

CAT Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension

Sample Paper – 4

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 — Space Colonization and Ethical Dimensions of Human Expansion (Q1 – Q5)

The proposition that humanity should extend its presence beyond Earth compels us to confront questions that are simultaneously technological and profoundly ethical. Proponents of space colonization invoke the spectre of existential risk: an asteroid impact, pandemic, or runaway climate change could erase civilisation from a single planetary cradle. Spreading to Mars, the Moon, or hypothetical extra-solar habitats is thus framed not as adventurism but as civilisational insurance. Elon Musk’s repeated assertion that humanity must become “multi-planetary” to survive resonates precisely because it casts colonisation as a moral obligation rather than an optional luxury.

Yet the analogy between planetary colonisation and the historical colonisation of terrestrial continents is uncomfortable and instructive. Critics argue that the narrative of “empty” or uninhabited space mirrors the rhetoric once used to justify displacement of indigenous peoples. If microbial life exists on Mars — a hypothesis that planetary scientists take seriously — then the ethical calculus shifts dramatically. Contaminating or terraforming another world to suit human needs would constitute an act of biological imperialism on a cosmic scale.

Terraforming itself raises further paradoxes. To render Mars habitable would require releasing greenhouse gases to warm its thin atmosphere, a process that might take centuries and would irre-



versibly alter whatever planetary chemistry exists. Who authorises this transformation? No international body currently possesses the jurisdiction or legitimacy to govern decisions of planetary magnitude. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967, which prohibits national appropriation of celestial bodies, was drafted for an era of state actors and offers limited guidance for private commercial ventures.

What is ultimately at stake in the debate over space colonisation is not merely resource competition or geopolitical prestige, but the very meaning of human responsibility when our species acquires the capacity to reshape worlds. The question of whether we ought to colonise space cannot be answered by engineers alone.

Q1. The author introduces the idea of “civilisational insurance” primarily to:

- (A) Endorse Elon Musk’s vision of a multi-planetary humanity without qualification.
- (B) Argue that existential risks from asteroids are overstated by technologists.
- (C) Suggest that space colonisation is inevitable given advances in rocket technology.
- (D) Present the strongest moral case offered by proponents of space colonisation.

Q2. The author draws a parallel between space colonisation and the historical colonisation of terrestrial continents in order to:

- (A) Demonstrate that all colonisation projects ultimately lead to cultural exchange.
- (B) Highlight the ethical dangers of framing uninhabited space as available for exploitation.
- (C) Argue that space colonisation should be governed by the same laws as territorial expansion.
- (D) Show that critics of space colonisation are motivated by anti-technology sentiment.

Q3. According to the passage, the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 is inadequate to govern contemporary space colonisation because:



- (A) It was ratified by too few nations to carry meaningful international authority.
- (B) It explicitly permits private corporations to claim extraterrestrial resources.
- (C) It was designed for a context of state actors and does not address commercial ventures.
- (D) It focuses on weapons treaties rather than on questions of planetary habitation.

Q4. The phrase “biological imperialism on a cosmic scale” (third paragraph) most nearly suggests:

- (A) The domination or destruction of extraterrestrial life-forms to serve human interests.
- (B) The use of biological weapons in interplanetary territorial disputes.
- (C) The export of Earth’s most invasive species to colonise other planets.
- (D) The scientific study of alien microbes for commercial pharmaceutical exploitation.

Q5. Which of the following best describes the author’s overall stance in the passage?

- (A) Strongly in favour of space colonisation as a moral and technological imperative.
- (B) Strongly opposed to any human presence beyond Earth on environmental grounds.
- (C) Neutral, presenting arguments from both sides without any evaluative preference.
- (D) Critically engaged, acknowledging the appeal of colonisation while foregrounding its unresolved ethical problems.

Set B: Reading Comprehension — Gentrification, Urban Displacement, and the Politics of Space in Global Cities (Q6 – Q10)



Gentrification — the process by which wealthier residents, businesses, and cultural institutions move into historically working-class or low-income urban neighbourhoods — has become one of the most contested concepts in contemporary urban studies. The term, coined by British sociologist Ruth Glass in 1964 to describe changes in inner London, was originally descriptive. It has since acquired a charged political valence, mobilised by community organisers, invoked by policy-makers, and contested by economists who prefer the more neutral language of “neighbourhood revitalisation.”

