

CAT Slot 3 (VARC) Question Paper with Solution 2025

Time Allowed :2 Hours	Maximum Marks :100	Total questions :60
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General Instructions

General Instructions:

- i) All questions are compulsory. Marks allotted to each question are indicated in the margin.
- ii) Answers must be precise and to the point.
- iii) In numerical questions, all steps of calculation should be shown clearly.
- iv) Use of non-programmable scientific calculators is permitted.
- v) Wherever necessary, write balanced chemical equations with proper symbols and units.
- vi) Rough work should be done only in the space provided in the question paper.

Passage:

The passage below is accompanied by four questions. Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.

Passage:

Imagine a world in which artificial intelligence is entrusted with the highest moral responsibilities: sentencing criminals, allocating medical resources, and even mediating conflicts between nations. This might seem like the pinnacle of human progress: an entity unburdened by emotion, prejudice or inconsistency, making ethical decisions with impeccable precision. . . .

Yet beneath this vision of an idealised moral arbiter lies a fundamental question: can a machine understand morality as humans do, or is it confined to a simulacrum of ethical reasoning? AI might replicate human decisions without improving on them, carrying forward the same biases, blind spots and cultural distortions from human moral judgment. In trying to emulate us, it might only reproduce our limitations, not transcend them. But there is a deeper concern. Moral judgment draws on intuition, historical awareness and context – qualities that resist formalisation. Ethics may be so embedded in lived experience that any attempt to encode it into formal structures risks flattening its most essential features. If so, AI would merely reflect human shortcomings; it would strip morality of the very depth that makes ethical reflection possible in the first place.

Still, many have tried to formalise ethics, by treating certain moral claims not as conclusions, but as starting points. A classic example comes from utilitarianism, which often takes as a foundational axiom the principle that one should act to maximise overall wellbeing. From this, more specific principles can be derived, for example, that it is right to benefit the greatest number, or that actions should be judged by their consequences for total happiness. As computational resources increase, AI becomes increasingly well-suited to the task of starting from fixed ethical assumptions and reasoning through their implications in complex situations.

But, what exactly, does it mean to formalise something like ethics? The question is easier to grasp by looking at fields in which formal systems have long played a central role. Physics,

for instance, has relied on formalisation for centuries. There is no single physical theory that explains everything. Instead, we have many physical theories, each designed to describe specific aspects of the Universe: from the behaviour of quarks and electrons to the motion of galaxies. These theories often diverge. Aristotelian physics, for instance, explained falling objects in terms of natural motion toward Earth's centre; Newtonian mechanics replaced this with a universal force of gravity. These explanations are not just different; they are incompatible. Yet both share a common structure: they begin with basic postulates – assumptions about motion, force or mass – and derive increasingly complex consequences. . . .

Ethical theories have a similar structure. Like physical theories, they attempt to describe a domain – in this case, the moral landscape. They aim to answer questions about which actions are right or wrong, and why. These theories also diverge, and even when they recommend similar actions, such as giving to charity, they justify them in different ways. Ethical theories also often begin with a small set of foundational principles or claims, from which they reason about more complex moral problems.

Q1. All of the following can reasonably be inferred from the passage EXCEPT:

- (1) The appeal of an AI judge rests on immunity to bribery, partiality, and fatigue; yet the text questions whether procedural cleanliness amounts to moral understanding without lived context and interpretive depth.
- (2) By analogy with physics, compact postulates can yield broad predictions across incompatible theories and ethics can likewise share structure while continuing to diverge rather than close on a single comprehensive framework.
- (3) Encoding ethics into fixed structures risks stripping away intuition, history, and context and, if that occurs, the depth that enables reflective judgment disappears. So, machines would mirror our limits rather than exceed them.
- (4) With fixed moral starting points and expanding computational resources, the argument forecasts convergence on one ethical system and treats contextual judgment as unnecessary once formal reasoning scales across domains and cultures.

Correct Answer: (4) With fixed moral starting points and expanding computational resources, the argument forecasts convergence on one ethical system and treats contextual

judgment as unnecessary once formal reasoning scales across domains and cultures.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage discusses AI and ethics, particularly how it might replicate human moral judgment. It talks about AI potentially reducing complexity by following set structures, which could strip away essential qualities of human judgment such as intuition and context.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) is inferred as it talks about AI's impartiality and concerns about its procedural correctness.
- (2) presents a comparison to physics, which aligns with the discussion of formalization in ethics.
- (3) matches the passage's message about the risk of stripping away essential judgment qualities if ethics are formalized.
- (4) contradicts the passage as it suggests a reduction to a single ethical framework, which the passage argues is impractical.

