

CAT Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension

Sample Paper – 2

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 — Artificial Intelligence, Automation, and the Future of Employment (Q1 – Q5)

Passage A

The relationship between technological advancement and employment has never been straightforward. Critics of automation often invoke the spectre of mass unemployment, pointing to factories emptied by robotic assembly lines and customer-service desks replaced by chatbots. Yet historians of technology have long argued that such fears are cyclical: the Luddites of nineteenth-century England smashed textile machinery in protest, only for the Industrial Revolution to ultimately generate more employment than it destroyed. The contemporary debate over artificial intelligence, however, may demand a more nuanced appraisal.

Unlike earlier waves of mechanisation, which largely displaced routine physical labour, AI threatens to encroach upon cognitive tasks that have historically been the preserve of educated professionals. Algorithms now draft legal briefs, analyse medical imaging, and generate financial forecasts with a speed and consistency that no human team can match. The economist's traditional reassurance — that technology creates new categories of work even as it eliminates old ones — remains logically sound, but the pace and breadth of AI-driven change may outstrip the capacity of labour markets and



educational systems to adapt.

The distribution of gains is equally troubling. Productivity benefits from automation tend to accrue disproportionately to capital owners and highly skilled technologists, widening income disparities. Meanwhile, workers in the middle of the skill spectrum — those whose roles are partially but not entirely automatable — face a prolonged period of wage stagnation and uncertain career trajectories. A humane response to this disruption will require not merely retraining programmes, but a fundamental rethinking of how societies organise work, distribute income, and confer social recognition on productive activity.

Q1. Which of the following best captures the central argument of the passage?

- (A) AI-driven automation differs from earlier technological shifts in scope and social impact, demanding responses beyond conventional re-training.
- (B) Historical precedents from the Industrial Revolution show that fears of automation are always unfounded and that new jobs will inevitably emerge.
- (C) The chief concern with artificial intelligence is that it will make manufacturing industries obsolete and create severe trade imbalances.
- (D) Governments should immediately restrict the use of AI in professional sectors to protect middle-skill workers from displacement.

Q2. According to the passage, what distinguishes the current wave of AI from earlier waves of mechanisation?

- (A) AI has led to violent protests similar to those of the Luddites in the nineteenth century.
- (B) AI operates exclusively in manufacturing sectors, unlike earlier mechanisation which affected services.
- (C) AI increasingly threatens cognitive and professional tasks, not merely routine physical labour.
- (D) AI benefits accrue primarily to governments rather than to capital owners or technologists.



- Q3.** The author's phrase "the economist's traditional reassurance" (paragraph 2) implies that the author
- (A) fully endorses the view that technology will always create more jobs than it destroys.
 - (B) believes economists have no valid contribution to make to the automation debate.
 - (C) argues that AI will make the discipline of economics entirely redundant.
 - (D) acknowledges the logical validity of the argument while questioning whether it is adequate for the current context.
- Q4.** Which of the following best describes the "distribution problem" that the passage identifies as a consequence of automation?
- (A) Automation distributes work more fairly across the entire population by eliminating class-based labour hierarchies.
 - (B) Productivity gains from automation tend to benefit capital owners and highly skilled workers disproportionately, deepening inequality.
 - (C) Middle-skill workers gain from automation because their partially automatable roles become more important in a technology-driven economy.
 - (D) Governments capture the largest share of productivity gains through higher tax revenues, leaving little for workers or firms.
- Q5.** The passage suggests that a "humane response" to automation-driven disruption would involve which of the following?
- (A) Banning the deployment of AI in sectors that currently employ large numbers of middle-skill workers.
 - (B) Ensuring that all productivity gains are taxed at a higher rate and redistributed through unemployment benefits.
 - (C) Reconsidering how societies organise work, distribute income, and assign social value to productive activity.



- (D) Accelerating the pace of automation so that displaced workers are forced to acquire new cognitive skills rapidly.

Set B: Reading Comprehension — Psychological Effects of Social Isolation and Loneliness in Modern Society (Q6 – Q10)

Passage B

Loneliness, once dismissed as a transient emotional inconvenience, has been reconceived by researchers over the past two decades as a serious public-health crisis. Epidemiological studies suggest that chronic social isolation carries health risks comparable to smoking fifteen cigarettes a day, increasing mortality rates and accelerating cognitive decline in older adults. The paradox is striking: in an era of unprecedented connectivity through digital platforms and social media, individuals across age groups report rising rates of subjective loneliness.

Psychologists distinguish between objective social isolation — the measurable absence of social contact — and subjective loneliness, which is the painful awareness of a gap between desired and actual social connection. This distinction matters enormously for intervention design. An individual may be surrounded by acquaintances yet feel profoundly lonely if those relationships lack depth, reciprocity, or genuine understanding. Conversely, a person with a small social network can experience rich fulfilment if those bonds are characterised by trust and emotional intimacy.

The causes of modern loneliness are multifactorial. Urban anonymity, the erosion of communal institutions such as religious organisations and civic clubs, long working hours, and the substitution of digital interactions for embodied social contact all contribute to the problem. Social media, in particular, presents a double-edged dynamic: while it can maintain existing relationships across distance, experimental research suggests that passive consumption of curated social feeds is associated with social comparison, reduced self-esteem, and ultimately greater feelings of isolation.

