive passengers in the human body, these microorganisms play active roles in digesting complex carbohydrates, training the immune system, and, most surprisingly, communicating bidirectionally with the central nervous system.

Which of the following is the correct order?

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

Para Summary (Q20 – Q22)

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

Q20. Cosmopolitanism, as a moral philosophy, begins from the proposition that the fundamental unit of ethical concern is the individual human being, not the nation-state or the ethnic community. On this view, every person, simply by virtue of their humanity, stands in a moral relationship with every other person — a relationship that generates genuine obligations of justice regardless of whether those persons share citizenship, territory, or cultural affiliation. Cosmopolitan philosophers such as Martha Nussbaum and Thomas Pogge have argued that this commitment challenges both nationalist frameworks, which ground obligations of distributive justice in co-citizenship, and statist frameworks, which treat the nation-state as the primary and largely self-sufficient unit of political morality. The poverty, conflict, and environmental degradation that disproportionately afflict the world's poorest are not, on the cosmopolitan account, tragedies to be addressed by charity; they are injustices for which the affluent world bears structured moral responsibility.

Which of the following best summarises the above paragraph?



- (A) Cosmopolitanism is a philosophical tradition that traces its origins to ancient Stoic thought and was revived in the twentieth century by theorists such as Nussbaum and Pogge.
- (B) Nationalist and statist political philosophies are morally bankrupt because they exclude non-citizens from the scope of justice entirely, leading inevitably to exploitation of the global poor.
- (C) Cosmopolitanism holds that moral duties extend to all human beings regardless of national borders, challenging frameworks that ground justice in citizenship or nationality.
- (D) The global poor are victims of injustice rather than misfortune, and cosmopolitan philosophy provides the only adequate theoretical basis for international redistributive institutions.

Q21. Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, the Hungarian-American psychologist, proposed the concept of “flow” to describe a distinctive state of optimal experience in which a person becomes so fully absorbed in a demanding activity that self-consciousness recedes and time seems to dilate or contract. Flow arises under specific conditions: the challenge of the task must be calibrated to the upper edge of the individual’s current skill level, goals must be clear, and feedback must be immediate enough that the person can continuously adjust their performance. Activities experienced in flow generate a deep intrinsic satisfaction that is qualitatively different from the pleasures of passive consumption or relaxation. Csikszentmihalyi argued that educational systems and workplaces are frequently designed in ways that systematically prevent flow — through excessive standardisation, ambiguous goals, or tasks pitched far below the level of a skilled practitioner — and that redesigning these environments to enable flow would improve both wellbeing and productive performance.

Which of the following best summarises the above paragraph?

- (A) Csikszentmihalyi’s research into happiness and leisure concluded that passive activities such as watching television provide the deepest and most sustainable forms of human satisfaction.



- (B) Flow — full absorption in a skill-matched, goal-clear task — is intrinsically satisfying and can be cultivated through careful design of educational and work environments.
- (C) The state of flow is accessible only to experts operating at the highest levels of their craft, making it an inappropriate design target for mass educational systems.
- (D) Csikszentmihalyi demonstrated that the primary barrier to workplace productivity is the mismatch between workers' intrinsic motivation and the financial incentives that organisations typically provide.

Q22. The eradication of smallpox stands as the sole instance in the history of medicine in which a human infectious disease has been completely eliminated from the natural world. The achievement was the product of a coordinated global campaign launched by the World Health Organisation in 1967, at which point smallpox still killed an estimated two million people annually across thirty countries. Rather than attempting the logistically overwhelming task of vaccinating every person on Earth, the campaign deployed a surveillance-and-containment strategy: rapidly identifying new cases through a global reporting network, isolating infected individuals, and vaccinating their close contacts in concentric rings around each outbreak. The last naturally occurring case was recorded in Somalia in October 1977, and the WHO formally declared eradication in 1980. The success of the campaign established a model — of international cooperation, adaptive strategy, and community-level implementation — that subsequent global health initiatives have sought to replicate, with partial success, in efforts to eradicate polio and Guinea worm disease.