Quick Tip

AI's ability to formalize ethics is debated, as reducing moral reasoning to fixed points may overlook essential human qualities.

Q2. Which one of the options below best summarises the passage?

- (1) The passage highlights administrative gains from automation. It treats reproducing human moral judgment as progress and argues that, as computational resources increase, AI can be responsible for decision-making across varied institutional settings.
- (2) The passage weighs the appeal of an impersonal AI judge against doubts about moral grasp. It warns that codification can erode case-sensitive judgment, allow axiom-led reasoning at scale, and use a physics analogy to model structured plurality.
- (3) The passage weighs the appeal of an impersonal AI judge against doubts about moral grasp. It claims codified schemes retain case nuance at scale and uses a physics analogy to

predict convergence on a unified framework.

(4) The passage rejects formal methods in principle. It holds that moral judgment cannot be expressed in disciplined terms and concludes that AI should not serve in courts, medicine, or diplomacy under any conditions.

Correct Answer: (2) The passage weighs the appeal of an impersonal AI judge against doubts about moral grasp. It warns that codification can erode case-sensitive judgment, allow axiom-led reasoning at scale, and use a physics analogy to model structured plurality.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage discusses AI's potential role in moral reasoning and the concerns about formalization. It highlights the balance between computational advantages and the loss of essential ethical judgment.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) focuses too much on administrative aspects, which doesn't summarize the core message.
- (2) is the best summary as it addresses the AI judge's appeal and the risks involved, especially codification.
- (3) talks about the positive side of codification, which is not the focus.
- (4) takes an extreme view that isn't reflected in the passage.

Quick Tip

The passage focuses on the limitations of AI's formalization in ethics, stressing its risks over benefits.

Q3. The passage compares ethics to physics, where different theories apply to different aspects of a domain and says AI can reason from fixed starting points in complex cases. Which one of the assumptions below must hold for that comparison to guide practice?

(1) Real cases never straddle different areas, so a case always fits exactly one framework without any overlap whatsoever.

- (2) Once formalised, all ethical frameworks yield the same recommendation in every case, so selection among them is unnecessary.
- (3) A single master framework replaces all others after translation into one code, so domain boundaries disappear in application.
- (4) There is a principled way to decide which ethical framework applies to which class of cases, so the system can select the relevant starting points before deriving a recommendation.

Correct Answer: (4) There is a principled way to decide which ethical framework applies to which class of cases, so the system can select the relevant starting points before deriving a recommendation.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage compares ethics to physics, suggesting that AI can reason from fixed points in complex situations, similar to how physics theories apply to specific domains.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) assumes that cases do not overlap, which is not a valid assumption according to the passage's comparison.
- (2) suggests that all frameworks always give the same result, which contradicts the passage's message that they diverge.
- (3) proposes a single master framework, which isn't supported by the passage's view on diverging theories.
- (4) aligns with the passage's argument about selecting relevant frameworks for specific cases.

Quick Tip

In AI-driven decision-making, selecting the appropriate ethical framework is essential for ensuring accurate recommendations.

Q4. Choose the one option below that comes closest to being the opposite of “utilitarianism”.

- (1) The committee adopted a non-egoist framework, ranking policies by their contribution to overall social welfare and treating self-interest as a derivative concern within institutional evaluation.
- (2) The council followed a priorititarian approach, assigning greater moral weight to improvements for the worst-off rather than to maximising total welfare across the affected population.
- (3) The authors advocated an absolutist stance, following exceptionless rules regardless of outcomes and evaluating choices by broadest societal benefit.
- (4) The policy was cast as deontological ethics, selecting the option that delivered the highest total benefit to citizens while presenting duty as a secondary consideration in public decision-making.