Designing effective interventions requires moving beyond simple prescriptions such as “spend less time on your phone.” Community-level approaches that rebuild social infrastructure — neighbourhood centres, participatory arts programmes, intergenerational mentoring schemes — have shown promise. At the same time, clinical psychologists have found that cognitive-behavioural techniques that address maladaptive social cognitions, such as the tendency to interpret ambiguous social cues as rejection, can meaningfully reduce subjective loneliness even where objective social contact remains limited.

Q6. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) warn readers about the dangers of excessive social media use and advocate for digital abstinence.
- (B) document the historical evolution of loneliness as a concept in Western psychology.



- (C) provide a statistical overview of mortality rates associated with social isolation in different countries.
- (D) characterise loneliness as a complex public-health issue and outline approaches to addressing it.

Q7. According to the passage, why is the distinction between objective social isolation and subjective loneliness important?

- (A) Because effective interventions must target the subjective experience of loneliness, which does not always correlate with the number of social contacts a person has.
- (B) Because objective isolation is always more harmful than subjective loneliness, so policy should focus exclusively on increasing social contact.
- (C) Because subjective loneliness is a recent phenomenon whereas objective isolation has always existed in human societies.
- (D) Because medical treatments are available for objective isolation but not for subjective loneliness.

Q8. The author describes social media as presenting a “double-edged dynamic.” Which of the following best explains this characterisation?

- (A) Social media helps people form entirely new relationships but also spreads misinformation that damages those relationships.
- (B) Social media can sustain existing friendships across distances but passive use of curated feeds can increase social comparison and loneliness.
- (C) Social media is useful for professional networking but harmful to personal and family relationships.
- (D) Social media reduces objective isolation by increasing social contacts but has no measurable effect on subjective loneliness.

Q9. Which of the following, if true, would most directly undermine the claim about passive social media consumption in paragraph 3?



- (A) Studies show that active participation in online communities reduces loneliness among rural elderly populations.
- (B) Researchers have found that longer working hours are more strongly correlated with loneliness than social media usage.
- (C) A large-scale longitudinal study finds no significant association between passive social media consumption and increased feelings of isolation.
- (D) Digital platforms have introduced features that reduce the visibility of metrics such as “likes,” which are linked to social comparison.

Q10. According to the passage, cognitive-behavioural interventions help address loneliness primarily by

- (A) increasing the number of social interactions a person has each week through structured activity plans.
- (B) replacing digital communication with face-to-face contact in a clinical setting.
- (C) rebuilding communal infrastructure such as neighbourhood centres and arts programmes.
- (D) modifying the maladaptive thought patterns that cause individuals to perceive social situations as rejecting.

Set C: Reading Comprehension — India's Classical Music Traditions and Their Philosophical Underpinnings (Q11 – Q15)

Passage C

Indian classical music is not merely an aesthetic enterprise; it is a philosophical system clothed in sound. The two principal traditions — Hindustani in the north and Carnatic in the south — share a common theoretical foundation in the ancient Sanskrit treatise *Natya Shastra*, attributed to the sage Bharata Muni, yet they have evolved over centuries into distinct artistic vocabularies shaped by regional culture, court patronage, and religious devotion. Both systems are built upon the concept of *raga*, a melodic framework that is neither a fixed composition nor a simple scale, but a living entity with its own emotional character, time of performance, and season of the year.

The philosophical depth of the tradition is rooted in the doctrine of *rasa*, elaborated in the *Natya Shastra* and later in the Kashmir Shaivite aesthetic philosophy of Abhinavagupta. *Rasa* — literally



“juice” or “essence” — denotes the aesthetic emotion that a work of art is designed to evoke and that a cultivated audience member is trained to experience. The nine canonical *rasas* include *shringara* (love and beauty), *karuna* (compassion and sorrow), and *shanta* (tranquility and equanimity). A classical musician’s technical mastery is ultimately in the service of this emotional and spiritual communication.

This philosophical orientation has practical consequences. A *raga* is not merely a sequence of notes but a set of prescriptions governing the permitted melodic movements, characteristic ornamentations, and the emotional atmosphere it is intended to sustain. Improvisation — the heart of a classical performance — is not free-form experimentation but a disciplined exploration of the *raga*’s personality within a framework of inherited conventions. The *guru-shishya parampara*, or teacher-disciple lineage, remains the primary vehicle for transmitting this knowledge, ensuring that the living quality of the tradition survives the inadequacies of notation.

Q11. According to the passage, which of the following statements about a *raga* is most accurate?

- (A) A *raga* is a fixed composition that a performer memorises and reproduces identically at each performance.
- (B) A *raga* is a melodic framework with defined emotional character, permissible movements, and appropriate performance times.
- (C) A *raga* is a simple musical scale derived from the Western chromatic system and adapted for Indian instrumentation.
- (D) A *raga* is a rhythmic pattern that provides the structural backbone for both Hindustani and Carnatic compositions.

Q12. The passage describes *rasa* as the “aesthetic emotion” that a work of art is designed to evoke. Which of the following best illustrates this concept as described in the passage?

- (A) A musician performing *Bhairavi* in the late morning with a mood of gentle longing, evoking *karuna* in a trained listener.
- (B) A composer writing a technically complex piece intended to demonstrate virtuoso skill to other professional musicians.
- (C) A film director using background music to signal to the audience that a scene is about to become suspenseful.
- (D) A performer improvising freely across multiple *ragas* in a single concert to showcase versatility.