Which of the following best summarises the above paragraph?

- (A) The WHO smallpox campaign demonstrated that mass vaccination of entire global populations is the only reliable method for eradicating infectious diseases, a lesson applied in subsequent polio and Guinea worm eradication efforts.



- (B) Smallpox eradication was primarily a scientific achievement, driven by the development of a heat-stable vaccine that could be deployed effectively in tropical climates without refrigeration.
- (C) The last natural case of smallpox occurred in Somalia in 1977, after which the WHO was able to declare eradication and redirect its resources towards other neglected tropical diseases.
- (D) The WHO smallpox eradication campaign succeeded through surveillance-containment strategy rather than mass vaccination, resulting in the only complete eradication of a human infectious disease and establishing a model for global health cooperation.

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: Feminist Theory and the Critique of Patriarchal Structures

- A. Consumer goods companies have long recognised that segmenting products by gender — pink packaging for women, darker tones for men — allows them to command price premiums and expand market size by selling essentially identical products under different identities.
- B. Feminist theorists argue that gender is not a biological given but a social construction, a set of norms, expectations, and performances that societies impose on individuals from birth and enforce through institutional reward and punishment.
- C. Kimberlé Crenshaw's theory of intersectionality challenged feminist theory to move beyond a single-axis framework of gender oppression and attend to the ways in which race, class, sexuality, and disability compound and modify the experience of patriarchal subordination.
- D. The classical liberal distinction between a public sphere of political and economic life and a private sphere of domestic relations has been a central target of feminist critique, because it placed the home — the



primary site of women's oppression — beyond the reach of formal legal protection.

E. Feminist legal scholars have further argued that the apparent neutrality of law — its formal blindness to gender — conceals a substantive masculinity, since the legal person whose rights are defined and protected was historically constructed against the template of the propertied adult male.

Identify the sentence that does NOT fit:

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

Q24. Odd Sentence Out: Abstract Expressionism and the New York School

A. Jackson Pollock's drip paintings — produced by pouring, flinging, and dripping industrial enamel paint across canvases laid flat on the floor — dissolved the boundary between gesture and accident, making the physical act of painting as important as any identifiable subject.

B. Mark Rothko's large-format colour field paintings, with their luminous rectangles of layered pigment hovering against atmospheric grounds, were intended as environments for contemplation rather than objects of aesthetic analysis, and Rothko expressed contempt for viewers who treated them as decorative.

C. The emergence of Abstract Expressionism in New York in the late 1940s and 1950s marked a decisive shift in the global centre of gravity of the art world, displacing Paris, which had dominated Western avant-garde culture since the Impressionists, and establishing New York as the unchallenged capital of contemporary art.

D. In the 1990s, the National Endowment for the Arts became a flash-point in American cultural politics when conservative members of Congress moved to defund it after it had supported artists whose work was deemed



obscene, triggering a sustained national debate about government support for controversial art.

E. It has since emerged, through declassified documents and investigative scholarship, that the CIA covertly funded and promoted Abstract Expressionism during the Cold War, organising international touring exhibitions of work by Pollock, Rothko, and de Kooning as cultural ambassadors for American freedom and creative individualism against Soviet socialist realism.

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 — Purpose of a specific example (RC): The question asks why the author introduces the COMPAS system.

Step 1 — Locate the context of the citation: The passage introduces COMPAS in Paragraph 1 as one of several algorithmic systems used in high-stakes decisions. It is then referenced again in Paragraph 3 when the passage describes the “COMPAS controversy” as exposing the mathematical incompatibility of competing fairness definitions. The system is not cited to make a constitutional argument, to praise transparency, or to compare human and algorithmic accuracy. Its primary function is to illustrate how an algorithm trained on biased historical data (criminal justice records encoding racial disparities) can perpetuate discriminatory outcomes in sentencing decisions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): No constitutional argument appears in the passage; COMPAS is not cited as legally impermissible.
- Option (B): Transparency is discussed in Paragraph 4 as a governance response, not as a property of COMPAS.
- Option (C): The passage makes no claim that COMPAS outperforms human judges in predictive accuracy.

