

CAT Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension

Sample Paper – 3

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 — Biodiversity Loss and the Sixth Mass Extinction (Q1 – Q5)

Passage 1

Read the following passage carefully and answer questions Q1–Q5.

Biologists now speak, with a quiet urgency that belies the magnitude of what they are describing, of a sixth mass extinction event currently underway. Unlike the five prior mass extinctions in Earth's geological record — events driven by asteroid impacts, volcanic super-eruptions, and dramatic shifts in atmospheric chemistry — the present die-off is anthropogenic in origin. The proximate causes are well-catalogued: habitat destruction and fragmentation, over-exploitation of wild species, the introduction of invasive organisms, pollution of freshwater and marine ecosystems, and, increasingly, the compounding pressures of climate change. Together these forces are driving species to extinction at a rate estimated to be between 100 and 1,000 times the “background” rate characteristic of interglacial geological epochs.

The consequences of this attrition extend far beyond the aesthetic loss of charismatic megafauna. Biodiversity underpins the stability and productivity of ecosystems through mechanisms that ecologists have only partially mapped. Species richness sustains pollination networks, regulates pest populations, maintains soil fertility, and buffers aquatic systems against eutrophication. There is compelling



evidence that ecosystems with higher species diversity are more resilient to perturbation: they recover more rapidly from drought, flood, and disease. When diversity is stripped below certain thresholds, ecosystems can undergo rapid, nonlinear transitions to degraded states — so-called tipping points — from which recovery is extraordinarily difficult.

Critically, the current crisis differs from previous extinctions not only in its cause but in the speed at which it is unfolding. Prior mass extinctions played out over tens of thousands to millions of years, allowing evolutionary processes some capacity to respond. The contemporary rate of loss compresses what would ordinarily be geological time into a single human lifetime, foreclosing the possibility of evolutionary rescue. For conservation biologists, the task is no longer merely to catalogue loss but to identify which interventions, at what scale, can meaningfully slow the trajectory before critical ecological thresholds are crossed.

- Q1.** Which of the following best captures the central argument of the passage?
- (A) The sixth mass extinction is primarily a consequence of climate change and can be reversed through carbon reduction policies.
 - (B) Prior mass extinctions caused by geological forces were far more destructive than the current human-driven loss of biodiversity.
 - (C) The ongoing anthropogenic extinction crisis is distinguished by its cause, its pace, and its capacity to destabilise entire ecosystems before evolutionary processes can respond.
 - (D) Conservation biology has successfully identified interventions that can halt species loss before critical tipping points are reached.
- Q2.** According to the passage, which of the following is NOT listed among the proximate causes of the current extinction event?
- (A) Differential evolutionary fitness among competing species
 - (B) Habitat destruction and fragmentation
 - (C) Introduction of invasive organisms
 - (D) Pollution of freshwater and marine ecosystems
- Q3.** The phrase “background rate” as used in the passage most nearly means:
- (A) The rate at which background environmental noise causes ecological stress in species



- (B) The baseline frequency of species extinction that prevails during geologically stable inter-glacial periods
- (C) The rate of extinction occurring beneath the threshold of scientific measurement
- (D) The speed at which evolutionary processes generate new species to replace extinct ones

Q4. The author's reference to "tipping points" in the second paragraph is intended to convey which of the following?

- (A) That ecosystems are infinitely resilient and can absorb significant biodiversity loss without permanent damage
- (B) That higher species diversity makes ecosystems more vulnerable to sudden environmental disturbances
- (C) That pollution and over-exploitation are the most dangerous of all anthropogenic threats to biodiversity
- (D) That once biodiversity falls below certain critical levels, ecosystems may shift rapidly and irreversibly to degraded states

Q5. The author implies that the current extinction crisis is more problematic than previous mass extinctions primarily because:

- (A) Its speed precludes the evolutionary recovery that slower historical extinctions permitted
- (B) It is causing the loss of a greater absolute number of species than any prior extinction event
- (C) Scientists have not yet accurately measured the rate at which species are currently disappearing
- (D) Governments have been unwilling to fund conservation biology at the necessary scale

Set B: Reading Comprehension — The Rise of Populism in Global Politics (Q6 – Q10)



Passage 2

Read the following passage carefully and answer questions Q6–Q10.

The resurgence of populism across both mature and nascent democracies has provoked a debate among political theorists about whether the phenomenon represents a corrective impulse within democratic systems or a fundamental threat to liberal norms and institutions. Populism, in the sense employed here, is not a coherent ideology but rather a rhetorical and political logic: a Manichean framing of politics as a struggle between a virtuous, homogeneous “people” and a corrupt, self-serving “elite.” This logic is highly flexible and can attach itself to projects of the left, right, or centre — what unites them is the claim to speak exclusively on behalf of the “real” people while delegitimising opponents as agents of vested interests.

Historically, populist episodes have coincided with periods of rapid socio-economic dislocation. The agrarian populism of late nineteenth-century America arose amid the displacement of small farmers by industrial capital and railway monopolies. The fascist and proto-fascist movements of the interwar period drew energy from the humiliations of defeat, hyperinflation, and mass unemployment. Contemporary populism, emerging after the financial crisis of 2008 and accelerated by the anxieties generated by globalisation and automation, follows a recognisable pattern: those who perceive themselves as “left behind” by prevailing economic and cultural trends coalesce around leaders who promise restoration of a prior — often mythologised — order.

Scholars who diagnose populism as primarily pathological point to its characteristic erosion of institutional checks and balances: an independent judiciary, a free press, and minority rights all become obstacles to the “will of the people” as articulated by the populist leader. Yet a competing school argues that populism can function as a signal, alerting established parties to the alienation of significant constituencies that orthodox politics has failed to address. The challenge for democratic theory is to distinguish populism’s diagnostic value from its frequently corrosive political effects.

Q6. The passage defines populism primarily as:

- (A) A coherent left-wing ideology that champions the economic interests of industrial workers against corporate elites
- (B) A historically specific phenomenon unique to the post-2008 financial crisis period
- (C) A flexible political logic premised on a binary opposition between a virtuous people and a corrupt elite
- (D) An authoritarian form of governance that systematically dismantles democratic institutions

Q7. According to the passage, what does the historical pattern of populist episodes suggest about their emergence?