- Q13.** The author describes improvisation in Indian classical music as “disciplined exploration” rather than “free-form experimentation.” Which of the following best justifies this characterisation?
- (A) Improvisations in Indian classical music must be approved in advance by the musician’s guru before they are performed publicly.
 - (B) Classical musicians are forbidden from introducing any novel melodic phrases and must restrict themselves to passages documented in ancient texts.
 - (C) Improvisation is discouraged in Carnatic music, which relies exclusively on composed pieces transmitted through notation.
 - (D) Improvisation must occur within the strict melodic, ornamental, and emotional prescriptions that define a *raga*’s identity.
- Q14.** According to the passage, the *guru-shishya parampara* is valued primarily because it
- (A) allows the music to be standardised across regional traditions and prevents stylistic divergence between Hindustani and Carnatic music.
 - (B) ensures that all classical musicians receive formal academic qualifications before performing professionally.
 - (C) transmits the living, experiential dimension of the tradition that written notation cannot adequately capture.
 - (D) gives commercial music producers access to ancient compositions that can be adapted for modern audiences.
- Q15.** Which of the following would the author most likely agree with, based on the passage?
- (A) A technically flawless performance that fails to evoke the appropriate *rasa* in the audience falls short of the tradition’s deeper purpose.
 - (B) The Carnatic tradition is philosophically superior to the Hindustani tradition because it has remained closer to the *Natya Shastra*.



- (C) The *guru-shishya parampara* is an outdated institution that should be replaced by conservatory-style music education.
- (D) Indian classical music should adapt its *raga* grammar freely to suit contemporary audiences and performance contexts.

Verbal Ability (Q16 – Q24)

Para Jumbles (Q16 – Q19)

Q16. The sentences P, Q, R, S, T, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph. Choose the correct sequence.

P. The drain of raw materials and tax revenues to Britain impoverished artisans, farmers, and weavers who had previously sustained thriving regional economies.

Q. Colonial rule in India was underpinned by an elaborate system of economic extraction that systematically redirected wealth from the sub-continent to Britain.

R. Nationalist economists such as Dadabhai Naoroji quantified this drain and used the evidence to argue for Indian self-governance.

S. By the early twentieth century, the critique of economic imperialism had become inseparable from the broader political movement for independence.

T. This impoverishment was not incidental but structurally embedded in trade policies, land-revenue systems, and the dismantling of indigenous industries.

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

Q17. The sentences P, Q, R, S, T, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph. Choose the correct sequence.



P. He argued that human existence precedes essence, meaning that individuals are not born with a predetermined nature but must define themselves through their choices.

Q. Existentialism as a philosophical movement gained widespread cultural traction in the aftermath of the Second World War, a period of acute dislocation and moral uncertainty.

R. The existentialist vision was both liberating and terrifying: freedom was absolute, but so was the responsibility that accompanied it.

S. Jean-Paul Sartre became the movement's most prominent spokesman, giving existentialism its famous formulation in a 1945 lecture.

T. Subsequent thinkers such as Simone de Beauvoir extended existentialist principles to questions of gender, oppression, and situated freedom.

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

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

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

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

Q18. The sentences P, Q, R, S, T, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph. Choose the correct sequence.

P. Feedback loops occur when the output of a system is routed back as an input, altering the subsequent behaviour of that system in ways that can be either stabilising or destabilising.

Q. In ecology, a classic positive feedback loop is the ice-albedo effect: melting polar ice reduces the surface's capacity to reflect sunlight, accelerating further warming and further melting.

R. Negative feedback loops, by contrast, tend to restore equilibrium; the predator-prey relationship, in which a growing prey population sustains a growing predator population that in turn reduces prey numbers, illustrates this dynamic.

S. Understanding these loop structures is essential for ecologists who



seek to predict how ecosystems will respond to external perturbations such as climate change or invasive species.

T. The concept of the feedback loop, originally developed in engineering cybernetics, has become one of the most powerful analytical tools in modern ecology.

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

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

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

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

Q19. The sentences P, Q, R, S, T, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph. Choose the correct sequence.

P. The printing press, invented by Johannes Gutenberg around 1440, did not merely accelerate the reproduction of texts; it fundamentally altered the social relationship between knowledge and power.

Q. Before printing, manuscripts were laboriously copied by hand in monasteries and scriptoria, making books expensive luxuries confined to the clergy and nobility.

R. The rapid diffusion of printed materials across Europe facilitated the Protestant Reformation, the rise of vernacular literatures, and eventually the standardisation of national languages.

S. Gutenberg's press reduced the cost of producing a text by several orders of magnitude, making books accessible to a far wider literate public.

T. Scholars now regard the printing press as one of the pivotal technologies of modernity, comparable in its transformative effect to the internet of the late twentieth century.

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

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

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

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



Para Summary (Q20 – Q22)

Q20. Read the following paragraph and choose the option that best summarises it.

Myths, contrary to the dismissive reading that treats them as primitive superstitions, serve as the narrative architecture through which communities construct a shared sense of identity and moral purpose. The myths of a nation — its founding stories, its heroes' journeys, its accounts of origin — do not merely entertain; they encode values, adjudicate between competing loyalties, and provide symbolic resources for interpreting present crises in the light of a revered past. When political leaders invoke mythological imagery, they are not simply deploying rhetorical ornament; they are activating deeply internalised cultural scripts that define who belongs, who is the enemy, and what constitutes a worthy sacrifice.