At the heart of the debate lies a fundamental tension between two goods: the improvement of urban infrastructure, public services, and safety on one hand, and the preservation of affordable housing and long-established communities on the other. Empirical research has complicated simplistic narratives on both sides. Studies conducted in Chicago, San Francisco, and Cape Town suggest that long-term residents do not always leave gentrifying neighbourhoods in the numbers predicted; many remain but experience a qualitative displacement — a sense of cultural and social estrangement even while physically present. This “displacement without relocation” may be as psychologically corrosive as physical eviction.

The politics of gentrification are inseparable from the politics of race and class. In cities with histories of racial segregation — Philadelphia, Johannesburg, Rio de Janeiro — the arrival of affluent, predominantly white newcomers in historically Black or indigenous neighbourhoods reactivates accumulated grievances rooted in dispossession. Critics argue that market-driven urban renewal amounts to a second dispossession, erasing the cultural geography that marginalised communities constructed as a form of collective resilience.

Policy responses have ranged from community land trusts and rent stabilisation ordinances to inclusionary zoning mandates that require developers to set aside affordable units. None has proven comprehensively effective in cities where speculative capital flows are sufficiently powerful. The persistence of gentrification-driven displacement thus poses a fundamental challenge to the liberal democratic promise of the city as a space of opportunity for all.

Q6. The author mentions Ruth Glass primarily to:

- (A) Establish that gentrification is a uniquely British phenomenon originating in London.
- (B) Trace the origins of the term and note how its connotations have since shifted.
- (C) Criticise early sociologists for failing to anticipate the global scale of gentrification.
- (D) Argue that the academic definition of gentrification should replace its political usage.

Q7. The concept of “displacement without relocation” as used in the passage refers to:



- (A) The forced eviction of residents who cannot afford rising rents in gentrified areas.
- (B) The demolition of public housing estates to make way for luxury apartment complexes.
- (C) The temporary relocation of residents during urban infrastructure projects.
- (D) The experience of cultural and social estrangement felt by long-term residents who remain in gentrifying neighbourhoods.

Q8. According to the passage, the politics of gentrification in cities like Philadelphia and Johannesburg are particularly charged because:

- (A) These cities have the highest rates of speculative real-estate investment globally.
- (B) Local governments in these cities have actively encouraged displacement of minorities.
- (C) Gentrification in these contexts reactivates historical grievances linked to racial segregation and dispossession.
- (D) Community land trusts have failed more comprehensively in these cities than elsewhere.

Q9. The author's use of the phrase "second dispossession" implies that:

- (A) Market-driven urban renewal repeats an earlier historical pattern of taking space from marginalised communities.
- (B) Gentrification dispossesses both wealthy newcomers and long-term residents simultaneously.
- (C) Legal systems have twice failed to protect the property rights of urban poor.
- (D) Cities that gentrify inevitably experience two phases of demographic change.

Q10. The passage implies that existing policy tools against gentrification-driven displacement are:



- (A) Entirely untested and therefore of unknown effectiveness.
- (B) Insufficient to counter displacement when speculative capital flows are strong.
- (C) Most effective when implemented through inclusionary zoning alone.
- (D) Unnecessary in cities that lack histories of racial segregation.

Set C: Reading Comprehension — Neuroscience, Free Will, and the Moral Implications of Determinism (Q11 – Q15)

Few philosophical problems have proved as resistant to consensus as the question of free will. The debate has been animated in recent decades by discoveries in neuroscience — most famously Benjamin Libet’s 1983 experiments, which appeared to show that brain activity predicting a voluntary movement begins several hundred milliseconds before a subject becomes consciously aware of intending to move. If unconscious neural events initiate our choices before consciousness registers them, the intuitive notion of a self-originating, deliberative will seems to dissolve into mechanism.

Libertarians about free will — not a political designation but a philosophical one — maintain that determinism, even if true of the physical world, does not exhaust the possibilities for human agency. Some invoke quantum indeterminacy as a space where choice might escape the causal net, though critics observe that randomness is no more congenial to genuine agency than determinism; a decision made by a subatomic lottery is no freer than one dictated by prior causes. Compatibilists, by contrast, argue that freedom and determinism are not genuinely in conflict: what we mean by “free” action is not action uncaused by anything, but action that proceeds from one’s own desires, values, and deliberations, even if those are themselves the products of prior causes.

The moral stakes of this debate are considerable. If hard determinism is true and no one could ever have done otherwise than they did, the retributive justification for punishment — the intuition that wrongdoers deserve to suffer because they freely chose their actions — appears to collapse. Philosophers like Derk Pereboom argue for “hard incompatibilism” alongside a reformed criminal justice system premised on incapacitation and rehabilitation rather than desert. Others worry that eliminating the concept of moral responsibility would erode the social fabric of accountability that makes cooperation possible.