- (A) Populist movements arise exclusively in response to military defeats and national humiliation
- (B) Populist episodes tend to coincide with periods of rapid socio-economic disruption that leave significant groups feeling displaced
- (C) Populism is an exclusively modern phenomenon made possible by mass media and digital communication
- (D) Populist leaders consistently emerge from outside mainstream political parties and professional politics

Q8. The phrase “mythologised order” as used in the passage most nearly refers to:

- (A) An idealised and often romanticised version of the past that populist leaders invoke as a desirable state to be restored
- (B) A set of myths and folk narratives that populist movements use to consolidate cultural identity
- (C) The formal constitutional order that populists seek to restore after it has been corrupted by elites
- (D) A historical period of genuine economic equality that has been deliberately dismantled by vested interests

Q9. Which of the following best describes the “competing school” of thought on populism mentioned in the third paragraph?

- (A) That populism is an intrinsically destructive force and its apparent diagnostic value is a rhetorical illusion
- (B) That populist movements should be banned by democratic governments before they can erode institutional safeguards
- (C) That the only reliable response to populism is the strengthening of independent judiciaries and a free press
- (D) That populism can serve a useful function by revealing constituencies whose grievances orthodox politics has neglected



- Q10.** The author's tone throughout the passage is best described as:
- (A) Polemical, forcefully advocating for liberal institutional safeguards against populist encroachment
 - (B) Alarmist, warning that current populist movements pose an unprecedented threat to democracy worldwide
 - (C) Analytical and measured, presenting competing scholarly positions without resolving the normative question
 - (D) Dismissive, treating populism as a purely ephemeral phenomenon without lasting political significance

**Set C: Reading Comprehension —
Sleep, Memory Consolidation, and
Cognitive Performance (Q11 – Q15)**

Passage 3

Read the following passage carefully and answer questions Q11–Q15.

Contemporary neuroscience has substantially revised the classical view of sleep as a passive state of neurological quiescence. Far from being merely a period of physical recuperation, sleep — and in particular the interplay between its two principal stages, non-rapid eye movement (NREM) and rapid eye movement (REM) sleep — now appears to be an active, metabolically demanding process critical to memory consolidation and cognitive maintenance. The two-stage model of memory consolidation holds that information acquired during waking experience is initially encoded in the hippocampus in a labile, context-dependent form. During subsequent NREM sleep, especially in the slow-wave sleep (SWS) phase characterised by high-amplitude delta oscillations, hippocampal “sharp-wave ripples” replay recent experience in compressed form, facilitating the transfer of memory traces to neocortical storage, where they are integrated with existing knowledge networks and rendered more stable.

REM sleep performs a complementary function. During this stage, characterised by theta rhythms and near-total skeletal muscle atonia, the brain engages in a process that researchers have variously described as emotional memory consolidation, associative processing, and “memory editing.” REM sleep appears to strengthen emotionally salient memories while selectively attenuating the affective charge associated with traumatic or aversive experiences — a function whose disruption has been implicated in the pathophysiology of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Beyond affective regulation, REM sleep is associated with insight: the nocturnal integration of disparate memory traces is thought to facilitate the creative recombination of ideas, accounting for the well-documented phenomenon of problem-solving during sleep.

The cognitive costs of sleep deprivation are commensurately severe. Even a single night of curtailed sleep produces measurable deficits in working memory, sustained attention, and executive function. Chronic sleep restriction, operating below the threshold of subjective awareness, produces



cumulative impairments that subjects systematically underestimate — a finding with significant implications for contemporary work cultures that treat sleep as a dispensable luxury.

Q11. The passage's primary purpose is to:

- (A) Argue that REM sleep is more cognitively important than NREM sleep and should be prioritised through medical intervention
- (B) Present the neuroscientific evidence that sleep is an active and cognitively essential process, overturning older passive models
- (C) Warn about the health risks of chronic sleep deprivation in modern workplace settings
- (D) Explain the pathophysiology of post-traumatic stress disorder through the lens of sleep science

Q12. According to the passage, the role of NREM slow-wave sleep in memory consolidation involves:

- (A) The permanent deletion of redundant memories to create storage capacity in the neocortex
- (B) The generation of theta rhythms that facilitate the creative recombination of disparate ideas
- (C) The attenuation of emotionally aversive memories to prevent the development of PTSD
- (D) The replay of recent experience from the hippocampus and its transfer to stable neocortical storage

Q13. The passage implies that disrupted REM sleep is linked to PTSD because:

- (A) REM sleep eliminates the hippocampal memory traces that are responsible for traumatic recollection
- (B) Disrupted REM sleep prevents the neocortex from storing new non-traumatic memories that could displace traumatic ones
- (C) REM sleep normally reduces the emotional intensity of distressing memories, and its disruption leaves that intensity unmodulated



(D) REM sleep is the only stage during which the brain can distinguish between salient and non-salient memories

Q14. The author's use of the phrase "dispensable luxury" in the final paragraph is best understood as:

- (A) An ironic characterisation of a cultural attitude that contradicts the neuroscientific evidence presented in the passage
- (B) A straightforward description of how neuroscientists view the role of sleep in modern life
- (C) An endorsement of the view that sleep requirements can be reduced through appropriate lifestyle management
- (D) A neutral observation about differing cultural attitudes toward rest and productivity

Q15. Which of the following, if true, would most directly undermine the passage's claim about the "two-stage model" of memory consolidation?

- (A) Research showing that individuals who sleep for longer durations do not perform significantly better on memory tests than those who sleep less
- (B) Evidence that the neocortex can consolidate memories stably without any input from hippocampal replay during sleep
- (C) Studies demonstrating that REM sleep duration is positively correlated with the ability to solve novel problems
- (D) Findings that emotional memories are processed differently from procedural memories during NREM slow-wave sleep

Verbal Ability (Q16 – Q24)

Para Jumbles (Q16 – Q19)

In each of the following questions, five sentences labelled P, Q, R, S, and T are given. Choose the option that arranges them in the most logical and coherent order to form a paragraph.



Q16. P. The tragedy of the commons, as articulated by Garrett Hardin, describes how individuals acting in rational self-interest collectively deplete a shared resource even when it is clear that depletion is against the long-term interest of all.

Q. Elinor Ostrom's Nobel Prize-winning research challenged this pessimism by documenting numerous historical communities that had successfully managed common-pool resources through locally devised rules, graduated sanctions, and collective-choice arrangements.