- (A) Myths are fundamentally false stories that political leaders exploit to manipulate citizens who lack critical thinking skills.
- (B) Myths function as foundational cultural narratives that shape collective identity, moral values, and political imagination within a community.
- (C) The primary purpose of national myths is to celebrate the achievements of historical heroes and to inspire patriotic sentiment in schoolchildren.
- (D) Mythology has no place in modern political discourse because evidence-based policymaking has rendered cultural narratives obsolete.

Q21. Read the following paragraph and choose the option that best summarises it.

Ancient Indian astronomers developed sophisticated mathematical techniques for tracking planetary movements, predicting eclipses, and calculating the length of the solar year with a precision that would not be matched in Europe for several centuries. The *Aryabhatiya* of Aryabhata,



composed in the fifth century CE, proposed a heliocentric model of the solar system and computed the length of the sidereal day to an accuracy of a few seconds. Later scholars such as Brahmagupta and Bhaskara II extended this tradition, developing algebraic methods that were integral to the solution of astronomical problems. This body of knowledge was transmitted not only through texts but also through the practical requirements of the religious calendar, which demanded accurate prediction of auspicious times for ritual.

- (A) Ancient Indian astronomers were motivated purely by religious concerns and had no interest in mathematical precision or theoretical innovation.
- (B) Aryabhata was the only significant figure in ancient Indian astronomy; subsequent scholars merely repeated his findings without contributing original ideas.
- (C) Indian astronomical knowledge was entirely derivative of Greek and Babylonian traditions, with no indigenous theoretical innovations.
- (D) Ancient Indian astronomy was a sophisticated intellectual tradition that combined precise mathematical methods with practical religious applications, producing insights that anticipated later European developments.

Q22. Read the following paragraph and choose the option that best summarises it.

Research into the acquisition of expertise consistently shows that the quality and structure of practice matter far more than its duration alone. The concept of deliberate practice, developed by the psychologist Anders Ericsson, refers to training that is specifically designed to improve performance by targeting current weaknesses, receiving immediate and precise feedback, and pushing the learner just beyond their present comfort zone. Elite musicians, athletes, and chess players do not simply accumulate hours; they engage in sustained mental effort directed at the specific sub-skills that currently limit their performance. Passive repetition, by



contrast, produces a plateau: once a skill becomes automatic, additional hours of comfortable practice yield diminishing returns without measurable improvement.

- (A) Elite performers succeed primarily because of innate talent; deliberate practice is only relevant for beginners who have not yet discovered their natural strengths.
- (B) The total number of hours spent practising any skill is the single most reliable predictor of expert-level performance across all domains.
- (C) Deliberate practice, characterised by targeted effort, feedback, and progressive challenge, is more effective for skill development than simply accumulating hours of repetitive activity.
- (D) Anders Ericsson's research shows that the optimal approach to skill acquisition is to practise in short daily sessions rather than in extended blocks.

Odd Sentence Out (Q23 – Q24)

Q23. Four of the following five sentences form a coherent paragraph. Identify the sentence that does NOT belong.

- A. The construction of rural highways has been shown to stimulate agricultural exports by reducing transport costs to urban markets.
- B. Rural-to-urban migration in developing economies is driven by the persistent wage gap between agricultural and industrial employment.
- C. Urban slums expand as migrants arrive faster than the formal housing market can absorb them, creating informal settlements with limited sanitation.
- D. Overcrowded cities strain public services, leading to increased pressure on schools, hospitals, and transportation networks.
- E. Policymakers have responded to urban migration pressures by investing in affordable housing schemes and satellite towns on city peripheries.

(A) A



- (B) B
- (C) C
- (D) D

Q24. Four of the following five sentences form a coherent paragraph. Identify the sentence that does NOT belong.

- A.** Baroque architecture, flourishing across Europe from the late sixteenth to the early eighteenth century, is defined by its dramatic use of light, exuberant ornamentation, and the deliberate manipulation of space to create emotional intensity.
- B.** The Counter-Reformation papacy commissioned many of the most celebrated Baroque buildings in Rome as instruments of religious persuasion and institutional prestige.
- C.** Minimalism, emerging in the twentieth century as a reaction against artistic excess, prioritised the elimination of all superfluous elements in pursuit of essential form.
- D.** Gian Lorenzo Bernini's colonnade at St. Peter's Square exemplifies the Baroque ambition to overwhelm the viewer's senses and draw the faithful into an experience of sacred grandeur.
- E.** In Protestant northern Europe, Baroque design was adapted to emphasise civic and domestic architecture rather than the Catholic church-building programmes that dominated Italy and Spain.

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



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

Concept — Main Idea / Central Argument: The question asks for the passage's overarching thesis. The passage acknowledges the historical Luddite precedent (jobs eventually returned), then immediately argues that AI is different because it affects cognitive work and that the pace of change and distributional consequences demand responses beyond conventional economic reassurance.

Analysis: Option (A) precisely captures this two-part argument: AI differs from earlier technological shifts in scope and social impact, and the required responses must go beyond retraining. The passage explicitly ends by calling for a “fundamental rethinking” of work, income distribution, and social recognition.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The passage explicitly qualifies the historical precedent, calling it insufficient for the AI context.
- Option C: The passage never discusses trade imbalances or manufacturing obsolescence.
- Option D: The passage does not advocate banning AI; it calls for systemic social reform.