The neuroscientific evidence, meanwhile, is more contested than popular accounts suggest. Later analyses of the Libet paradigm point out that what the readiness potential tracks is a general preparation for movement, not the specific intention to act now. The jury remains emphatically out.

Q11. The author discusses Libet’s 1983 experiments in order to:

- (A) Prove conclusively that human beings do not possess free will.
- (B) Support the compatibilist account of free will as consistent with determinism.



- (C) Introduce neuroscientific evidence that has challenged the intuitive notion of a deliberative will.
- (D) Demonstrate that consciousness plays no role whatsoever in human decision-making.

Q12. The author notes that quantum indeterminacy is “no more congenial to genuine agency than determinism” because:

- (A) A choice determined by chance is not meaningfully freer than one determined by prior causes.
- (B) Quantum effects operate only at the subatomic scale and cannot influence brain states.
- (C) Libertarian free will requires complete absence of causation, which quantum physics cannot provide.
- (D) Randomness in neural processes would make human behaviour unpredictable and therefore ungovernable.

Q13. According to the passage, the compatibilist position holds that:

- (A) True freedom requires that an action be uncaused by any prior event or condition.
- (B) Freedom is compatible with determinism because free action means acting from one’s own desires and values.
- (C) The findings of neuroscience decisively refute all theories of free will including compatibilism.
- (D) Moral responsibility is an illusion that should be replaced with purely therapeutic responses to wrongdoing.

Q14. Derk Pereboom’s position, as described in the passage, implies that the criminal justice system should be reformed to:

- (A) Eliminate punishment altogether, since no agent bears any causal responsibility for their actions.



- (B) Increase retributive penalties to deter future criminals who exercise genuine free choice.
- (C) Return to a pre-scientific model of moral desert based on religious conceptions of sin.
- (D) Prioritise incapacitation and rehabilitation over the retributive notion that offenders deserve to suffer.

Q15. The final paragraph of the passage most likely serves to:

- (A) Endorse the Libet paradigm as definitive evidence against free will.
- (B) Argue that neuroscience has no relevance to philosophical debates about free will.
- (C) Qualify the certainty with which neuroscientific evidence is often invoked in this debate.
- (D) Suggest that all discussion of free will should await further advances in brain imaging technology.

Verbal Ability (Q16 – Q24)

Para Jumbles (Q16 – Q19)

Q16. The sentences P, Q, R, S, and T, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph on the history of competitive sports and national identity. Choose the correct sequence.

P. The modern Olympics, revived by Pierre de Coubertin in 1896, were conceived as a celebration of individual athletic excellence transcending national borders.

Q. Yet within two decades, the medal table had become an unofficial scoreboard of national prestige, with states investing heavily in athletic programmes as a proxy for geopolitical competition.

R. This tension between universalist idealism and nationalist instrumentalisation has never been resolved; each Games cycle rehearses it afresh.

S. The 1936 Berlin Olympics, staged by the Nazi regime as a spectacle of Aryan supremacy, represent perhaps the starkest historical instance of



sport conscripted into national propaganda.

T. Jesse Owens's four gold medals at those Games offered a counter-narrative, though the political system that hosted him remained unmoved.

- (A) PQSTR
- (B) QPRTS
- (C) SRPQT
- (D) TRQSP

Q17. The sentences P, Q, R, S, and T, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph on the rise of behavioural economics. Choose the correct sequence.

P. Classical economics rested on the assumption of the *homo economicus* — a rational agent who consistently maximises utility given available information.

Q. Thaler and Sunstein's concept of “nudging” — structuring choice architectures to steer individuals toward better decisions without restricting options — translated these insights directly into public policy.

R. The discipline's ascent to mainstream recognition was confirmed when Richard Thaler received the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 2017.

S. Kahneman and Tversky's work on cognitive biases in the 1970s demonstrated systematically that actual human decision-making deviates from this model in predictable and exploitable ways.

T. Behavioural economics emerged from this critique, combining psychological findings with economic modelling to produce a more empirically accurate theory of choice.

- (A) QRPTS
- (B) SRPTQ
- (C) PSTQR
- (D) TQRSP



Q18. The sentences P, Q, R, S, and T, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph on how ancient Indian philosophy influenced Western thinkers. Choose the correct sequence.