R. Yet global commons such as the atmosphere and deep-sea fisheries present a far more intractable challenge, because the communities of users are vast, diffuse, and lack the shared social norms and monitoring capacity that underpin Ostrom's case studies.

S. Hardin's conclusion — that privatisation or state regulation are the only viable solutions — became enormously influential in environmental policy debates throughout the latter half of the twentieth century.

T. The tension between local success and global failure in commons management remains one of the central unsolved problems of environmental governance.

(A) PRQST

(B) QPSTR

(C) RPQTS

(D) PSQRT

Q17. P. The discovery in the nineteenth century that Sanskrit, Latin, Greek, and the Germanic languages shared systematic grammatical and phonological correspondences gave birth to the field of comparative linguistics.

Q. The reconstruction of Proto-Indo-European, the hypothetical common ancestor of this vast family, remains one of the most ambitious intellectual projects in the humanities, relying entirely on inference from the descendant languages rather than any surviving written record.

R. Scholars such as William Jones first noticed that these resemblances were too systematic to be the product of chance, postulating a common



ancestral language spoken in a homeland whose location remains the subject of ongoing scholarly dispute.

S. Despite the absence of direct evidence, comparative linguists have used the “comparative method” to reconstruct hundreds of Proto-Indo-European roots, providing a linguistic window onto the material culture, social organisation, and cosmology of the people who spoke it.

T. The scope of the Indo-European family, which today encompasses languages spoken by roughly half the world’s population from Iceland to Bangladesh, makes this reconstruction effort not merely academic but profoundly relevant to our understanding of human prehistory.

(A) PRQST

(B) QPRTS

(C) PRQST

(D) SRQPT

Q18. P. Ancient trade routes such as the Silk Road were not merely conduits for the exchange of commodities; they served as arteries through which religious beliefs, artistic styles, and technological innovations flowed between civilisations separated by vast distances.

Q. Buddhism reached East and Southeast Asia not through military conquest but through the merchant networks that threaded together the oasis towns of Central Asia, carrying sacred texts and iconographic conventions alongside bolts of silk and cakes of compressed tea.

R. The influence operated in multiple directions: Chinese papermaking techniques spread westward through captured artisans; Islamic algebra reached Iberian scholars via Arabic manuscripts preserved in Toledo’s libraries; Roman glassblowing methods transformed the craft traditions of the Indian subcontinent.

S. Historians of the pre-modern world increasingly argue that cultural diffusion along these routes was so pervasive that civilisations once portrayed as discrete, self-contained entities are better understood as nodes in a densely interconnected web.



T. Recognising this interconnection does not dissolve the distinctiveness of individual cultures but does complicate narratives of civilisational insularity that have served, at various moments in history, as ideological justifications for exclusion.

- (A) PQRST
- (B) QPSTR
- (C) RQPTS
- (D) SPQRT

Q19. P. Thomas Kuhn's 1962 work *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* challenged the prevailing picture of science as a process of steady, cumulative knowledge acquisition, arguing instead that science advances through periodic revolutionary ruptures he termed "paradigm shifts."

Q. Within a dominant paradigm, scientists conduct "normal science" — solving puzzles defined by the paradigm's own terms — and systematically set aside anomalies that cannot be accommodated within the reigning framework.

R. When anomalies accumulate to a point where they can no longer be ignored or dismissed, the scientific community enters a period of crisis that can culminate in the adoption of a wholly new paradigm, rendering the old framework not merely incomplete but incommensurable with the new one.

S. Critics of Kuhn argued that the concept of incommensurability, the idea that successive paradigms cannot be evaluated by shared rational standards, threatened to make science indistinguishable from other social belief systems.

T. Kuhn himself disputed this reading, insisting that paradigm choice, while not fully determined by algorithmic rules, is governed by shared scientific values such as accuracy, consistency, breadth, simplicity, and fruitfulness.

- (A) PRQST
- (B) PQRST



(C) QPRTS

(D) RQPST

Para Summary (Q20 – Q22)

In each of the following questions, a short paragraph is given. Choose the option that best summarises the paragraph.

- Q20.** Cultural anthropology emerged as a discipline committed to the method of extended fieldwork, in which the researcher spends prolonged periods living within the community under study. Bronislaw Malinowski's insistence on "participant observation" — learning the local language, participating in daily routines, and interpreting behaviour from within the native frame of reference — transformed ethnography from a speculative enterprise dependent on colonial administrators' reports into a rigorous empirical discipline. Yet the method is not without its epistemological tensions: the observer is inevitably both participant and analyst, and the presence of the researcher in the field alters, to an unknowable degree, the very social reality she seeks to document.
- (A) Malinowski's method of participant observation was primarily important because it allowed anthropologists to escape the biases of colonial administrators who had previously dominated ethnographic writing.
- (B) The discipline of cultural anthropology has abandoned extended fieldwork in favour of more rigorous quantitative methods that avoid the epistemological pitfalls of participant observation.
- (C) Participant observation is a straightforwardly reliable ethnographic method provided the researcher achieves genuine fluency in the language and culture of the community being studied.
- (D) Malinowski's participant observation approach made cultural anthropology more empirically rigorous, but it also introduced an inherent epistemological tension between the researcher's dual roles as participant and analyst.

- Q21.** The sociology of caste in India has undergone significant reorientation



since the 1990s, shifting from a dominant focus on the classical Brahminical textual tradition as the master key to understanding caste hierarchy to a greater emphasis on lived experience, subaltern resistance, and the ways in which caste identities are actively reproduced and contested in everyday life. This shift was driven partly by the rise of Dalit intellectual movements, which challenged upper-caste scholars' claims to speak authoritatively on behalf of those whose subordination they described, and partly by the broader influence of subaltern studies historiography, which recovered the agency of marginalised groups from the margins of official records. The result has been a richer, more fractured picture of caste as a dynamic system, shaped by historical contingency and political struggle rather than timeless Brahminical prescription.

- (A) The sociology of caste in India was established by upper-caste scholars working from classical Brahminical texts and has remained methodologically unchanged despite criticism from Dalit intellectuals.
- (B) Indian caste sociology has been transformed since the 1990s by Dalit intellectual movements and subaltern studies, shifting attention from textual hierarchy to lived experience, agency, and the dynamic reproduction and contestation of caste identities.
- (C) Subaltern studies historiography is the most important intellectual development in twentieth-century Indian sociology, having definitively replaced Brahminical textual analysis as the methodology of caste studies.
- (D) The reorientation of caste sociology has been primarily driven by changes in government policy rather than by intellectual movements within academic sociology.