Final Answer: COMPAS illustrates how biased training data perpetuates discriminatory outcomes in high-stakes decisions ⇒ **D**

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

Sol. 2.**Solution**

Concept — Definition of a term in context: The question tests the meaning of “impossibility result” as used in the fairness section.

Step 1 — Locate the definition: Paragraph 3 states: “these three definitions are mutually incompatible in any realistic setting in which base rates differ across groups. Satisfying one necessarily violates at least one of the others. There is, in the formal sense, no solution — only a choice between competing conceptions of



injustice.” This is a *mathematical* impossibility — not a practical, legal, or data-collection difficulty.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The difficulty of collecting unbiased data is a separate, upstream problem; the impossibility result is downstream — it applies even if data were perfect, because base rates differ.
- Option (B): Facial recognition error rates illustrate bias amplification in Paragraph 2, not the impossibility result.
- Option (D): Legal accountability for proprietary algorithms is discussed in Paragraph 4 as a governance tension, not an impossibility theorem.

Final Answer: The impossibility result is the mathematical incompatibility of all formal fairness definitions simultaneously $\Rightarrow$ **C**

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

Sol. 3.

Solution

Concept — Inference / Author’s position: The question asks which option the author would regard as a genuine governance step.

Step 1 — Identify the author’s framework: Paragraph 4 outlines what the author presents as legitimate governance responses: the EU AI Act’s requirements for “transparency, explainability, and human oversight,” and the demand that decisions be “explainable to those affected and subject to audit by independent parties.” Option (A) maps precisely onto this framework: regulatory mandates for explainability and independent audit rights.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): Voluntary corporate commitments are not the same as regulatory mandates; the passage implies the need for binding requirements.
- Option (C): Judicial bans on all algorithmic use would be an extreme over-reaction not implied by the passage; the author advocates governance and oversight, not prohibition.
- Option (D): Replacing all human decision-making with algorithms is precisely what the passage critiques as dangerous in the absence of accountability frameworks.

Final Answer: Regulatory mandates for explainability and independent audit are



the governance framework the author advocates ⇒ A

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

Sol. 4.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: The question tests the meaning of “triage” as used in the passage.

Step 1 — Contextual analysis: The passage places “triage” in the phrase “hospital triage systems allocate scarce resources across competing patient needs.” The key elements are: (1) a hospital setting, (2) allocation of scarce resources, (3) across competing needs. Triage is a medical term originating in military medicine, referring to the sorting of patients by severity of need to determine the order and type of treatment when resources are limited. Option (B) captures both the prioritisation function and the resource-constraint context.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The surgical removal of damaged tissue is “debridement,” not triage.
- Option (C): Insurance claim classification is a different administrative process.
- Option (D): The statistical use of ranked categories is a data science concept, not the medical meaning here.

Final Answer: Triage means prioritising cases according to need when resources are limited ⇒ B

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

Sol. 5.

Solution

Concept — Author’s overall tone and stance: The question asks how to characterise the author’s view across the whole passage.

Step 1 — Map the author’s stance across paragraphs:

- Paragraph 1: Presents the efficiency and objectivity argument for algorithmic systems (but not as the author’s own position).



- Paragraph 2: Exposes the bias problem and amplification effect — clearly critical.
- Paragraph 3: Notes the impossibility result — analytical but critical of the field's assumed solvability.
- Paragraph 4: Endorses governance responses, explainability, and audit — reform-oriented, not prohibitionist.