Correct Answer: (2) The council followed a priorititarian approach, assigning greater moral weight to improvements for the worst-off rather than to maximising total welfare across the affected population.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The question asks for the opposite of utilitarianism, which prioritizes overall happiness. The passage suggests priorititarianism as an alternative that focuses more on improving the situation of the worst-off.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) describes a non-egoist framework but does not oppose utilitarianism directly.
- (2) is the correct answer as priorititarianism contrasts with utilitarianism by focusing on the worst-off.
- (3) represents an absolutist stance, which does not align as the opposite of utilitarianism.
- (4) suggests a deontological approach, which still doesn't completely oppose utilitarianism as it may focus on duty rather than welfare.

Quick Tip

Utilitarianism focuses on maximizing total welfare, while priorititarianism emphasizes benefiting the worst-off.

Passage:

In 1982, a raging controversy broke out over a forest act drafted by the Government of India. This act sought to strengthen the already extensive powers enjoyed by the forest bureaucracy in controlling the extraction, disposal and sale of forest produce. It also gave forest officials greater powers to strictly regulate the entry of any person into reserved forest areas. While forest officials justified the act on the grounds that it was necessary to stop the continuing deforestation, it was bitterly opposed by representatives of grassroots organisations, who argued that it was a major violation of the rights of peasants and tribals living in and around forest areas. . . .

The debate over the draft forest act fuelled a larger controversy over the orientation of state forest policy. It was pointed out, for example, that the draft act was closely modelled on its predecessor, the Forest Act of 1878. The earlier Act rested on a usurpation of rights of ownership by the colonial state which had little precedent in precolonial history. It was further argued that the system of forestry introduced by the British—and continued, with little modification, after 1947—emphasised revenue generation and commercial exploitation, while its policing orientation excluded villagers who had the most longstanding claim on forest resources. Critics called for a complete overhaul of forest administration, pressing the government to formulate policy and legislation more appropriate to present needs. . . .

That debate is not over yet. The draft act was shelved, though it has not as yet been formally withdrawn. Meanwhile, the 1878 Act (as modified by an amendment in 1927) continues to be in operation. In response to its critics, the government has made some important changes in forest policy, e.g., no longer treating forests as a source of revenue, and stopping ecologically hazardous practices such as the clearfelling of natural forests. At the same time, it has shown little inclination to meet the major demand of the critics of forest policy—namely, abandoning the principle of state monopoly over forest land by handing over areas of degraded forests to individuals and communities for afforestation.

. . . [The] 1878 Forest Act itself was passed only after a bitter and prolonged debate within the colonial bureaucracy, in which protagonists put forward arguments strikingly similar to

those being advanced today. As well known, the Indian Forest Department owes its origin to the requirements of railway companies. The early years of the expansion of the railway network, c. 1853 onwards, led to tremendous deforestation in peninsular India owing to the railway's requirements of fuelwood and construction timber. Huge quantities of durable timbers were also needed for use as sleepers across the new railway tracks. Inexperienced in forestry, the British called in German experts to commence systematic forest management. The Indian Forest Department was started in 1864, with Dietrich Brandis, formally a Lecturer in Botany, as the first Inspector General of Forests. The early years of the forest department, even as it grew, continued to meet the railway needs for timber and wood. These systems first emerged as part of the needs of the expanding empire.

Q5. Which one of the following best encapsulates the reason for the “raging controversy” developing into a “larger controversy”?

- (1) The 1982 draft forest act further enabled the commercial exploitation of forest resources by the forest bureaucracy.
- (2) The 1982 draft forest act violated the rights of tribals and peasants who lived in and around forest areas.
- (3) The 1982 draft forest act replicated colonial measures of control and regulation of forest resources.
- (4) The 1982 draft forest act was unjustifiably defended by forest officials in the face of bitter opposition by grassroots organisations.

Correct Answer: (3) The 1982 draft forest act replicated colonial measures of control and regulation of forest resources.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage talks about the controversy surrounding the 1982 draft forest act and its replication of colonial-era forest control measures.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) This option suggests exploitation, but it doesn't encapsulate the larger controversy mentioned in the passage.
- (2) While this is true, it does not address the main reason for the larger controversy.

- (3) Correct answer: The controversy arose because the draft act replicated colonial forest management strategies.
- (4) This option refers to the defense of the act, but the controversy is more about the act's alignment with colonial strategies.

Quick Tip

The main cause of the larger controversy was the replication of colonial policies, particularly in forest control.

Q6. According to the passage, which one of the following reforms is yet to happen in India's forest policies?