Q22. Cognitive scientists and evolutionary anthropologists have increasingly converged on the view that storytelling is not a decorative or recreational supplement to human cognition but one of its foundational operations. Narrative appears to be the primary format in which the human brain organises experience, encodes causal relationships, and makes experience transmissible across individuals and generations. Children acquire



narrative competence before they acquire logical-deductive reasoning, suggesting that story is cognitively prior rather than derivative. Cross-cultural evidence of universal narrative structures — the protagonist who faces adversity, undergoes transformation, and achieves resolution — points to deep evolutionary origins, possibly connected to the adaptive advantages of simulating social scenarios and anticipating the behaviour of others.

- (A) Storytelling is a universal human activity found in all cultures, but cognitive science has not yet reached consensus on why narrative competence develops before logical-deductive reasoning in children.
- (B) Children's early acquisition of narrative competence proves that human beings are fundamentally incapable of logical-deductive reasoning without first constructing a story-based framework for experience.
- (C) Storytelling is a foundational cognitive operation — not merely cultural decoration — through which humans organise experience and transmit knowledge, with universal narrative structures suggesting deep evolutionary roots.
- (D) The evolutionary origins of storytelling are now fully explained by the adaptive advantages of social scenario simulation, making cultural explanations of narrative redundant.

Odd Sentence Out (Q23 – Q24)

In each of the following questions, four of the five given sentences, when arranged properly, form a coherent paragraph. Identify the sentence that does NOT belong to the paragraph.

- Q23.** A. Comparative advantage requires that nations hold absolute superiority in the production of at least one tradeable good relative to all their trading partners.
- B. David Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage demonstrated that two nations could mutually benefit from trade even when one of them was more efficient at producing every good.
- C. The key insight is that what matters is not absolute efficiency but the



relative opportunity cost of production: a country should specialise in goods for which it sacrifices the least in terms of alternative output.

D. This principle has been extended by subsequent economists to explain the gains from trade under conditions of increasing returns, imperfect competition, and differentiated products.

E. Critics of free trade often conflate comparative advantage with absolute advantage, a confusion that leads them to underestimate the gains available even to less productive economies from international specialisation.

(A) A

(B) B

(C) C

(D) D

Q24. A. Post-colonial literature is characterised by its interrogation of the cultural and psychological legacies of imperial rule, including the internalisation of colonial hierarchies by the colonised.

B. Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth* and *Black Skin, White Masks* provided the foundational theoretical vocabulary for understanding how colonial domination operates not only through political and economic coercion but through the colonisation of subjectivity itself.

C. Writers such as Chinua Achebe, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, and Salman Rushdie have used the novel form to contest the representational authority of the colonial archive and to imagine alternative frameworks for cultural identity.

D. The global market for literary fiction has increasingly rewarded novels that present "exotic" settings to Western readers, a commercial dynamic that post-colonial critics argue perpetuates new forms of cultural appropriation.

E. Edward Said's concept of "Orientalism" demonstrated that Western literary and scholarly representations of the East were not neutral descriptions but ideologically laden constructions that served to justify and



perpetuate imperial power.

(A) A

(B) B

(C) C

(D) D



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

Concept — RC: Central Argument (Biodiversity & Mass Extinction): The central argument of a passage synthesises its major claims; it is broader than any single detail and reflects the passage's overall analytical thrust.

Analysis: The passage makes three interconnected claims: (1) the current extinction is anthropogenic, (2) it is occurring at a rate 100–1,000 times the background rate, compressing geological time into a human lifetime, and (3) it threatens ecosystem stability through tipping points before evolutionary recovery is possible. Option (C) captures all three dimensions — cause, pace, and systemic consequence. Option (A) is wrong because the passage lists multiple causes, not just climate change, and does not suggest reversal through carbon policy alone. Option (B) inverts the passage's logic — the current extinction is described as more alarming, not less, than prior ones. Option (D) contradicts the passage, which states that identifying effective interventions remains an unresolved challenge.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Oversimplifies cause and overstates the policy solution; the passage lists five proximate causes.
- Option B: Directly contradicts the passage's argument that the current crisis is more problematic, not less destructive, than prior events.
- Option D: The passage explicitly says the task of identifying effective interventions remains the challenge, not that it has been achieved.

Final Answer: The central argument encompasses cause, pace, and systemic threat ⇒

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

Sol. 2.**Solution**

Concept — RC: Specific Detail / Exclusion (Biodiversity & Mass Extinction): This question requires identifying which of the given options is not listed in the passage's enumeration of proximate causes.

Analysis: The passage explicitly lists five proximate causes: habitat destruction



and fragmentation, over-exploitation of wild species, introduction of invasive organisms, pollution of freshwater and marine ecosystems, and climate change. “Differential evolutionary fitness” (Option A) is an endogenous biological mechanism — it describes the natural selection process — and is never mentioned as a cause of the current crisis. Options (B), (C), and (D) are all directly named in the passage’s catalogue of anthropogenic drivers.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: “Habitat destruction and fragmentation” is explicitly listed as the first proximate cause.
- Option C: “Introduction of invasive organisms” is explicitly listed as a proximate cause.
- Option D: “Pollution of freshwater and marine ecosystems” is explicitly listed as a proximate cause.

Final Answer: Differential evolutionary fitness is not listed among the anthropogenic proximate causes $\Rightarrow$ A

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

Sol. 3.

Solution

Concept — RC: Word/Phrase Meaning in Context (Biodiversity & Mass Extinction): Vocabulary-in-context questions require understanding how the phrase functions within the passage’s argument, not its dictionary definition in isolation.

Analysis: The passage states that current extinction rates are “100 to 1,000 times the ‘background’ rate characteristic of inter-glacial geological epochs.” The word “background” modifies a baseline rate that exists during normal, undisturbed geological time. Option (B) captures this precisely: it is the baseline frequency of extinction during geologically stable inter-glacial periods. Option (A) introduces the irrelevant idea of “background noise.” Option (C) conflates “background” with “below the threshold of measurement,” which is not implied. Option (D) confuses extinction rates with speciation rates.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Background environmental noise” is a completely different concept not connected to extinction rates in the passage.
- Option C: The passage contrasts the current rate with the background rate,



not with rates below measurement thresholds.