The author is not uncritically enthusiastic (A), not so pessimistic as to reject all governance (B), and not neutral/descriptive (C) — the author clearly endorses accountability. The correct characterisation is cautiously critical, acknowledging efficiency gains while insisting on systematic remediation.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The passage's sustained critique of bias contradicts enthusiasm.
- Option (B): The endorsement of governance frameworks contradicts deep scepticism about all solutions.
- Option (C): The normative stance in Paragraph 4 is not neutral or merely descriptive.

Final Answer: Cautiously critical — efficiency acknowledged, but bias and accountability must be addressed ⇒ D

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

Sol. 6.

Solution

Concept — Definition of a term in context: The question tests the meaning of “biocultural diversity” as used in the passage.

Step 1 — Locate the definition: Paragraph 1 of Passage 2 states: “Linguists and ecologists have independently noted a striking correlation: regions of highest biological diversity tend to coincide with regions of greatest linguistic diversity, a phenomenon captured in the concept of *biocultural diversity*.” The definition is explicitly a correlation between language (cultural) diversity and biological (biodiversity) of ecosystems. Option (B) paraphrases this precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Arts, music, and ritual are not part of the passage's definition of biocultural diversity.



- Option (C): A legal doctrine combining biological and cultural protection under one convention is not what the passage describes.
- Option (D): The academic discipline studying mutual influence of biology and culture is a different field (biocultural anthropology), not what the passage means by biocultural diversity.

Final Answer: Biocultural diversity is the correlation between linguistic richness and ecosystem biodiversity ⇒ **B**

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

Sol. 7.

Solution

Concept — Purpose of a specific example: Why does the author cite Aboriginal fire management?

Step 1 — Identify the function of the example: Paragraph 2 opens with “Concrete examples demonstrate the practical conservation value of IEK.” Aboriginal cultural burning is the first example listed, with the explanation that “Research published in the past decade confirms that these burns reduce fuel loads, create habitat heterogeneity, and dramatically lower the probability of the catastrophic megafires.” The example’s purpose is to demonstrate that traditional knowledge has demonstrable, research-validated conservation value.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): The passage does not argue for exclusive indigenous authority over all land management decisions globally.
- Option (C): The passage does not claim cultural burning is “universally applicable” to all ecosystems worldwide; it is cited as a specific success in Australia.
- Option (D): The passage endorses IEK’s value but does not argue that formal scientific research is unnecessary.

Final Answer: Aboriginal fire management illustrates the demonstrable conservation value of traditional ecological knowledge ⇒ **A**

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



Sol. 8.

Solution

Concept — Identifying a specific tension described in the passage: The question asks which option matches a tension described between IEK and formal conservation science.

Step 1 — Locate tensions described in Paragraph 3: Paragraph 3 describes three tensions: (1) academic dismissal of IEK as anecdotal; (2) biopiracy (IEK incorporated commercially without compensation); (3) “the paradox of fortress conservation: the displacement of indigenous communities from areas designated as protected national parks ... despite extensive evidence that human-managed indigenous landscapes support higher biodiversity.” Option (C) directly matches this third tension.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The passage describes communities as having their knowledge exploited by others, not as being reluctant to share.
- Option (B): The difficulty of encoding oral knowledge in scientific formats is implied by “difficult to operationalise” but is not described as a central tension; it is a secondary note.
- Option (D): The passage does not describe governments waiting for Western scientific validation before adopting IEK; this paraphrase misrepresents the passage.

Final Answer: The displacement of indigenous communities from protected parks despite their proven conservation contribution ⇒

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

Sol. 9.

Solution

Concept — Definition of a term in context: The question tests the meaning of FPIC as used in Paragraph 4.

Step 1 — Locate the definition: The passage explicitly defines FPIC as “the requirement that indigenous communities be consulted in advance, be fully informed, and affirmatively agree before any project affecting their lands, resources, or knowledge is undertaken.” Option (D) is a direct paraphrase of this definition, capturing all three elements: consultation, full information, and prior agreement.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): FPIC concerns community consent for projects, not academic peer review processes.
- Option (B): Free distribution of research findings is a different concept (open access); FPIC is about consent to projects, not funding or distribution of findings.
- Option (C): Trade labelling of pharmaceutical products is unrelated to FPIC as defined in the passage.