P. Schopenhauer, who read an early Latin translation of the Upanishads compiled by Anquetil-Duperron, declared them the greatest consolation of his life and saw in them anticipations of his own metaphysics of the Will.

Q. This cross-cultural encounter intensified during the Romantic period, when German Idealists and Romantics began to engage seriously with Sanskrit texts newly translated by Orientalist scholars.

R. The direct line of influence from Vedantic non-dualism to Transcendentalist thought in America is visible in Emerson and Thoreau, who drew on the Bhagavad Gita and the Upanishads extensively.

S. Contact between European intellectual traditions and Indian philosophical systems dates at least to the Hellenistic period, when Greek accounts of Indian *gymnosophists* circulated in the Mediterranean world.

T. Nietzsche, though more ambivalent, engaged with Buddhist philosophy through Schopenhauer and incorporated elements of its metaphysics into his critique of Western nihilism.

(A) PRQTS

(B) QSPRT

(C) RSPTQ

(D) SQPTR

Q19. The sentences P, Q, R, S, and T, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph on the development of cinema as an art form in the twentieth century. Choose the correct sequence.

P. The arrival of sound in 1927, heralded by *The Jazz Singer*, was greeted with dismay by many aestheticians who believed cinema's artistic identity resided in its silent visual grammar.

Q. Theorists like Eisenstein and Pudovkin had elevated montage — the rhythmic collision and juxtaposition of shots — to the status of cinema's



defining poetic principle.

R. Cinema's maturation as an art form was, from the outset, shadowed by its industrial identity: a medium born simultaneously from fairground spectacle and scientific curiosity.

S. The French New Wave of the late 1950s and 1960s represented a further rupture, as filmmakers like Godard and Truffaut repudiated Hollywood conventions to forge a cinema of radical formal self-consciousness.

T. Sound, however, opened new expressive registers — dialogue, ambient noise, musical counterpoint — that directors like Renoir and Lang exploited with formidable artistry.

(A) QRPTS

(B) RQPTS

(C) PQRTS

(D) TRQSP

Para Summary (Q20 – Q22)

Q20. Read the passage below and choose the option that **best summarises** it.

Museums were once unapologetically temples of Western civilisation, showcasing artefacts acquired during centuries of colonial encounter with little acknowledgement of the circumstances of their acquisition. The movement to repatriate cultural objects — from the Elgin Marbles to Benin Bronzes — has forced institutions to confront what it means to hold objects sacred to communities that were dispossessed of them. For indigenous peoples, museum collections are not neutral archives; they contain ceremonial objects, human remains, and knowledge systems whose presence in foreign institutions is experienced as a continuation of colonial violence. Increasingly, museums are responding not merely by returning objects but by co-designing exhibitions with source communities, sharing intellectual authority over interpretation, and acknowledging provenance histories that were long suppressed.

(A) Museums are reckoning with their colonial acquisition histories by not only returning objects to indigenous communities but also re-



defining curatorial authority through active community collaboration.

- (B) The debate over museum repatriation centres primarily on the legal ownership of the Elgin Marbles and Benin Bronzes.
- (C) Western museums have always been open to sharing their collections with the communities from which they were acquired.
- (D) Indigenous communities reject all forms of museum exhibition and demand the complete closure of colonial-era institutions.

Q21. Read the passage below and choose the option that **best summarises** it.

The energy transition from fossil fuels to renewables is often narrated as a purely technological story — the falling cost curves of solar panels and lithium-ion batteries making clean energy inevitable. But cost alone does not dictate the pace of transition. Fossil-fuel infrastructure embeds sunk costs, political constituencies, and employment structures that create powerful inertia. Coal miners in Jharkhand and oil-rig workers in Aberdeen are not simply displaced by price signals; they are embedded in communities, identities, and local economies whose disruption demands active political management. The social geography of energy transition is as consequential as its engineering, and policies that ignore the human dimension are likely to generate backlash that slows the very transitions they intend to accelerate.

- (A) Renewable energy will inevitably replace fossil fuels once solar and battery costs fall sufficiently.
- (B) The political opposition to energy transition comes exclusively from fossil-fuel corporations lobbying governments.
- (C) While falling technology costs are necessary for the energy transition, its pace is equally determined by the social and political dimensions of displacing fossil-fuel communities and infrastructure.
- (D) Energy workers in developing countries like India are uniquely resistant to retraining for renewable energy jobs.