- (1) Involving local people in cultivating forests.
- (2) Recognising the significance of forests to ecology.
- (3) A ban on deforestation.
- (4) Recognising the state's claim to forest land use.

Correct Answer: (1) Involving local people in cultivating forests.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage discusses reforms in India's forest policies and highlights the need for involving local communities in forest cultivation.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) Correct answer: The passage points out that involving local people is a reform still needed in India's forest policies.
- (2) The significance of forests to ecology is already recognised in the passage.
- (3) A ban on deforestation is also addressed, but not as the primary missing reform.
- (4) The state's claim is already incorporated, as per the passage.

Quick Tip

One of the key reforms that is yet to happen is involving local communities more actively in the management of forests.

Q7. According to the passage, which one of the following is not common to the 1878 Forest Act and the 1982 draft forest act?

- (1) Both resulted in large scale deforestation.
- (2) Both sparked controversy and debate among the various stakeholders.
- (3) Both sought to establish the state's monopoly over forest resources.
- (4) Both reflect a colonial mindset.

Correct Answer: (1) Both resulted in large scale deforestation.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage compares the 1878 Forest Act and the 1982 draft forest act, highlighting their similarities and differences.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) Correct answer: The passage mentions the acts' similarities but does not suggest both resulted in deforestation.
- (2) Both acts sparked controversy.
- (3) Both acts aimed to establish state control over forest resources.
- (4) Both reflect colonial policies, according to the passage.

Quick Tip

Both the 1878 Act and the 1982 draft forest act share colonial-era mindsets, though they differ in their environmental impacts.

Q8. All of the following, if true, would weaken the narrative presented in the passage EXCEPT that:

- (1) Before British rule, peasants and tribal groups were denied access to forest resources by Indian rulers and their administrations.
- (2) Certain tribal groups in India are responsible for climate change because their sustenance has historically depended on mass scale deforestation.
- (3) The timber requirement for railway works in nineteenth century India was met through import from China, in exchange for spices.
- (4) Nineteenth century German forestry experts were infamous for violating the rights of indigenous communities that lived in forest regions.

Correct Answer: (4) Nineteenth century German forestry experts were infamous for violating the rights of indigenous communities that lived in forest regions.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage discusses the historical context of forest policies and the rights of peasants and tribal groups in India.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) would weaken the narrative as it suggests that the denial of access was also prevalent before British rule.
- (2) would weaken the argument by blaming tribal groups for climate change.
- (3) weakens the narrative by suggesting that deforestation was caused by imports, not local practices.
- (4) supports the narrative by showing the negative impact of colonial forestry practices.

Quick Tip

The narrative is primarily focused on the consequences of colonial forest policies, so information supporting this is consistent with the passage.

Q9. The given sentence is missing in the paragraph below. Decide where it best fits among the options 1, 2, 3, or 4 indicated in the paragraph.

Sentence: In each of the affected males, the genetic defect was located to the X chromosome in the region of p11-12.

Paragraph: The first suggested evidence of a human genetic mutation associated with aggressive behaviour came from a study in 1993. ____ (1)____. Genetic and metabolic studies were conducted on a large Dutch family in which several of the males has a syndrome of borderline mental retardation and abnormal behaviour. ____ (2)____. The undesirable behaviour included impulsive aggression, arson and exhibitionism. ____ (3)____. A point mutation was identified in the eighth exon of the monoamine oxidase A (MAOA) structural gene which changes glutamine to a termination codon. ____ (4)____.

- (1) Option 1
- (2) Option 2
- (3) Option 3
- (4) Option 4

Correct Answer: (3) Option 3

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage talks about a genetic defect that leads to abnormal behaviour, including impulsive aggression.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) doesn't provide a proper lead into the genetic studies.
- (2) introduces the type of behaviour well but doesn't connect the genetic mutation clearly.
- (3) is the correct answer as it introduces the point mutation related to the aggression.
- (4) talks about a different aspect of the gene and doesn't provide the necessary lead.

Quick Tip

Inserting sentences in a logical order connects ideas and helps maintain the flow of information.

Q10. Five jumbled sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5), related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence out and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.

(1) About half of all the oxygen we breathe is made near the surface of the ocean by phytoplankton that photosynthesize just like land-dwelling plants.

(2) A team of scientists that includes Boston University experts has discovered they also produce oxygen on the seafloor.