Final Answer: FPIC requires advance consultation and agreement from indigenous communities before projects affecting them proceed ⇒ **D**

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

Sol. 10.

Solution

Concept — Author's attitude / tone: The question asks how best to characterise the author's stance on IEK.

Step 1 — Map the author's tone across Passage 2:

- Paragraph 1: Presents IEK and biocultural diversity with evident respect.
- Paragraph 2: Marshals empirical evidence to validate IEK's conservation value — clearly sympathetic.
- Paragraph 3: Describes exploitation (biopiracy), displacement, and dismissal as failures and injustices — advocacy-oriented critique.
- Paragraph 4: Endorses co-management, FPIC, and community-based conservation — normative and advocacy-oriented.

The author is not neutral (A), not sceptical (C), and not uncritically superior-to-science (D). The stance is sympathetic advocacy, rooted in evidence, and explicitly linking IEK's marginalisation to power imbalances.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The author takes a clear normative position; "cautiously neutral" understates the advocacy stance.
- Option (C): The author presents the research evidence as already validating IEK; they do not call for further scientific validation before policy adoption.
- Option (D): The author does not claim IEK is superior to formal science in *all* contexts, only that it deserves co-equal recognition.



Final Answer: Sympathetic and advocacy-oriented — IEK deserves recognition and its marginalisation reflects power imbalances ⇒ **B**

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

Sol. 11.

Solution

Concept — Purpose of a specific citation (RC): The question asks what argument the China shock research supports.

Step 1 — Locate the function of the citation: Paragraph 2 of Passage 3 introduces the China shock studies in the context of distributional critique: “Research by economists David Autor, David Dorn, and Gordon Hanson ... demonstrated that US manufacturing communities exposed to surging Chinese imports suffered sustained job losses, depressed wages, and elevated rates of opioid dependency, disability claims, and out-of-wedlock births.” The research is used to provide empirical evidence that trade liberalisation inflicted concentrated, lasting, and geographically specific costs on manufacturing workers. Option (A) captures this accurately.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): The passage specifies manufacturing (not services) as the affected sector; and the research does not “disprove” comparative advantage but reveals its distributional consequences.
- Option (C): The passage makes no recommendation about anti-dumping policy; it describes consequences, not prescriptions.
- Option (D): This is precisely the opposite of what the research found — the passage states the adjustment mechanism “functioned poorly in practice.”

Final Answer: The China shock research documents concentrated, lasting job losses in US manufacturing communities from trade with China ⇒ **A**

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



Sol. 12.

Solution

Concept — Causal relationship (RC): The question asks what the passage links most closely to the political backlash.

Step 1 — Identify the causal chain: Paragraph 3 opens: “The political consequences were not long in arriving. Deindustrialised communities in the American Rust Belt, the English Midlands, and the French *périphérie* became the electoral base for movements that rejected the premises of the liberal trade order.” The passage explicitly ties the backlash to the geographic and economic communities most damaged by import competition — i.e., the concentrated and uncompensated costs borne by manufacturing workers. Option (C) matches this causal claim precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The passage frames the backlash as economically driven by distributional consequences, not as an ideological rejection of free markets by a new left.
- Option (B): WTO dispute resolution failure is described as a consequence of the backlash, not its cause.
- Option (D): The passage does not reduce the backlash to cultural anxieties about immigration or characterise the trade-region correlation as coincidental.

Final Answer: Concentrated and uncompensated costs of import competition on manufacturing workers caused the backlash ⇒ C

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

Sol. 13.

Solution

Concept — Implicit assumption (RC inference): The question asks what assumption underpinned the trade liberalisation consensus.