- Option D: The passage discusses extinction, not speciation; “background rate” does not refer to the rate at which new species arise.

Final Answer: “Background rate” means the baseline extinction frequency during geologically stable inter-glacial epochs ⇒ **B**

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

Sol. 4.

Solution

Concept — RC: Inference / Author’s Purpose of Example (Biodiversity & Mass Extinction): Questions about why an author introduces a specific term require understanding its role in the passage’s argument.

Analysis: The passage uses “tipping points” to describe the danger of crossing biodiversity thresholds: “ecosystems can undergo rapid, nonlinear transitions to degraded states . . . from which recovery is extraordinarily difficult.” The term signals that biodiversity loss is not linear but can precipitate sudden, irreversible collapse. Option (D) captures this exactly. Option (A) contradicts the passage, which emphasises fragility, not resilience. Option (B) inverts the argument — higher diversity equals more resilience, not more vulnerability. Option (C) is an interpretation about comparative threat levels among causes, which the passage does not assert.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage argues the opposite — diversity below certain thresholds leads to degradation, not that ecosystems are infinitely resilient.
- Option B: Higher species diversity is described as conferring resilience, not vulnerability.
- Option C: The passage does not rank pollution and over-exploitation above other threats; the term “tipping points” is about threshold effects, not about ranking causes.

Final Answer: “Tipping points” conveys the risk of rapid, irreversible ecological collapse once biodiversity falls below critical thresholds ⇒ **D**

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



Sol. 5.

Solution

Concept — RC: Inference (Biodiversity & Mass Extinction): This question asks what the author implies, requiring the student to draw a conclusion from what is stated rather than find a directly quoted fact.

Analysis: The passage explicitly states: “The contemporary rate of loss compresses what would ordinarily be geological time into a single human lifetime, foreclosing the possibility of evolutionary rescue.” This is the key comparative disadvantage relative to prior extinctions. Option (A) directly paraphrases this inference. Option (B) is not stated — the passage compares rates, not absolute numbers of species lost. Option (C) is contradicted by the passage, which cites estimates (100–1,000 times background rate). Option (D) introduces government funding, which is never mentioned.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The passage does not claim the current extinction involves a greater absolute number of species than prior events; it compares rate, not total count.
- Option C: Scientists have in fact estimated the rate; the passage gives a range (100–1,000 times background).
- Option D: Government funding for conservation biology is not mentioned anywhere in the passage.

Final Answer: The current crisis is more problematic because its speed forecloses evolutionary rescue ⇒

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

Sol. 6.

Solution

Concept — RC: Definition / Specific Detail (Rise of Populism): The question asks for the passage’s explicit definition of populism.

Analysis: The passage defines populism as “not a coherent ideology but rather a rhetorical and political logic: a Manichean framing of politics as a struggle between a virtuous, homogeneous ‘people’ and a corrupt, self-serving ‘elite.’” It further notes this logic “is highly flexible and can attach itself to projects of the left, right, or centre.” Option (C) best captures this: a flexible political logic premised on a



binary opposition. Option (A) incorrectly restricts populism to the left wing and to economic interests. Option (B) incorrectly says it is historically specific to the post-2008 period. Option (D) describes the effect on institutions, not the definitional core.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage explicitly states populism can attach to left, right, or centre; it is not specifically left-wing or focused on industrial workers.
- Option B: The passage traces populism to the nineteenth century; post-2008 is one contemporary manifestation, not the exclusive locus.
- Option D: Dismantling institutions is a tendency noted by critics, not the passage's definition of populism itself.

Final Answer: Populism is defined as a flexible political logic of virtuous people versus corrupt elite ⇒

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

Sol. 7.

Solution

Concept — RC: Inference from Historical Pattern (Rise of Populism): The question asks what the historical examples in the second paragraph collectively suggest about the conditions that generate populism.

Analysis: The passage's second paragraph presents three historical episodes: late nineteenth-century American agrarian populism (displacement of farmers by industrial capital), interwar fascism (defeat, hyperinflation, unemployment), and contemporary populism (financial crisis, globalisation, automation). The common thread is rapid socio-economic dislocation leaving groups feeling "left behind." Option (B) captures this precisely. Option (A) is wrong — military defeat is only one factor in the interwar case. Option (C) is wrong because the passage traces populism to the nineteenth century, predating mass media. Option (D) is not stated in the passage.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The nineteenth-century American case arose from economic displacement, not military defeat; the passage does not restrict causation to military humiliation.
- Option C: The nineteenth-century agrarian populism predates modern mass



media; the passage does not mention communication technology.

- Option D: The passage does not discuss whether populist leaders come from inside or outside mainstream parties.

Final Answer: Populist episodes coincide with periods of rapid socio-economic disruption leaving groups displaced ⇒ **B**

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

Sol. 8.

Solution

Concept — RC: Word/Phrase Meaning in Context (Rise of Populism): The phrase must be understood in light of the surrounding argument about what populist leaders promise.

Analysis: The passage describes contemporary populism as arising when those who feel “left behind” coalesce around leaders who “promise restoration of a prior — often mythologised — order.” The word “mythologised” signals that the prior order is ideally and selectively remembered rather than historically accurate. Option (A) captures this: an idealised, romanticised version of the past invoked as a goal. Option (B) conflates “mythologised” with folk myths and cultural narratives, which is not the sense here. Option (C) describes a formal constitutional order, which is too specific and not implied. Option (D) implies a genuinely equal past that was dismantled, but “mythologised” signals the opposite — the past is not accurately remembered.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: “Myths and folk narratives” describes cultural products, not the political idealisation of a past socio-economic order.
- Option C: The passage does not describe a formal constitutional order; the “prior order” refers to a general socio-economic condition.
- Option D: “Mythologised” specifically signals that the remembered past is not an accurate historical account of genuine equality.

Final Answer: “Mythologised order” means an idealised, romanticised version of the past that populists promise to restore ⇒ **A**

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



Sol. 9.

Solution**Concept — RC: Specific Detail / Competing Scholarly View (Rise of Populism):**

The question asks for the content of the “competing school” described in the third paragraph.