(3) The research team used deep-sea chambers that land on the seafloor and enclose the seawater, sediment, polymetallic nodules, and living organisms.

(4) The discovery is a surprise considering oxygen is typically created by plants and organisms with help from the sun—not by rocks on the ocean floor.

(5) The deep-sea rocks, called polymetallic nodules, don't only host a surprising number of sea critters.

Correct Answer: (3) Option 3

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage discusses the discovery of oxygen-producing organisms on the seafloor, challenging traditional ideas about oxygen production.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) introduces the main idea of oxygen production by phytoplankton.
- (2) supports the main idea with the discovery made by the research team.
- (3) is the odd sentence as it deviates from the main topic of oxygen production and talks about deep-sea chambers.
- (4) provides a surprising element about the oxygen creation.
- (5) adds a further detail about the deep-sea rocks.

Quick Tip

Look for sentences that introduce or explain the main topic, while others support it or provide additional details.

Q11. The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4) given below, when properly sequenced, would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer.

(1) When I ask the distinguished LGBTQ activist and writer Cherie Moraga whether she uses Latinx to refer to herself, she tells me, ‘I worked too hard for the “a” in Latina to give it up! I refer to myself as Xicana.’

(2) Of our accumulated ethnic population, only a third use Hispanic to identify themselves, a mere 14 percent use Latino, and less than 2 percent recognize Latinx.

(3) They have done this, although gender in languages is grammatical, not sociological or sexual, and found in linguistic families throughout the world, from French to Russian to Japanese.

(4) More recently, activists seeking to render our name gender neutral, out of respect for our LGBTQ members, have devised yet another name for us: Latinx.

Correct Answer: (4) 4312

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage discusses the use of the term “Latinx” and its evolution within the community.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) introduces the personal experience of Cherie Moraga.
- (4) leads into the recent adoption of “Latinx” by activists.
- (3) gives background on how gender is approached in languages.
- (2) provides statistics on how different terms are used.

Quick Tip

Sequencing sentences logically is key to understanding the flow of ideas. In this case, starting with the personal anecdote, followed by the statistics, and the evolution of the term, works best.

Q12. The given sentence is missing in the paragraph below. Decide where it best fits among the options 1, 2, 3, or 4 indicated in the paragraph.

Sentence: Productivity gains, once expected to feed through to broader living standards, now primarily serve to enhance returns to wealth.

Paragraph: Economists now argue that inequality is no longer a by-product of growth but a condition of it. ____ (1)____. Unlike wages, wealth reflects not just income but also access to assets, favourable institutional conditions—such as low interest rates—and public policies like low taxes and housing shortages. ____ (2)____. In other words, wealth depends on political choices in ways that income currently does not. It’s not just the inequality itself that is the issue but the erosion of mechanisms that once constrained it. ____ (3)____. Wealth and income inequality are linked, but where wages have stagnated and collective bargaining has weakened, capital income—derived from profits, rents and interest—has been boosted by design. ____ (4)____.

- (1) Option 1
- (2) Option 2
- (3) Option 3
- (4) Option 4

Correct Answer: (3) Option 3

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage discusses inequality, its relation to wealth, and how wealth and income are interrelated but influenced by political choices.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) introduces the issue well by talking about the condition of inequality.
- (2) provides an explanation of the factors influencing wealth.
- (3) fits well as it talks about the political choices influencing wealth, making it the best fit.
- (4) brings in more specific details about wealth accumulation, which is important but not a perfect fit here.

Quick Tip

The key is understanding the flow of economic arguments, where political decisions about wealth are critical to understanding inequality.

Q13. The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

The return to the tailor is the juxtaposition of three key things for the mindful Indian shopper. The first is the conscious shift away from the homogeneity of fast fashion, the idea of a hundred other people owning exactly the same Zara trench coat or HM pleated skirt. The second is an actual understanding of the waste behind the fast fashion market, and wanting not to contribute to that anymore. The last is the shift toward customisation and fit—the idea of having imaginations brought to life and to have them fit exactly; without paying exorbitant rates for that bespoke tailoring. For the individual with a keen fashion sense and a genuine desire to move away from the waste and uniformity of fast fashion without paying the premium for it that indie brands would invariably demand, the tailor is the perfect crossover.