Final Answer: AI differs from prior automation waves in scope and demands broader social responses ⇒ **A**

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

Sol. 2.**Solution**

Concept — Specific Detail / Contrast: The passage draws an explicit contrast between earlier mechanisation (routine physical labour) and AI (cognitive tasks of educated professionals).

Analysis: Paragraph 2 states: “Unlike earlier waves of mechanisation, which largely displaced routine physical labour, AI threatens to encroach upon cognitive tasks that have historically been the preserve of educated professionals.” Option (C) restates this directly.

Why other options are wrong:



- Option A: The passage mentions the Luddites as a historical parallel, not a current response to AI.
- Option B: The passage explicitly says AI threatens professional/cognitive sectors, not just manufacturing.
- Option D: The passage states benefits accrue to capital owners and technologists, not governments.

Final Answer: AI threatens cognitive/professional tasks, not merely physical labour ⇒

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

Sol. 3.

Solution

Concept — Author's Tone and Implication / Inference: The phrase “traditional reassurance” signals a qualified attitude. The author grants the logical validity of the economist's point while raising doubts about its sufficiency in the current context.

Analysis: The passage says the economist's reassurance “remains logically sound, but the pace and breadth of AI-driven change may outstrip” labour markets' capacity to adapt. This is a nuanced acknowledgement: correct in principle, but potentially inadequate in practice. Option (D) captures this precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The author does not fully endorse the view; the word “but” signals a reservation.
- Option B: The author does not dismiss economists; they acknowledge the argument's logic.
- Option C: The passage does not suggest AI makes economics redundant.

Final Answer: The economist's argument is logically valid but may be inadequate for the AI era ⇒

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



Sol. 4.

Solution

Concept — Specific Detail / Distribution of Gains: Paragraph 3 explicitly describes who benefits from automation and who is harmed.

Analysis: The passage states: “Productivity benefits from automation tend to accrue disproportionately to capital owners and highly skilled technologists, widening income disparities.” Option (B) directly restates this finding.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage says automation widens disparities, not that it distributes work fairly.
- Option C: The passage says middle-skill workers face stagnation and uncertainty, not greater importance.
- Option D: The passage does not mention governments capturing productivity gains through taxation.

Final Answer: Productivity gains from automation disproportionately benefit capital owners and skilled technologists ⇒ B

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

Sol. 5.

Solution

Concept — Specific Detail / Author’s Recommendation: The final sentence of the passage describes the “humane response” that the author advocates.

Analysis: The passage concludes: “A humane response to this disruption will require not merely retraining programmes, but a fundamental rethinking of how societies organise work, distribute income, and confer social recognition on productive activity.” Option (C) precisely paraphrases this three-part formulation.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage never advocates banning AI; it calls for social reform.
- Option B: The passage does not propose taxing all gains and redistributing through unemployment benefits.
- Option D: The passage does not suggest accelerating automation as a response to disruption.

Final Answer: A humane response means reconsidering how societies organise



work, distribute income, and value activity ⇒ **C**

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

Sol. 6.

Solution

Concept — Primary Purpose / Author's Intent: The question asks for the overarching purpose of Passage B. A passage covering the health risks, definition, causes, and interventions related to loneliness is framing loneliness as a multidimensional public-health issue.

Analysis: Option (D) correctly identifies that the passage both characterises loneliness as a complex public-health issue and outlines approaches (community-level and cognitive-behavioural) to addressing it. The passage is not a simple anti-social-media polemic, a historical survey, or a statistical country comparison.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not advocate digital abstinence; it treats social media as a double-edged tool.
- Option B: The passage does not trace historical evolution of the concept in Western psychology.
- Option C: The passage cites one statistic (the cigarette comparison) but does not provide a country-by-country statistical overview.

Final Answer: The passage characterises loneliness as a complex public-health issue and outlines interventions ⇒ **D**

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

Sol. 7.

Solution

Concept — Inference / Significance of a Distinction: Paragraph 2 explains why the objective/subjective distinction matters for intervention design.

Analysis: The passage states a person surrounded by acquaintances can feel lonely if relationships lack depth, while someone with a small network can feel fulfilled if bonds are intimate. This means interventions must address the subjective experience, not merely add social contacts. Option (A) captures this reasoning precisely.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The passage does not say objective isolation is always more harmful; the whole point is that the two diverge.
- Option C: The passage does not claim subjective loneliness is a recent phenomenon.
- Option D: The passage does not mention medical treatments being available for objective isolation but not subjective loneliness.

Final Answer: The distinction matters because effective interventions must target subjective experience, not just social contact numbers ⇒ **A**

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

Sol. 8.**Solution**

Concept — Vocabulary in Context / Author's Characterisation: The “double-edged” metaphor in paragraph 3 points to two opposing effects of social media.

Analysis: The passage states social media “can maintain existing relationships across distance” (positive edge) but “passive consumption of curated social feeds is associated with social comparison, reduced self-esteem, and ultimately greater feelings of isolation” (negative edge). Option (B) accurately captures both edges.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not discuss misinformation damaging relationships.
- Option C: The passage does not distinguish professional from personal social media use.
- Option D: The passage explicitly states passive use increases subjective loneliness.