Analysis: The passage states: “a competing school argues that populism can function as a signal, alerting established parties to the alienation of significant constituencies that orthodox politics has failed to address.” Option (D) directly captures this: populism can reveal neglected grievances. Option (A) describes the “pathological” school, not the competing one. Option (B) describes a policy prescription not mentioned in the passage. Option (C) describes a proposed remedy (strengthening institutions) attributed to the critics of populism, not the competing school.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: This represents the view of scholars who “diagnose populism as primarily pathological,” which is the first school, not the competing one.
- Option B: Banning populist movements is not discussed anywhere in the passage.
- Option C: Strengthening judiciaries and a free press is implied by the “pathological” critics’ logic, not by the competing school.

Final Answer: The competing school holds that populism can reveal constituencies neglected by orthodox politics ⇒ **D**

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

Sol. 10.

Solution

Concept — RC: Author’s Tone (Rise of Populism): Tone questions require evaluating the emotional register and rhetorical stance of the passage as a whole.

Analysis: The passage presents two competing scholarly positions — populism as pathological vs. populism as diagnostic signal — without endorsing either. It closes by framing the question as “the challenge for democratic theory,” leaving it open. The language is academic and measured (“scholars who diagnose,” “a competing school argues”), not polemical, alarmist, or dismissive. Option (C) is correct. Option (A) requires advocacy the author does not display. Option (B) requires alarm



about unprecedented threats, but the passage contextualises populism historically. Option (D) is wrong because the passage takes populism seriously as a recurring and consequential phenomenon.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The author presents both sides of the scholarly debate without advocating for liberal institutions; the tone is not polemical.
- Option B: The author contextualises populism within a long historical pattern rather than treating it as unprecedented; the tone is not alarmist.
- Option D: The passage traces populism's recurrence across centuries and discusses its capacity to erode institutions; it is not treated as ephemeral or insignificant.

Final Answer: The author's tone is analytical and measured, presenting competing views without resolution ⇒ C

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

Sol. 11.

Solution

Concept — RC: Primary Purpose (Sleep, Memory & Cognition): Primary purpose questions require identifying the overarching goal of the passage, not any single supporting argument.

Analysis: The passage opens by stating it will revise the “classical view of sleep as passive quiescence,” then presents evidence for NREM and REM contributions to memory, and closes with the cognitive costs of deprivation. The overall aim is to establish that sleep is an active, cognitively essential process. Option (B) accurately captures this. Option (A) is wrong because the passage treats NREM and REM as complementary, not hierarchical; it does not advocate for medical intervention. Option (C) is too narrow — the final paragraph on deprivation is a supporting point, not the primary purpose. Option (D) is too narrow — PTSD is one illustration within the discussion of REM.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not argue that REM is more important than NREM; both are described as serving distinct, complementary roles.
- Option C: Warning about workplace sleep deprivation is the message of the final paragraph only, not the primary purpose of the entire passage.



- Option D: PTSD is mentioned only as one example of what happens when REM is disrupted, not as the central topic of the passage.

Final Answer: The passage's primary purpose is to establish sleep as an active, cognitively essential process overturning passive models ⇒ **B**

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

Sol. 12.

Solution

Concept — RC: Specific Detail (Sleep, Memory & Cognition): The question tests accurate recall of what the passage says about NREM slow-wave sleep specifically.

Analysis: The passage states that during NREM slow-wave sleep, “hippocampal ‘sharp-wave ripples’ replay recent experience in compressed form, facilitating the transfer of memory traces to neocortical storage, where they are integrated with existing knowledge networks and rendered more stable.” Option (D) directly matches this description. Option (A) describes deletion, which is not mentioned. Option (B) — theta rhythms and creative recombination — belongs to REM sleep. Option (C) — attenuation of aversive memories — also belongs to REM sleep.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Permanent deletion of memories is not mentioned in the passage; NREM sleep consolidates, it does not delete.
- Option B: Theta rhythms are characteristic of REM sleep, not NREM slow-wave sleep.
- Option C: The attenuation of emotionally aversive memories is ascribed to REM sleep, not NREM.

Final Answer: NREM slow-wave sleep replays hippocampal experience and transfers memory traces to the neocortex ⇒ **D**

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



Sol. 13.

Solution

Concept — RC: Inference (Sleep, Memory & Cognition): The question asks the student to infer the mechanism linking disrupted REM sleep to PTSD from what the passage states about REM's normal function.

Analysis: The passage states that REM sleep “selectively attenuates the affective charge associated with traumatic or aversive experiences” and that disruption of this function “has been implicated in the pathophysiology of PTSD.” The logical inference is that disrupted REM leaves the emotional intensity of traumatic memories unmodulated. Option (C) captures this directly. Option (A) is wrong — the passage does not say REM eliminates hippocampal memory traces. Option (B) introduces displacement of traumatic by non-traumatic memories, which the passage does not suggest. Option (D) is a distortion — the passage says REM strengthens emotionally salient memories and attenuates aversive charge; it does not describe a binary sorting function.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: REM sleep attenuates the emotional charge of traumatic memories; it does not eliminate the hippocampal memory trace itself.
- Option B: The passage does not suggest a competitive displacement mechanism between traumatic and non-traumatic memories.
- Option D: REM sleep's role is more nuanced — it strengthens salience while attenuating aversive charge; “sorting” is an oversimplification and the passage does not claim exclusivity of this function to REM.

Final Answer: Disrupted REM fails to attenuate the emotional intensity of traumatic memories, leaving it unmodulated ⇒

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

Sol. 14.

Solution

Concept — RC: Tone / Rhetorical Device (Sleep, Memory & Cognition): Phrase-interpretation questions require understanding the author's rhetorical intent, including irony.

Analysis: The phrase “dispensable luxury” is used in the sentence: “a finding with significant implications for contemporary work cultures that treat sleep as a dis-



pensable luxury.” The author has spent the entire passage building the case that sleep is cognitively essential. The phrase therefore ironically characterises a cultural attitude the author considers mistaken and dangerous. Option (A) correctly identifies this as ironic. Option (B) incorrectly treats it as a neutral or endorsing description by neuroscientists. Option (C) misreads the passage’s direction — the evidence argues for adequate sleep, not reduced sleep requirements. Option (D) is wrong because the author uses the phrase critically, not neutrally.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Neuroscientists in the passage argue the opposite: sleep is cognitively essential, not dispensable.
- Option C: The passage provides no support for the idea that sleep requirements can be reduced; its evidence argues for respecting natural sleep duration.
- Option D: The phrase is not neutral — it describes a cultural attitude that the passage’s entire argument refutes.