- (1) The mindful Indian shopper is shifting away from convenience and uniformity of clothing, and waste in fashion, to customisation and less exorbitantly priced clothing.
- (2) In the Indian retail market, people believe that expensive branded clothes are wasteful and, therefore, are returning to the neighbourhood tailor.
- (3) The mindful Indian shoppers are returning to the tailor with a genuine desire to wear clothes which are less expensive, fit them well and are yet fashionable.

(4) All Indian shoppers are opting for customisation and a shift away from homogeneity over expensive clothing brands like Zara and HM.

Correct Answer: (1) The mindful Indian shopper is shifting away from convenience and uniformity of clothing, and waste in fashion, to customisation and less exorbitantly priced clothing.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage talks about a shift in the Indian retail market where shoppers are moving away from fast fashion towards more customisation and mindful fashion choices.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) is the correct answer as it captures the shift towards customisation and away from waste and uniformity in fashion.
- (2) focuses on expensive clothing but doesn't capture the essence of the mindful shopper's actions.
- (3) is a close option but doesn't fully capture the shift from uniformity to customisation.
- (4) generalises all shoppers, which is not accurate to the passage's focus on the mindful shopper.

Quick Tip

When summarising a passage, focus on the key actions and shifts discussed, and not on generalised statements.

Q14. Five jumbled sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5), related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence out and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.

- (1) The profound emotional impact of music has inspired ongoing research into its relationship with emotions.
- (2) Music is a universal phenomenon that utilizes a myriad brain resources.

(3) This inherent connection to musical expression is deeply intertwined with human identity and experience.

(4) The proclivity to create and appreciate music is ubiquitous among humans, permeating daily life across diverse societies.

(5) Engaging with music is among the most cognitively demanding tasks a human can undergo, and it is identified across cultures.

Correct Answer: (1) Option 1

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage talks about the universal nature of music and its connection to human emotions and cognitive demands.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) is the odd sentence out as it discusses ongoing research, which isn't directly related to the universal impact of music described in the other sentences.
- (2) talks about the brain resources used by music, which supports the universal impact idea.
- (3) discusses the connection between music and human identity.
- (4) talks about the global nature of music, which fits well with the other sentences.
- (5) ties the cognitive demands of music, which aligns with the passage's context.

Quick Tip

When identifying the odd sentence, look for information that doesn't directly fit the core topic or concept discussed.

Q15. The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4) given below, when properly sequenced, would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer.

(1) The effigy of a candidate establishes a personal link between him and the voters; the candidate does not only offer a programme for judgement, he suggests a physical climate, a set of daily choices expressed in a morphology, a way of dressing, a posture.

- (2) Some candidates for Parliament adorn their electoral prospectus with a portrait; this presupposes that photography has a power to convert which must be analysed.
- (3) Inasmuch as photography is an ellipse of language and a condensation of an ‘ineffable’ social whole, it constitutes an anti-intellectual weapon and tends to spirit away ‘politics’ (that is to say a body of problems and solutions) to the advantage of a ‘manner of being’, a socio-moral status.
- (4) Photography tends to restore the paternalistic nature of elections, whose elitist essence has been disrupted by proportional representation and the rule of parties (The Right seems to use it more than the Left).

Correct Answer: (2) 2143

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage discusses the use of photography in political campaigns and its implications for societal norms and politics.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (2) introduces the idea of using photography in campaigns.
- (1) follows, discussing how the candidate links with voters through their image.
- (4) then talks about photography’s role in elections, connecting to the previous sentences.
- (3) concludes with the role of photography in reinforcing a social status.

Quick Tip

Sequencing sentences logically allows the ideas to flow, connecting related concepts and providing a coherent argument.

Passage:

Over the course of the twentieth century, humans built, on average, one large dam a day, hulking structures of steel and concrete designed to control flooding, facilitate irrigation, and generate electricity. Dams were also lucrative contracts, large-scale employers, and the physical instantiation of a messianic drive to conquer territories and control nature. Some of

the results of that drive were charismatic mega-infrastructure—the Hoover on the Colorado River or the Aswan on the Nile—but most of the tens of thousands of dams that dot the Earth’s landscape have drawn little attention. These are the smaller, though not inconsequential, barriers that today impede the flow of water on nearly two-thirds of the world’s large waterways. Chances are, what your map calls a “lake” is actually a reservoir, and that thin blue line that emerges from it once flowed very differently.