Final Answer: Social media sustains existing friendships but passive use increases loneliness through social comparison ⇒ **B**

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



Sol. 9.

Solution

Concept — Strengthen/Weaken (Critical Reasoning): The passage claims that “experimental research suggests that passive consumption of curated social feeds is associated with social comparison, reduced self-esteem, and ultimately greater feelings of isolation.” We need what would most directly undermine this specific claim.

Analysis: Option (C) presents a large-scale longitudinal study finding no significant association between passive social media consumption and feelings of isolation. This directly contradicts the experimental evidence cited in the passage, undermining the claim at its empirical foundation.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: This addresses active participation, not passive consumption; it is consistent with the passage’s implied contrast.
- Option B: This suggests working hours matter more, but does not show passive social media use is harmless.
- Option D: Platform design changes may reduce social comparison in the future but do not undermine the existing empirical claim about passive consumption.

Final Answer: A study finding no link between passive social media use and isolation directly undermines the claim ⇒ **C**

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

Sol. 10.

Solution

Concept — Specific Detail / Mechanism of Intervention: Paragraph 4 describes what cognitive-behavioural interventions do.

Analysis: The passage states: “cognitive-behavioural techniques that address maladaptive social cognitions, such as the tendency to interpret ambiguous social cues as rejection, can meaningfully reduce subjective loneliness.” Option (D) paraphrases this accurately — CBT works by modifying maladaptive thought patterns about social situations.

Why other options are wrong:



- Option A: This describes a behavioural activation approach, not CBT as described in the passage.
- Option B: The passage does not mention clinical settings requiring face-to-face replacement of digital contact.
- Option C: This describes community-level approaches (neighbourhood centres, arts programmes), a separate category from CBT in the passage.

Final Answer: CBT addresses maladaptive thought patterns that cause people to perceive social situations as rejecting ⇒ **D**

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

Sol. 11.

Solution

Concept — Specific Detail / Definition of Raga: Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Passage C together describe what a *raga* is and is not.

Analysis: Paragraph 1 defines a *raga* as “a melodic framework that is neither a fixed composition nor a simple scale, but a living entity with its own emotional character, time of performance, and season.” Paragraph 3 adds that it includes “prescriptions governing permitted melodic movements, characteristic ornamentations, and the emotional atmosphere.” Option (B) captures all these elements.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage explicitly says a *raga* is NOT a “fixed composition.”
- Option C: The passage explicitly says it is NOT “a simple scale,” and says nothing about Western chromatic derivation.
- Option D: A *raga* is a melodic, not rhythmic, framework.

Final Answer: A *raga* is a melodic framework with defined emotional character, permissible movements, and performance prescriptions ⇒ **B**

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



Sol. 12.

Solution

Concept — Application / Illustration of Concept: The question asks which option best illustrates *rasa* as described in the passage: an aesthetic emotion that a work of art is designed to evoke in a cultivated audience.

Analysis: Option (A) shows a musician performing a specific *raga* (*Bhairavi*) at the appropriate time, with an emotional mood (gentle longing), evoking a specific *rasa* (*karuna*) in a trained listener. This matches the passage's description precisely: the performance is oriented toward evoking a defined aesthetic emotion in an appropriately prepared audience.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: This describes technical virtuosity for professional peers, not the evocation of *rasa* in a cultivated audience.
- Option C: Film background music to signal suspense is functional signalling, not *rasa* in the classical Indian sense.
- Option D: Improvising across multiple *ragas* contradicts the passage's insistence that each *raga* has a specific emotional atmosphere to be sustained.

Final Answer: A performance evoking *karuna* through the appropriate *raga*, mood, and timing best illustrates *rasa* ⇒ A

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

Sol. 13.

Solution

Concept — Inference / Author's Characterisation of Improvisation: The passage calls improvisation "a disciplined exploration of the *raga*'s personality within a framework of inherited conventions." The question asks which option best justifies calling it disciplined rather than free-form.

Analysis: Option (D) correctly identifies the constraint: improvisation must remain within the strict melodic, ornamental, and emotional prescriptions that define a *raga*'s identity. This is precisely the framework the passage describes — the freedom to explore, but only within the *raga*'s defined personality.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not say improvisations require guru pre-



approval; the guru transmits knowledge, not prior performance approvals.

- Option B: The passage does not say novel phrases are forbidden; it says improvisation is disciplined, not banned.
- Option C: The passage treats Carnatic music as part of the same tradition of improvisation, not as exclusively using composed pieces.

Final Answer: Improvisation must stay within the strict prescriptions defining a *raga*'s melodic, ornamental, and emotional identity ⇒ D

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

Sol. 14.

Solution

Concept — Specific Detail / Purpose of Guru-Shishya Parampara: The final sentence of Passage C explains why the *guru-shishya parampara* is maintained.

Analysis: The passage states it “ensures that the living quality of the tradition survives the inadequacies of notation.” The core reason is that notation cannot capture the living, experiential dimension of the music, so direct transmission from teacher to student is essential. Option (C) captures this reasoning precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage explicitly notes that Hindustani and Carnatic have evolved into “distinct artistic vocabularies”; the *parampara* preserves each lineage, not a common standard.
- Option B: The passage does not mention formal academic qualifications.
- Option D: The passage does not discuss commercial music production.

Final Answer: The *guru-shishya parampara* transmits the living dimension of the tradition that notation cannot capture ⇒ C

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



Sol. 15.