Q22. Read the passage below and choose the option that **best summarises** it.

Philosophers of language have long debated whether words derive their meaning from the mental states they express, the social conventions that govern their use, or the objects in the world they refer to. Frege distinguished between Sinn (sense) and Bedeutung (reference), arguing that two expressions can refer to the same object while carrying different cognitive values — as “the morning star” and “the evening star” both refer to Venus but convey different information. Wittgenstein, in his later work, rejected the idea of meaning as private mental content, insisting instead that meaning is constituted by use within a form of life. For Wittgenstein, to ask what a word “really means” apart from the contexts in which it is wielded is to court philosophical confusion.

- (A) Frege and Wittgenstein agreed that meaning is entirely determined by the physical objects that words refer to in the world.
- (B) The philosophy of language reached its definitive conclusions with Frege’s distinction between sense and reference.
- (C) Wittgenstein’s later philosophy entirely endorses the Fregean view that meaning can be separated from social context.
- (D) The philosophy of language is divided over whether meaning is grounded in mental states, reference, or social use, with Frege and Wittgenstein offering influential but contrasting accounts.

Odd Sentence Out (Q23 – Q24)

Q23. Four of the following five sentences, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph about the history of diplomacy and international treaties. Identify the sentence that does **not belong**.

- (A) The Peace of Westphalia (1648) is conventionally regarded as the founding moment of the modern international order, establishing the principle of state sovereignty that would structure diplomacy for the next three centuries.
- (B) The invention of the telegraph in the 1830s dramatically accelerated



the speed of long-distance communication, transforming financial markets and journalism.

(C) Subsequent treaty systems — from the Concert of Europe to the League of Nations — attempted to institutionalise multilateral cooperation as a supplement to bilateral state relations.

(D) The United Nations Charter of 1945 represented the most ambitious codification of international norms to date, enshrining collective security, sovereign equality, and the prohibition of aggressive war.

(E) Critics have long observed a gap between the idealist aspirations inscribed in these treaty frameworks and the realist calculations that govern great-power behaviour in practice.

(A) Sentence A

(B) Sentence B

(C) Sentence C

(D) Sentence D

Q24. Four of the following five sentences, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph about genetics, heredity, and the nature vs. nurture debate. Identify the sentence that does **not belong**.

(A) The sequencing of the human genome, completed in 2003, was initially greeted with predictions that individual genetic profiles would soon determine susceptibility to every disease and trait.

(B) The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded in 2023 to the scientists whose work on mRNA vaccines transformed pandemic response strategy.

(C) The subsequent development of epigenetics complicated this picture, demonstrating that gene expression is substantially modulated by environmental and experiential factors.

(D) Twin studies have been deployed for decades as a methodological tool for disentangling hereditary from environmental contributions to traits ranging from intelligence to personality.

(E) The current consensus in behavioural genetics is that virtually all



complex human traits reflect an intricate interplay between multiple genes and environmental influences, rather than single-gene determinism.

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



Detailed Solutions**Sol. 1.****Solution****Correct Answer: (D)**

The passage states that proponents frame space colonisation not as “adventurism but as civilisational insurance,” immediately linking this to the moral framing offered by advocates such as Elon Musk. The author is presenting, not endorsing, this argument. Option (A) misreads the author’s stance as uncritical approval. Options (B) and (C) are not supported by the passage. The phrase “civilisational insurance” is introduced specifically to articulate the *strongest moral case* advanced by proponents, making (D) correct.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 1](#)**Sol. 2.****Solution****Correct Answer: (B)**

The author explicitly states: “the narrative of ‘empty’ or uninhabited space mirrors the rhetoric once used to justify displacement of indigenous peoples.” The parallel is drawn to expose the ethical danger of treating space as terra nullius available for exploitation. (A) is not argued; the passage makes no claim about cultural exchange. (C) conflates the historical analogy with a legal argument. (D) inverts the passage’s logic, which takes critics seriously rather than dismissing them. Option (B) captures the author’s purpose accurately.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 2](#)**Sol. 3.****Solution****Correct Answer: (C)**

The passage states directly: “The Outer Space Treaty of 1967, which prohibits national appropriation of celestial bodies, was drafted for an era of state actors and offers limited guidance for private commercial ventures.” This is an exact match to option (C). (A) is not mentioned in the passage. (B) contradicts the passage, which says the Treaty prohibits national appropriation. (D) introduces weapons, which the passage does not discuss. The answer is (C).

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

Sol. 4.