Damming a river is always a partisan act. Even when explicit infrastructure goals—irrigation, flood control, electrification—were met, other consequences were significant and often deleterious. Across the world, river control displaced millions of people, threatening livelihoods, foodways, and cultures. In the western United States, dams were often an instrument of colonialism, used to dispossess Indigenous people and subsidize settler agriculture. And as dams slowed the flow of water, inhibited the movement of nutrients, and increased the amount of toxic algae and other parasites, they snuffed out entire river ecologies. Declining fish populations are the most evident effect, but dams also threaten a host of other animals—from birds and reptiles to fungi and plants—with extinction. Every major dam, then, is also a sacrifice zone, a place where lives, livelihoods, and ways of life are eliminated so that new sorts of landscapes can support water-intensive agriculture and cities that sprout downstream of new reservoirs.

Such sacrifices have been justified as offerings at the temples of modernity. Justified by—and for—whom, though? Over the course of the twentieth century, rarely were the costs and benefits weighed thoughtfully and decided democratically. As Kader Asmal, chair of the landmark 2000 World Commission on Dams, concluded, “There have been precious few, if any, comprehensive, independent analyses as to why dams came about, how dams perform over time, and whether we are getting a fair return from our 2 trillion Dollar investment.” A quarter-century later, Asmal’s words ring ever truer. A litany of dams built in the mid-twentieth century are approaching the end of their expected lives, with worrying prospects for their durability. Droughts, magnified and multiplied by the effects of climate change, have forced more and more to run below capacity. If ever there were a time to rethink the mania for dams, it would be now.

There is some evidence that a combination of opposition, alternative energy sources, and a

lack of viable projects has slowed the construction of major dams. But a wave of recent and ongoing construction, from India and China to Ethiopia and Canada, continues to tilt the global balance firmly in favor of water impoundment.

Q16. What does the author wish to communicate by referring to the Hoover and Aswan dams in the first paragraph?

- (1) The Colorado and Nile rivers may be seen as thin blue lines on a map.
- (2) The designers and builders of these mega-structures were highly charismatic individuals.
- (3) The drive to control nature is evident not only in mega-infrastructures like the Hoover and Aswan dams, but in smaller dams as well.
- (4) By building dams like the Hoover and Aswan dams, large-scale employers became messianic figures.

Correct Answer: (3) The drive to control nature is evident not only in mega-infrastructures like the Hoover and Aswan dams, but in smaller dams as well.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The author highlights the large and small dams built as part of a larger drive to control nature, with reference to notable dams like Hoover and Aswan.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) Talks about rivers as lines on maps, which is not the author's focus.
- (2) Mentions the charisma of the designers, which is irrelevant to the main point.
- (3) Correct answer: The author connects both large and small dams to the same goal of controlling nature.
- (4) Talks about the role of large employers, but the focus is more on the control of nature.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to how the author relates smaller and larger examples to the same overarching concept.

Q17. The word “instantiation” is used in the first paragraph. Which one of the following pairs of terms would be the best substitute for it in the context of its usage in the paragraph?

- (1) Exemplification and manifestation
- (2) Development and construction
- (3) Durability and timeliness
- (4) Concreteness and viability

Correct Answer: (1) Exemplification and manifestation

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The author uses the term “instantiation” to describe how the drive to control nature is made manifest through the building of dams.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) Correct answer: “Instantiation” refers to how something is exemplified or made manifest, which fits the context.
- (2) Talks about construction and development, which doesn’t fit the meaning of “instantiation.”
- (3) Focuses on time and durability, which doesn’t align with the context of exemplifying a concept.
- (4) Refers to substance, which isn’t a good substitute for “instantiation” in this context.

Quick Tip

“Instantiation” often refers to the process of making something concrete or manifest.

Q18. All of the following statements may be considered valid inferences from the passage EXCEPT that:

- (1) Despite increasing evidence of opposition to dams as well as alternatives to them, they continue to be built.
- (2) Dam-building has proved to be an extremely costly enterprise that may not be justifiable.

- (3) Processes of colonisation have used dam-building to make people vacate their territories.
(4) Smaller, though not inconsequential, dams are safer than large dam projects.