Final Answer: “Dispensable luxury” is an ironic characterisation of a cultural attitude contradicted by the passage’s evidence ⇒ **A**

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

Sol. 15.

Solution

Concept — RC: Hypothetical Weakener (Sleep, Memory & Cognition): Weakener questions require identifying the fact that, if true, would most directly undercut a specific claim in the passage.

Analysis: The two-stage model holds that information is first encoded in the hippocampus, then transferred to stable neocortical storage via sleep-dependent replay. Option (B) — evidence that the neocortex can consolidate memories stably without hippocampal replay during sleep — would directly undermine the necessity of the hippocampal-to-neocortical transfer process that is the model’s core mechanism. Option (A) concerns overall sleep duration, not the specific transfer mechanism. Option (C) supports rather than undermines the model by linking REM to a cognitive function. Option (D) describes a distinction within memory types, which refines rather than undermines the two-stage framework.

Why other options are wrong:



- Option A: The two-stage model is about the mechanism of memory transfer, not about simple correlations between total sleep duration and memory test scores.
- Option C: A positive correlation between REM duration and problem-solving is consistent with and actually supports the passage's account of REM's function.
- Option D: Differential processing of emotional vs. procedural memories refines the model at the margins but does not undermine the core hippocampal-to-neocortical transfer mechanism.

Final Answer: Neocortical consolidation without hippocampal replay would directly undermine the two-stage model $\Rightarrow$ **B**

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

Sol. 16.

Solution

Concept — VA: Para Jumble (Environmental Policy / Tragedy of the Commons): Para jumbles require identifying the logical sequence by finding the opening statement, connecting transitions, and the concluding synthesis.

Analysis: **P** introduces Hardin's concept and its logic — this is the natural opening. **S** states Hardin's conclusion and its policy influence, extending **P**. **Q** introduces Ostrom's challenge to Hardin's pessimism, using "challenged" as a direct contrast with **S**. **R** qualifies Ostrom's findings by pointing to the intractability of global commons, using "Yet" as a contrasting connector. **T** synthesises the tension between local success and global failure — clearly the conclusion. The sequence is **PSQRT**, which is option (D).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (PRQST): Placing **R** before **Q** breaks the logical flow — **R** qualifies Ostrom's argument and must follow **Q**.
- Option B (QPSTR): Starting with **Q** is awkward; Ostrom's challenge presupposes familiarity with Hardin's framework, which **P** provides.
- Option C (RPQTS): Starting with **R** is illogical; **R** specifically responds to **Q**'s content about Ostrom's case studies.

Final Answer: The correct sequence is PSQRT $\Rightarrow$ **D**

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



Sol. 17.

Solution

Concept — VA: Para Jumble (Indo-European Language Family): Identifying the logical progression from discovery to methodology to scope.

Analysis: **P** describes the nineteenth-century discovery of systematic correspondences between Sanskrit, Latin, and Greek — the natural opening event. **R** follows immediately with scholars like William Jones noticing these resemblances were not chance, postulating a common ancestor — a direct elaboration of **P**. **Q** then describes the reconstruction project for Proto-Indo-European as ambitious and inference-based. **S** continues **Q** by describing the comparative method and what it has reconstructed. **T** concludes by contextualising the scope and significance of the family and the reconstruction effort. The sequence is **PRQST**, which is option (C). Note: options (A) and (C) are both labelled PRQST; the intended answer is the third option (C).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (QPRTS): Starting with **Q** places the reconstruction project before the discovery that motivated it; **Q** presupposes **P** and **R**.
- Option D (SRQPT): Starting with **S** makes no sense; **S** describes results of the comparative method, which requires the earlier context of **P**, **R**, and **Q**.

Final Answer: The correct sequence is PRQST ⇒ C

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

Sol. 18.

Solution

Concept — VA: Para Jumble (Ancient Trade Routes and Cultural Exchange): Identifying the progression from general claim to specific example to broader implication.

Analysis: **P** makes the general claim that trade routes were cultural arteries, not merely commercial conduits — the natural topic sentence. **Q** provides the first specific example: Buddhism spreading eastward via merchant networks. **R** extends the evidence to multiple directions of cultural flow (paper, algebra, glassblowing) — “The influence operated in multiple directions” builds on **Q**. **S** draws the historiographical conclusion: civilisations are nodes in an interconnected web rather than discrete entities. **T** qualifies **S** by noting that interconnection does not dis-



solve cultural distinctiveness but complicates insularity narratives. The sequence is **PQRST**, which is option (A).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (QPSTR): Starting with Q's specific example before P's general claim reverses the argument structure.
- Option C (RQPTS): Starting with R's multi-directional examples is premature without P's framing thesis.
- Option D (SPQRT): Starting with S's historiographical conclusion before the evidence that supports it reverses the logical order.

Final Answer: The correct sequence is PQRST $\Rightarrow$ A

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

Sol. 19.

Solution

Concept — VA: Para Jumble (Kuhnian Scientific Paradigm Shifts): Identifying the progression from Kuhn's thesis to the mechanism of normal science to crisis to critique to Kuhn's response.

Analysis: **P** introduces Kuhn's central thesis about paradigm shifts as the engine of scientific progress. **Q** describes the operation of normal science within a paradigm — the next logical step after introducing what a paradigm is. **R** describes what happens when anomalies accumulate, leading to crisis and a new paradigm — the culmination of the process introduced in Q. **S** introduces critics who contested the concept of incommensurability arising from R. **T** gives Kuhn's own reply to those critics. The sequence is **PQRST**, which is option (B).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (PRQST): Placing R before Q skips the mechanism of normal science that explains why anomaly accumulation eventually precipitates crisis.
- Option C (QPRTS): Starting with Q (normal science) before P (the thesis that motivates the discussion) lacks a topic sentence.
- Option D (RQPST): Starting with R (the crisis phase) before P and Q is out of order; the process must be established before describing its endpoint.

Final Answer: The correct sequence is PQRST $\Rightarrow$ B

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



Sol. 20.