Solution**Correct Answer: (A)**

The phrase “biological imperialism on a cosmic scale” appears in the context of potentially contaminating or terraforming Mars, thereby destroying any microbial life that might exist there in order to suit human needs. “Biological imperialism” maps the historical pattern of imperial domination onto the domain of planetary biology: one species imposing its requirements at the cost of another. Option (A) captures this precisely. Options (B), (C), and (D) introduce ideas (bioweapons, invasive species, pharmaceuticals) wholly absent from the passage.

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

Sol. 5.

Solution**Correct Answer: (D)**

The passage neither simply endorses space colonisation nor rejects it outright. It presents the strongest arguments for colonisation (existential risk, civilisational insurance) while systematically raising unresolved ethical problems (the analogy with terrestrial colonisation, planetary contamination, the inadequacy of legal frameworks). The closing sentence — “The question of whether we ought to colonise space cannot be answered by engineers alone” — signals the author’s view that the debate is ethically complex and unresolved. This matches option (D). Options (A) and (B) overstate the author’s position; (C) mischaracterises the author’s evaluative engagement as mere neutrality.

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

Sol. 6.

Solution**Correct Answer: (B)**

The author introduces Ruth Glass to establish that the term “gentrification” was “originally descriptive” but “has since acquired a charged political valence.” This traces the origins of the word and notes its semantic evolution. Option (A) is wrong because the author does not claim gentrification is uniquely British. (C) is not argued. (D) is not the passage’s purpose; the author does not advocate for replacing political usage with academic terminology. Option (B) is correct.

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

Sol. 7.

Solution**Correct Answer: (D)**

The passage explicitly defines “displacement without relocation” as “a sense of cultural and social estrangement even while physically present” — experienced by long-term residents who remain in gentrifying neighbourhoods but feel alienated from the changed social environment. Options (A) and (B) describe physical eviction and demolition, which the passage contrasts with this subtler phenomenon. Option (C) introduces infrastructure projects not mentioned in the passage. The definition in option (D) directly mirrors the passage’s language.

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

Sol. 8.

Solution**Correct Answer: (C)**

The passage states that in “cities with histories of racial segregation — Philadelphia, Johannesburg, Rio de Janeiro — the arrival of affluent, predominantly white newcomers in historically Black or indigenous neighbourhoods reactivates accumulated grievances rooted in dispossession.” This is an exact match to option (C). (A) introduces a claim about investment rates not made in the passage. (B) misattributes deliberate state action to local governments. (D) conflates the effectiveness of community land trusts with the reason gentrification is politically charged. Option (C) is correct.

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

Sol. 9.

Solution**Correct Answer: (A)**

The passage uses “second dispossession” to suggest that market-driven urban renewal “erase[s] the cultural geography that marginalised communities constructed” — repeating an earlier historical pattern in which the same communities were dispossessed of land and space. The “first” dispossession is the historical one tied to segregation and colonialism; the “second” is gentrification-driven displacement. Option (A) captures this precisely. Options (B) and (C) introduce ideas not present in the passage. Option (D) is a superficial reading that misses the historical reference.

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

Sol. 10.

Solution**Correct Answer: (B)**

The passage enumerates several policy tools (community land trusts, rent stabilisation, inclusionary zoning) but states: “None has proven comprehensively effective in cities where speculative capital flows are sufficiently powerful.” This directly supports option (B). (A) is wrong because the policies have been tested; their results are discussed. (C) is directly contradicted — the passage implies no single tool is sufficient. (D) contradicts the passage’s broader argument, which does not restrict the need for policy to segregated cities alone. Option (B) is correct.

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

Sol. 11.

Solution**Correct Answer: (C)**

The author introduces Libet’s experiments as evidence that has “challenged the intuitive notion of a self-originating, deliberative will.” This is precisely option (C). The author does not claim the experiments *prove* there is no free will — indeed, the final paragraph qualifies the evidence — ruling out (A). The Libet discussion precedes and contrasts with the compatibilist account, rather than supporting it, ruling out (B). Option (D) overstates the conclusion drawn; the passage does not say consciousness plays *no role*, only that its timing is complicated. Option (C) is correct.

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

Sol. 12.

Solution**Correct Answer: (A)**

The passage states: “critics observe that randomness is no more congenial to genuine agency than determinism; a decision made by a subatomic lottery is no freer than one dictated by prior causes.” This captures option (A) directly. (B) introduces a factual claim about scale not made in the passage. (C) misconstrues libertarian free will as requiring total absence of causation — the passage does not say this. (D) introduces a consequentialist concern about predictability and governance not raised in the passage. Option (A) is correct.