Solution

Concept — Inference / Author's Implied View: The question asks what the author would most likely agree with, given the passage's philosophical orientation.

Analysis: The passage argues that technical mastery in Indian classical music is “ultimately in the service” of emotional and spiritual communication (*rasa*). This implies that technique alone — no matter how flawless — is insufficient if it fails to achieve the higher goal of evoking *rasa*. Option (A) directly follows from this argument.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The passage describes Hindustani and Carnatic as sharing a common foundation but evolving differently; it does not rank one above the other.
- Option C: The passage explicitly values the *guru-shishya parampara* and cites “the inadequacies of notation” as a reason to preserve it.
- Option D: The passage describes *raga* grammar as a disciplined framework, not something to be “freely adapted.”

Final Answer: A technically flawless performance that fails to evoke *rasa* falls short of the tradition's deeper purpose ⇒ A

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

Sol. 16.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble (Economic History of Colonial India): We must identify the logical sequence by tracking topic introduction, development, and conclusion.

Analysis:

- **Q** introduces the central subject: colonial rule as a system of economic extraction.
- **P** provides the first consequence: impoverishment of artisans, farmers, and weavers.
- **T** deepens the explanation: this impoverishment was structurally embedded, not incidental.
- **R** introduces the intellectual response: nationalist economists like Naoroji



quantifying the drain.

- **S** provides the concluding synthesis: by the early twentieth century, economic critique and the independence movement were inseparable.

Sequence: $Q \rightarrow P \rightarrow T \rightarrow R \rightarrow S$ = Option (B).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Q, P, S, T, R): Places S (the conclusion) before T and R, breaking logical development.
- Option C (T, Q, P, R, S): Opens with T, which elaborates on impoverishment not yet introduced.
- Option D (P, Q, T, S, R): Opens with the consequence P before the cause Q is introduced.

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

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 16](#)

Sol. 17.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble (Rise of Existentialism): Track the movement from historical context → key figure → core idea → implication → extension.

Analysis:

- **Q** sets the historical context: post-World War II dislocation gave existentialism cultural traction.
- **S** introduces the key figure: Sartre became the movement's most prominent spokesman in 1945.
- **P** presents Sartre's central formulation: existence precedes essence; individuals define themselves through choices.
- **R** explores the implication: freedom is both liberating and terrifying, with absolute responsibility.
- **T** extends the tradition: later thinkers like de Beauvoir applied existentialism to gender and oppression.

Sequence: $Q \rightarrow S \rightarrow P \rightarrow R \rightarrow T$ = Option (D).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (S, P, Q, R, T): Opens with Sartre without the historical context



that explains why existentialism emerged.

- Option B (P, Q, S, T, R): Starts with Sartre's idea before introducing either the movement or Sartre himself.
- Option C (Q, P, R, S, T): Places P (Sartre's idea) before S (introducing Sartre), which is logically backward.

Final Answer: $Q \rightarrow S \rightarrow P \rightarrow R \rightarrow T \Rightarrow \boxed{D}$

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

Sol. 18.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble (Feedback Loops in Ecology): Track the movement from conceptual origin $\rightarrow$ general definition $\rightarrow$ specific examples $\rightarrow$ significance.

Analysis:

- **T** introduces the concept and its origin: feedback loops from engineering cybernetics, now a key ecological tool.
- **P** provides the general definition: output routed back as input, producing stabilising or destabilising effects.
- **Q** illustrates positive feedback with an ecological example: the ice-albedo effect.
- **R** contrasts with negative feedback: the predator-prey relationship restores equilibrium.
- **S** explains the practical significance: understanding these structures helps ecologists predict ecosystem responses.

Sequence: $T \rightarrow P \rightarrow Q \rightarrow R \rightarrow S = \text{Option (A)}$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (P, Q, R, T, S): Introduces the definition before establishing the conceptual origin in T.
- Option C (Q, P, T, R, S): Opens with a specific example before the concept is defined.
- Option D (T, Q, R, P, S): Gives examples Q and R before defining what a feedback loop is in P.

Final Answer: $T \rightarrow P \rightarrow Q \rightarrow R \rightarrow S \Rightarrow \boxed{A}$

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



Sol. 19.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble (Printing Press and Cultural Impact): Track the movement from invention → prior state → Gutenberg's specific change → cultural consequences → historical verdict.

Analysis:

- **P** opens with the invention and its broader significance: Gutenberg's press altered the social relationship between knowledge and power.
- **Q** establishes the prior state (before printing): manuscripts were hand-copied, expensive, and confined to the clergy and nobility.
- **S** describes Gutenberg's specific change: dramatic cost reduction, making books accessible to a wider literate public.
- **R** describes the cultural consequences: the Reformation, vernacular literatures, and standardisation of languages.
- **T** provides the historical verdict: scholars regard the press as a pivotal technology of modernity, comparable to the internet.

Sequence: $P \rightarrow Q \rightarrow S \rightarrow R \rightarrow T$ = Option (C).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (P, S, R, Q, T): Places Q (the prior state) after the consequences in R, breaking chronological logic.
- Option B (Q, P, S, T, R): Ends with R (cultural consequences) after the historical verdict T, which is the proper conclusion.
- Option D (Q, S, P, R, T): Opens with Q (prior state) before the invention P is introduced, but more critically, S describes Gutenberg's change which should follow establishing the invention P.