Step 1 — Identify the implied assumption: Paragraph 2 states that “economists were slower to document and policymakers slower still to address” the distributional consequences. The implication is that the consensus treated aggregate welfare gains as sufficient justification, without requiring that distributional costs be actually compensated. This is reinforced by the statement that the adjustment mechanism “functioned poorly in practice,” suggesting the consensus assumed it



would function. Option (B) captures the core assumption: aggregate gains justify the policy even if individual compensation is not guaranteed.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The passage explicitly describes unequal distribution of gains (capital and high-skilled workers versus manufacturing workers), so the consensus did not assume equal benefit.
- Option (C): The passage says the mobility/retraining mechanism “functioned poorly in practice,” meaning this assumption was made but proved false — however, Option (B) is more directly supported as the foundational justification for the consensus.
- Option (D): The passage makes no claim that trade surpluses would fund social safety nets; this is not an assumption described in the passage.

Final Answer: The consensus assumed aggregate gains were sufficient to justify the policy regardless of whether costs were compensated ⇒ **B**

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

Sol. 14.

Solution

Concept — Comprehension of the passage’s conclusion: The question asks what the final paragraph describes as the current debate.

Step 1 — Read the final paragraph carefully: Paragraph 4 states: “Economists and policymakers now debate whether the appropriate response ... lies in managed trade — selective industrial policy, strategic tariffs to nurture domestic capacity ... — or in deeper domestic redistribution that compensates trade losers.” Option (A) is a direct, accurate paraphrase of this either/or framing: managed trade (industrial policy, strategic tariffs) versus deeper redistribution.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): The passage presents strategic tariffs as one side of a contested debate, not a broad consensus position.
- Option (C): WTO reform is not presented in the final paragraph as the focus of the current debate.
- Option (D): The passage does not claim electorates have settled on autarky; it describes ongoing debate among economists and policymakers.

Final Answer: The debate is between managed trade with industrial policy and



deeper redistribution to compensate trade losers $\Rightarrow$ **A**

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

Sol. 15.

Solution

Concept — Overall argumentative structure and author's stance: The question asks how the author's treatment of the globalisation debate is best characterised.

Step 1 — Map the passage's structure:

- Paragraph 1: Presents the case for trade liberalisation — comparative advantage, WTO, aggregate welfare gains.
- Paragraph 2: Presents the distributional critique and China shock evidence.
- Paragraph 3: Documents political consequences of the backlash.
- Paragraph 4: Surveys the current policy debate without advocating for one side.

The author gives substantive, fair weight to both the efficiency case and the distributional critique, and closes with an open question rather than a recommendation. This is structurally balanced. Option (C) captures this accurately.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The passage dedicates two full paragraphs to distributional costs and political backlash; this cannot be read as strongly pro-liberalisation.
- Option (B): The passage presents the political backlash empirically rather than endorsing it as proof that free trade has failed.
- Option (D): All four paragraphs engage directly with contemporary policy debates; the passage is not primarily historical.

Final Answer: Structurally balanced — welfare gains and distributional costs both presented without advocating a single response $\Rightarrow$ **C**

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



Sol. 16.

Solution**Concept — Para Jumble: Cold War Nuclear Deterrence and MAD****Step 1 — Identify the logical chain:**

- **R** introduces the doctrine of MAD and its core logic: certainty of retaliation renders a first strike irrational. This is the natural opening.
- **S** develops the paradox that flows from R: accumulating more weapons simultaneously maintained peace, a counter-intuitive stability.
- **P** provides the historical test of this logic: the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, the doctrine's sharpest empirical challenge.
- **Q** then introduces the critics of MAD: the rationality assumption they challenged.
- **T** concludes with the persistent residual risk that critics identified: accidental war through technical failure or miscalculation.

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

Sol. 17.