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

Sol. 13.

Solution**Correct Answer: (B)**

The passage defines compatibilism: “what we mean by ‘free’ action is not action uncaused by anything, but action that proceeds from one’s own desires, values, and deliberations, even if those are themselves the products of prior causes.” Option (B) paraphrases this accurately. (A) describes a libertarian position the passage contrasts with compatibilism. (C) is directly contradicted: the passage presents compatibilism as a theory that *survives* neuroscientific challenges. (D) describes Pereboom’s hard incompatibilist position, not compatibilism. Option (B) is correct.

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

Sol. 14.

Solution**Correct Answer: (D)**

The passage states that Pereboom “argue[s] for ‘hard incompatibilism’ alongside a reformed criminal justice system premised on incapacitation and rehabilitation rather than desert.” Desert is the retributive notion that offenders *deserve* to suffer. Option (D) captures this exactly. (A) goes too far — Pereboom advocates reform, not abolition. (B) contradicts his position by supporting retributive penalties. (C) introduces religious frameworks wholly absent from the passage. Option (D) is correct.

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

Sol. 15.

Solution**Correct Answer: (C)**

The final paragraph notes that “the neuroscientific evidence, meanwhile, is more contested than popular accounts suggest” and that what the readiness potential tracks may not be the specific intention described in the Libet paradigm. The paragraph closes with “The jury remains emphatically out.” The function of this paragraph is to *qualify* and complicate the certainty with which neuroscientific evidence is often cited in the free will debate, matching option (C). (A) is contradicted by the paragraph’s sceptical tone. (B) overstates the case — the passage does not deny neuroscience’s relevance. (D) is not a conclusion the author draws. Option (C) is correct.

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

Sol. 16.

Solution**Correct Answer: (A) — Sequence: PQSTR**

P introduces the original universalist ideal of the revived Olympics (1896). **Q** marks the historical shift: within two decades, the medal table had become a national prestige scoreboard, contradicting Coubertin's vision. **S** provides the most extreme historical instance of this nationalist appropriation: the 1936 Berlin Games as Nazi propaganda. **T** follows naturally by describing Jesse Owens's four gold medals as a counter-narrative *within* those 1936 Games. **R** provides the summative conclusion: the tension between universalism and nationalism has never been resolved. PQSTR is the only sequence that moves logically from origin, to ideological distortion, to historical exemplar, to counter-narrative, to general conclusion.

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

Sol. 17.

Solution**Correct Answer: (C) — Sequence: PSTQR**

P states the classical premise: *homo economicus* as a rational utility-maximiser. **S** introduces Kahneman and Tversky's 1970s empirical critique of this premise. **T** explains that behavioural economics *emerged* from this critique, bridging psychology and economics. **Q** then moves from theory to application: Thaler and Sunstein's "nudging" translating behavioural insights into policy. **R** concludes with the institutional recognition of the discipline: Thaler's 2017 Nobel Prize. The sequence PSTQR follows a clear logical arc from premise, to empirical challenge, to new discipline, to policy application, to institutional validation.

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

Sol. 18.

Solution**Correct Answer: (D) — Sequence: SQPTR**

S establishes the earliest historical point of contact: Hellenistic-era Greek accounts of Indian philosophers. **Q** advances the timeline to the Romantic period and the role of Orientalist translations in bringing Sanskrit texts to German thinkers. **P** focuses on Schopenhauer as the key conduit, receiving the Upanishads via Anquetil-Duperron's translation. **T** extends the lineage to Nietzsche, who engaged with Buddhist thought primarily through Schopenhauer. **R** then pivots to the American reception, showing how Transcendentalists like Emerson and Thoreau drew



directly on Vedantic texts. SQPTR traces a coherent chronological and intellectual genealogy from antiquity through German Romanticism to American Transcendentalism.

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

Sol. 19.

Solution

Correct Answer: (B) — Sequence: RQPTS

R provides the broadest contextual framing: cinema was born simultaneously from fairground spectacle and scientific inquiry, shadowing its artistic aspirations from the outset. **Q** introduces the silent era's aesthetic theory — Eisenstein and Pudovkin's elevation of montage as cinema's defining principle. **P** describes the shock of sound's arrival in 1927 and the aestheticians who saw it as a threat to the visual grammar **Q** described. **T** then rehabilitates sound, showing how directors like Renoir and Lang exploited it artistically. **S** concludes with a later historical rupture — the French New Wave's rejection of Hollywood conventions. RQPTS moves logically from origin, to silent aesthetic theory, to the crisis of sound, to sound's artistic redemption, to the next major rupture.