Solution

Concept — VA: Para Summary (Cultural Anthropology and Fieldwork): The best summary captures the main claim and its qualifications without being too narrow, too broad, or distorted.

Analysis: The paragraph makes two points: (1) Malinowski's participant observation method transformed ethnography into a rigorous empirical discipline, and (2) the method carries an inherent epistemological tension between the observer's dual roles. Option (D) captures both points accurately. Option (A) is too narrow — it highlights only the contrast with colonial administrators, missing the epistemological tension. Option (B) is factually wrong — the paragraph does not say anthropology has abandoned fieldwork. Option (C) is incorrect because it contradicts the paragraph's second point about the unavoidable epistemological tension.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Covers only part of the argument (the contrast with colonial reporting) and omits the epistemological tension, which is the paragraph's second and equally important point.
- Option B: Directly contradicts the paragraph, which discusses fieldwork as a continuing method, not one that has been abandoned.
- Option C: The paragraph explicitly states that the epistemological tension is unavoidable; Option C's claim of "straightforward reliability" misreads this.

Final Answer: The best summary captures both Malinowski's contribution and the inherent epistemological tension ⇒ D

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

Sol. 21.

Solution

Concept — VA: Para Summary (Sociology of Caste in Contemporary India): The best summary must reflect the transformation described, its drivers, and its outcome.

Analysis: The paragraph describes a reorientation in Indian caste sociology since the 1990s: from Brahminical textual analysis to lived experience and subaltern resistance, driven by Dalit intellectual movements and subaltern studies. The result is a richer, dynamic picture of caste. Option (B) accurately summarises all



three elements: the transformation, its drivers, and its consequences. Option (A) incorrectly says the field remained unchanged — the paragraph describes exactly the opposite. Option (C) overstates the claim, saying subaltern studies has “definitively replaced” Brahminical analysis, which is stronger than the paragraph asserts. Option (D) introduces government policy, which is not mentioned anywhere.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The paragraph’s entire point is that the field has undergone significant reorientation; Option A directly contradicts this.
- Option C: “Definitively replaced” overstates the paragraph’s claim; the paragraph describes a shift in emphasis, not a complete displacement.
- Option D: Government policy is not mentioned anywhere in the paragraph; this introduces an external element absent from the text.

Final Answer: The summary captures the transformation, its drivers (Dalit movements and subaltern studies), and its outcome ⇒ **B**

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

Sol. 22.

Solution

Concept — VA: Para Summary (Storytelling and Human Cognition): The best summary captures the central claim about storytelling’s cognitive status and the evidence for its evolutionary origins.

Analysis: The paragraph argues that storytelling is not decorative but foundational to human cognition, that children acquire narrative competence before logical reasoning, and that universal narrative structures suggest deep evolutionary origins. Option (C) captures all three dimensions: foundational status, cognitive function, and evolutionary roots. Option (A) incorrectly says cognitive science has not reached consensus — the paragraph presents a converging view. Option (B) distorts the argument — the paragraph does not say humans are “incapable” of logical reasoning without narrative, only that narrative competence develops first. Option (D) says the evolutionary explanation makes cultural explanations redundant, which the paragraph does not claim.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The paragraph describes “increasing convergence” among cognitive scientists and evolutionary anthropologists; the claim is not that consen-



sus is absent.

- Option B: The paragraph says narrative competence develops before logical reasoning, not that humans cannot reason logically without it; “incapable” is too strong.
- Option D: The paragraph does not say evolutionary origins make cultural explanations redundant; this introduces a claim not found in the text.

Final Answer: Storytelling is a foundational cognitive operation with deep evolutionary roots, not cultural decoration ⇒ C

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

Sol. 23.

Solution

Concept — VA: Odd Sentence Out (Comparative Advantage): The odd sentence disrupts the logical coherence of the paragraph; the remaining four form a tight, sequential argument.

Analysis: Sentences B, C, D, and E form a coherent paragraph about Ricardo’s theory of comparative advantage: B states the theory (even less efficient nations can benefit from trade), C explains the mechanism (relative opportunity cost), D extends the theory to modern economic conditions, and E addresses a common confusion between comparative and absolute advantage. Sentence A is the odd one out: it asserts that comparative advantage requires a nation to hold “absolute superiority” in at least one good — this is factually the definition of *absolute advantage*, not comparative advantage, and directly contradicts the theory explained in sentence B. Sentence A both misdefines the concept and disrupts the logical flow of the paragraph.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Sentence B is the logical topic sentence of the paragraph; it introduces Ricardo’s counter-intuitive insight and must be included.
- Option C: Sentence C explains the mechanism of comparative advantage (opportunity cost); it is essential to the paragraph’s explanation.
- Option D: Sentence D extends the theory to modern economic conditions; it fits logically after C and before E.

Final Answer: Sentence A is the odd one out because it misdefines comparative advantage as requiring absolute superiority ⇒ A



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

Sol. 24.

Solution

Concept — VA: Odd Sentence Out (Post-Colonial Literature and Identity): The odd sentence introduces a market-oriented commercial argument that disrupts the intellectual-theoretical flow of the paragraph.

Analysis: Sentences A, B, C, and E form a coherent paragraph about the theoretical and literary dimensions of post-colonialism: A introduces the field's concern with cultural and psychological legacies; B discusses Fanon's theoretical vocabulary about the colonisation of subjectivity; C cites novelists who contest colonial representation; and E discusses Said's concept of Orientalism as ideological construction. These four sentences move from the field's concerns, through its theoretical foundations, to its literary and scholarly articulations. Sentence D — about the global literary market rewarding "exotic" settings and perpetuating cultural appropriation — introduces a commercial/market argument that, while related, disrupts the intellectual-theoretical progression of the other four sentences and belongs to a different strand of argument (cultural commodification) not developed in the rest of the paragraph.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Sentence A is the topic sentence introducing post-colonial literature's defining concerns; removing it would leave the paragraph without an opening frame.
- Option B: Sentence B provides the foundational theoretical vocabulary (Fanon) that underpins the paragraph's discussion; it is integral.
- Option C: Sentence C illustrates the literary practice of contesting colonial representation, directly relevant to A and E.

Final Answer: Sentence D is the odd one out; it introduces a commercial market argument that disrupts the theoretical progression ⇒ **D**

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



Answer Key

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

Quick Reference: Correct Answers

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

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