Solution**Concept — Para Jumble: The Zamindari System and Colonial Land Revenue****Step 1 — Identify the logical chain:**

- **Q** opens with the foundational event: the Permanent Settlement of 1793, creating the zamindar class. This is the natural starting point.
- **T** explains the colonial state's motivation for this arrangement: fiscal efficiency and revenue certainty, transferring agricultural risk downward.
- **P** details how the arrangement worked against zamindars themselves: fixed revenue obligations regardless of harvest, driving debt and harsh tenant extraction.
- **R** zooms to the bottom of the hierarchy — the peasant cultivator — to document the full human cost: dispossession, rack-renting, debt.
- **S** provides the historical resolution: zamindari abolition acts after independence, though uneven in implementation.



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

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

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

Sol. 18.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble: Locke's Natural Rights and Social Contract

Step 1 — Identify the logical chain:

- **P** opens by contrasting Locke with Hobbes on the state of nature — the most natural starting point when introducing Locke's framework, since it establishes his foundational premise (benign rather than warlike pre-political condition).
- **Q** follows naturally: the natural rights (to life, liberty, and property) that operate in this state of nature are pre-political, not government grants.
- **S** then explains the social contract: individuals consent to form government to protect these pre-existing natural rights.
- **T** derives the right to revolution: if government violates the rights it was formed to protect, citizens may resist and replace it.
- **R** closes with influence: Locke's framework directly shaped Jefferson's drafting of the American Declaration of Independence.

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

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

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

Sol. 19.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble: The Gut Microbiome

Step 1 — Identify the logical chain:

- **P** opens with the foundational discovery: modern DNA sequencing revealed the vast and complex gut ecosystem.
- **T** follows: these microorganisms are not passive; they actively digest carbo-



hydrates, train the immune system, and communicate with the brain. This “far from passive” framing builds on P.

- **S** deepens the brain communication point from T: the gut-brain axis, its mechanisms (vagus nerve, serotonin precursors), and implications for mood and cognition.
- **R** introduces the disruption side: what happens when the microbiome is disturbed (antibiotics, ultra-processed food, stress) — the link to autoimmune and metabolic conditions.
- **Q** concludes with therapeutic implications: probiotics, dietary intervention, and faecal transplantation as practical medical responses.

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

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

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

Sol. 20.

Solution

Concept — Para Summary: Cosmopolitanism

Step 1 — Identify the main idea: The paragraph makes three interconnected claims: (1) cosmopolitanism’s core premise is that every human being is a moral equal regardless of nationality; (2) this generates obligations of justice that cross national borders; (3) this challenges both nationalist and statist frameworks. Option (C) captures all three elements concisely: moral duties extend to all humans regardless of borders, challenging citizenship-based frameworks.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Historical origins (Stoic thought) are not mentioned in the paragraph; the paragraph focuses on the philosophical content, not the intellectual genealogy.
- Option (B): The paragraph does not claim nationalist and statist philosophies “exclude non-citizens entirely”; it argues they fail to extend justice to non-citizens. “Morally bankrupt” and “inevitably leads to exploitation” are stronger claims than the paragraph supports.
- Option (D): While the paragraph does argue for structured moral responsibility of the affluent world, Option (D) claims cosmopolitan philosophy is the “only adequate” basis for international redistribution — an overstatement not found in the paragraph.



Final Answer: Cosmopolitanism holds that moral duties extend to all humans regardless of borders, challenging nationality-based frameworks of justice ⇒ **C**

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

Sol. 21.

Solution

Concept — Para Summary: Csikszentmihalyi's Flow

Step 1 — Identify the main idea: The paragraph has two parts: (1) defining flow and its conditions (skill-challenge balance, clear goals, immediate feedback); (2) arguing that educational and workplace design often prevents flow and that redesigning these environments would improve wellbeing and performance. Option (B) captures both parts: flow is intrinsically satisfying and can be cultivated through designed environments.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The paragraph explicitly says flow generates satisfaction “qualitatively different from the pleasures of passive consumption or relaxation” — television is used as a contrast, not as a positive example.
- Option (C): The paragraph does not say flow is accessible only to experts; it describes flow as achievable when challenge is calibrated to “the upper edge of the individual’s current skill level” — applicable at any skill level.
- Option (D): Financial incentives are not mentioned anywhere in the paragraph.