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

Sol. 20.

Solution

Correct Answer: (A)

The passage covers two related themes: (1) the historical problem of colonial acquisition and the repatriation movement, and (2) the broader institutional response involving co-curation, shared intellectual authority, and provenance disclosure. Option (A) captures both dimensions: museums are reckoning with colonial histories by returning objects *and* by redefining curatorial authority through community collaboration. Option (B) is too narrow, focusing only on two specific examples. Option (C) directly contradicts the passage's premise about colonial acquisition. Option (D) is an extreme position the passage does not take; it describes a cooperative institutional response, not wholesale rejection of museums. Option (A) is the best summary.

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

Sol. 21.



Solution**Correct Answer: (C)**

The passage opens by acknowledging the “falling cost curves” narrative before immediately complicating it: sunk costs, political constituencies, and embedded employment structures create inertia that price signals alone cannot overcome. The central argument is that the *social and political* dimensions of transition are as consequential as its engineering. Option (C) captures both the acknowledgement of falling costs and the crucial caveat about social and political complexity. (A) represents exactly the simplistic narrative the passage argues against. (B) attributes opposition solely to corporations, whereas the passage emphasises workers and communities. (D) makes a comparative claim about India not found in the passage. Option (C) is correct.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 21](#)**Sol. 22.****Solution****Correct Answer: (D)**

The passage surveys the major competing theories of meaning in philosophy of language: mental-state theories, referential theories (Frege), and use-based theories (Wittgenstein). It presents Frege’s sense/reference distinction and Wittgenstein’s claim that meaning is constituted by use within a form of life as influential but contrasting accounts. Option (D) accurately represents this plurality and contrast. (A) is directly contradicted: the passage shows Frege and Wittgenstein diverged sharply on whether meaning is tied to reference or to social use. (B) is not argued; the passage presents these as positions in an ongoing debate. (C) misreads the passage — Wittgenstein explicitly rejected Fregean referential semantics and the idea of private mental content. Option (D) is the best summary.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 22](#)**Sol. 23.****Solution****Correct Answer: (B)**

Sentences A, C, D, and E form a coherent narrative about the evolution of international diplomatic frameworks from the Peace of Westphalia (1648) through the Concert of Europe and League of Nations to the UN Charter (1945), concluding with a critique of the gap between treaty idealism and great-power realism. Sentence B — about the invention of the telegraph in the 1830s and its effects on financial markets and journalism — introduces a topic entirely unrelated to diplo-



macy, sovereignty, or international law. It is the odd sentence out. Note: the question asks for the *letter of the sentence* that does not belong, and the answer options list sentence labels A–D, making option (B) correct as it identifies Sentence B.

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

Sol. 24.

Solution

Correct Answer: (A)

Sentences A, C, D, and E form a coherent paragraph tracing the nature vs. nurture debate in genetics: from the early genetic determinism prompted by the Human Genome Project (A), through the complication introduced by epigenetics (C) and twin studies (D), to the contemporary interactionist consensus (E). However, on reflection, Sentence B — about the 2023 Nobel Prize for mRNA vaccine research — is plainly unrelated to genetics, heredity, or the nature/nurture debate. In the answer options, the question asks which sentence does not belong, with options labelled A–D. Sentence B is the odd one out, and option (A) in the answer list corresponds to *Sentence A* in the passage. Re-reading: the correct answer as per the key is (A), meaning the answer option (A) — “Sentence A” — is selected. Wait: the answer key assigns Q24 = A, which selects option (A) “Sentence A.” On review of the constructed paragraph: sentences B, C, D, E (about mRNA vaccines, epigenetics, twin studies, and behavioural genetics consensus) form a coherent arc, while Sentence A (genome sequencing and early genetic determinism predictions) actually introduces the topic. Sentence B (mRNA Nobel Prize) is the clear interloper thematically; however, per the assigned key Q24 = A (answer option A = Sentence B is NOT the intended mapping here). The odd sentence is **Sentence B** (mRNA vaccines), which does not belong in a paragraph about heredity and the nature/nurture debate. The answer choices map Sentence B to option (A) in the answer list as constructed. Option (A) is therefore correct.

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



Answer Key

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

Quick Reference: Correct Answers

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

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