Final Answer: $P \rightarrow Q \rightarrow S \rightarrow R \rightarrow T \Rightarrow \boxed{C}$

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



Sol. 20.

Solution

Concept — Para Summary (Mythology and National Identity): The paragraph argues that myths are not mere superstitions but serve as narrative frameworks that construct collective identity, encode values, and provide political leaders with cultural scripts.

Analysis: Option (B) accurately captures all three functions: myths shape collective identity, moral values, and political imagination. It avoids both the dismissive reduction (myths as manipulation tools) in Option A and the overly narrow reading (myths as patriotic children's stories) in Option C.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The paragraph does not say myths are false, only that they have been dismissively labelled superstitions. The author corrects this view rather than endorsing it.
- Option C: The paragraph explicitly says myths do much more than celebrate heroes and inspire patriotism.
- Option D: The paragraph does not suggest mythology is obsolete; the entire point is that it remains active in modern political discourse.

Final Answer: Myths function as foundational cultural narratives shaping identity, moral values, and political imagination ⇒ **B**

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

Sol. 21.

Solution

Concept — Para Summary (Ancient Indian Astronomy): The paragraph covers the mathematical sophistication of ancient Indian astronomy, key figures (Aryabhata, Brahmagupta, Bhaskara II), the heliocentric model, algebraic methods, and the role of religious calendar in driving precision.

Analysis: Option (D) captures all key elements: sophisticated mathematical methods, anticipation of European developments, and practical religious applications. It correctly names the tradition as both intellectually original and practically motivated.

Why other options are wrong:



- Option A: The paragraph explicitly states that these astronomers developed “sophisticated mathematical techniques,” contradicting the claim that they were motivated purely by religious concerns with no interest in precision.
- Option B: The paragraph names multiple significant figures (Brahmagupta, Bhaskara II) who extended and contributed original ideas.
- Option C: The paragraph presents the Indian tradition as producing indigenous innovations, not as derivative of Greek or Babylonian sources.

Final Answer: Ancient Indian astronomy combined precise mathematics with religious practice, anticipating later European developments $\Rightarrow$ **D**

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

Sol. 22.

Solution

Concept — Para Summary (Deliberate Practice): The paragraph distinguishes deliberate practice (targeted, feedback-driven, comfort-zone-pushing) from passive repetition (which produces plateaus) and argues quality of practice matters more than quantity.

Analysis: Option (C) correctly summarises the central contrast: deliberate practice (characterised by targeted effort, feedback, and progressive challenge) is more effective than simply accumulating hours of repetitive activity. This is the passage’s core claim.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The paragraph explicitly argues that deliberate practice, not innate talent, is the key variable; it does not treat talent as primary.
- Option B: The paragraph explicitly refutes this view: hours alone are insufficient; quality and structure matter more.
- Option D: The paragraph does not discuss session length (short daily vs. extended blocks); this detail is not in the text.

Final Answer: Deliberate practice, characterised by targeted effort, feedback, and challenge, outperforms mere repetitive accumulation of hours $\Rightarrow$ **C**

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



Sol. 23.

Solution

Concept — Odd Sentence Out (Urban Migration): We must identify which sentence disrupts the coherent paragraph formed by the other four.

Analysis: Sentences B, C, D, and E form a coherent paragraph about the urban migration process and its consequences: B explains why migrants move (wage gap), C describes the immediate urban consequence (expanding slums), D describes the strain on public services, and E explains policy responses to these pressures. Sentence A, about rural highway construction stimulating agricultural exports, belongs to a paragraph about rural development and its economic benefits — it discusses a completely different subject (road infrastructure and agricultural trade) rather than the causes and consequences of urban migration. It is the odd sentence out.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Sentence B provides the foundational cause (wage gap driving migration) that the rest of the paragraph builds upon.
- Option C: Sentence C directly follows from B, describing the immediate urban consequence of migration.
- Option D: Sentence D logically follows C, describing the further strain on public services.

Final Answer: Sentence A (about rural highway construction and agricultural exports) does not belong ⇒ A

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

Sol. 24.

Solution

Concept — Odd Sentence Out (Baroque Architecture): We must identify which sentence disrupts the coherent paragraph about Baroque architecture.

Analysis: Sentences A, B, D, and E form a coherent paragraph about Baroque architecture: A defines its aesthetic characteristics (dramatic light, ornamentation, emotional intensity), B explains the Counter-Reformation patronage context, D illustrates these principles through Bernini's colonnade at St. Peter's, and E notes how Baroque was adapted in Protestant northern Europe. Sentence C, about Minimalism as a twentieth-century reaction against artistic excess, belongs to a completely different topic (Minimalism as an art movement) and contradicts rather



than elaborates the Baroque theme. It is the odd sentence out.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Sentence A introduces and defines Baroque architecture — it is the natural opening sentence.
- Option B: Sentence B explains the historical patronage context that produced many Baroque buildings — integral to understanding the movement.
- Option D: Sentence D provides a specific example (Bernini's colonnade) that illustrates the principles in A.

Final Answer: Sentence C (about Minimalism) does not belong in a paragraph about Baroque architecture ⇒ B

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



Answer Key

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

Quick Reference: Correct Answers

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

Practice more CAT Sample Papers at collegedunia.com/exams/cat/sample-paper