Final Answer: Flow is intrinsically satisfying and can be cultivated through careful design of educational and work environments ⇒ **B**

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

Sol. 22.

Solution

Concept — Para Summary: Smallpox Eradication

Step 1 — Identify the main idea: The paragraph makes four points: (1) smallpox eradication is the only complete elimination of a human disease; (2) the WHO campaign ran from 1967; (3) the strategy was surveillance-and-containment, not



mass vaccination; (4) the last natural case was in Somalia (1977), formal declaration in 1980, and the campaign established a model for global health cooperation. Option (D) captures the three most essential elements: the surveillance-containment strategy, the unique historical status of the achievement, and the model it established.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The paragraph explicitly says mass vaccination was replaced by surveillance-containment; Option (A) reverses the argument by calling mass vaccination the lesson of the campaign.
- Option (B): The scientific development of the vaccine is not the focus of the paragraph; no claim about heat stability or refrigeration is made.
- Option (C): While accurate as far as it goes, Option (C) is incomplete — it omits the strategic innovation (surveillance-containment over mass vaccination) and the model-setting significance, which are the paragraph's central claims.

Final Answer: The WHO campaign succeeded via surveillance-containment, achieving the only complete human disease eradication and establishing a global health model ⇒ D

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

Sol. 23.

Solution

Concept — Odd Sentence Out: Feminist Theory and Patriarchal Structures

Step 1 — Identify the coherent paragraph: Sentences B, C, D, and E all operate within feminist theory and its critique of patriarchal social structures. Sentence B addresses the social construction of gender. Sentence C introduces intersectionality (Crenshaw) as an internal development of feminist theory. Sentence D critiques the public/private distinction from a feminist legal perspective. Sentence E develops feminist legal theory's critique of the apparently neutral legal subject. Together, B, C, D, and E form a coherent account of feminist theoretical frameworks.

Step 2 — Identify the odd sentence: Sentence A discusses consumer goods companies using gendered product segmentation (pink packaging, price premiums) as a commercial marketing strategy. This is a phenomenon from the world of advertising and consumer capitalism, not from feminist theoretical literature. While it could be cited *as evidence* in a feminist critique of commercial gender construc-



tion, the sentence as written describes it from a business strategy perspective — completely outside the register of theoretical critique that the other four sentences share.

Final Answer: Sentence A is the odd one out ⇒ A

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

Sol. 24.

Solution

Concept — Odd Sentence Out: Abstract Expressionism and the New York School

Step 1 — Identify the coherent paragraph: Sentences A, B, C, and E all deal directly with Abstract Expressionism as an art movement: Pollock's drip technique (A), Rothko's colour field paintings and his intentions (B), New York's displacement of Paris as the world art capital in the late 1940s and 1950s (C), and the CIA's covert promotion of Abstract Expressionist work as Cold War cultural diplomacy (E). These sentences form a coherent account of the movement's aesthetic characteristics, historical positioning, and Cold War political significance.

Step 2 — Identify the odd sentence: Sentence D discusses the National Endowment for the Arts controversy in the 1990s, when Congress threatened to defund the NEA after it supported work deemed obscene. This is a different political controversy — about arts funding and obscenity in the early 1990s — that is temporally and thematically removed from the Abstract Expressionist movement of the late 1940s and 1950s. While both involve government and art, Sentence D addresses a distinct later episode of arts politics with no direct connection to Abstract Expressionism specifically.

Final Answer: Sentence D is the odd one out ⇒ D

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



Answer Key

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

Quick Reference: Correct Answers

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

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