Correct Answer: (4) Smaller, though not inconsequential, dams are safer than large dam projects.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage mentions the dangers and costs associated with large dam projects, but it does not suggest that smaller dams are safer.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) is supported by the passage, which mentions the continued construction of dams despite opposition.
- (2) is inferred from the passage's focus on the costs of dam-building.
- (3) is directly mentioned in the passage regarding colonial practices.
- (4) is not supported, as the passage doesn't compare the safety of small vs. large dams.

Quick Tip

Inferences should align directly with the passage's discussion and not introduce unsupported claims.

Q19. Which one of the following sets of terms is closest to mapping the key arguments of the passage?

- (1) Mega-infrastructure – Sacrifice zone – Worshipping modernity – Water impoundment
- (2) Partisan act – Threatened livelihoods – Toxic algae – Quarter century
- (3) Lucrative contracts – Sacrifice zone – Expected lives – Global balance
- (4) Physical instantiation – Partisan act – Decided democratically – Alternative energy

Correct Answer: (1) Mega-infrastructure – Sacrifice zone – Worshipping modernity – Water impoundment

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Passage.**

The passage discusses the impact of large dam projects, referring to them as mega-infrastructure and sacrifice zones, where modernity is worshipped at the expense of the environment.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) Correct answer: This set closely matches the terms used in the passage.
- (2) refers to consequences but doesn't fit the overall theme.
- (3) touches on certain aspects, but doesn't fully capture the key terms.
- (4) focuses on alternatives and energy, which is less relevant to the main argument.

Quick Tip

Focus on key thematic terms when mapping the main arguments of a passage.

Passage:

Once a society accepts a secular mode of creativity, within which the creator replaces God, imaginative transactions assume a self-conscious form. The tribal imagination, on the other hand, is still to a large extent dreamlike and hallucinatory. It admits fusion between various planes of existence and levels of time in a natural and artless manner. In tribal stories, oceans fly in the sky as birds, mountains swim in water as fish, animals speak as humans and stars grow like plants. Spatial order and temporal sequence do not restrict the narrative. This is not to say that tribal creations have no conventions or rules, but simply that they admit the principle of association between emotion and the narrative motif. Thus stars, seas, mountains, trees, men and animals can be angry, sad or happy.

It might be said that tribal artists work more on the basis of their racial and sensory memory than on the basis of a cultivated imagination. In order to understand this distinction, we must understand the difference between imagination and memory. In the animate world, consciousness meets two immediate material realities: space and time. We put meaning into space by perceiving it in terms of images. The image-making faculty is a genetic gift to the

human mind—this power of imagination helps us understand the space that envelops us. With regard to time, we make connections with the help of memory; one remembers being the same person today as one was yesterday.

The tribal mind has a more acute sense of time than the sense of space. Somewhere along the history of human civilization, tribal communities seem to have realized that domination over territorial space was not their lot. Thus, they seem to have turned almost obsessively to gaining domination over time. This urge is substantiated in their ritual of conversing with their dead ancestors: year after year, tribals in many parts of India worship terracotta or carved-wood objects representing their ancestors, aspiring to enter a trance in which they can converse with the dead. Over the centuries, an amazingly sharp memory has helped tribals classify material and natural objects into a highly complex system of knowledge. . .

One of the main characteristics of the tribal arts is their distinct manner of constructing space and imagery, which might be described as ‘hallucinatory’. In both oral and visual forms of representation, tribal artists seem to interpret verbal or pictorial art as demarcated by an extremely flexible ‘frame’. The boundaries between art and non-art become almost invisible. A tribal epic can begin its narration from a trivial everyday event; tribal paintings merge with living space as if the two were one and the same. And within the narrative itself, or within the painted imagery, there is no deliberate attempt to follow a sequence. The episodes retold and the images created take on the apparently chaotic shapes of dreams. In a way, the syntax of language and the grammar of painting are the same, as if literature were painted words and painting were a song of images.

Q20. Non-human living forms exhibit human emotions in tribal narratives because tribal narratives:

- (1) accommodate existential fluidity.
- (2) abandon all rules and regulations.
- (3) have a self-conscious form.
- (4) are rudimentary and underdeveloped.

Correct Answer: (1) accommodate existential fluidity.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage discusses the fluid nature of tribal narratives and their blending of time, space, and emotion.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) Correct answer: Tribal narratives accommodate existential fluidity, allowing non-human forms to express human emotions.
- (2) While there is fluidity, abandoning all rules is not implied by the passage.
- (3) The passage does not suggest a self-conscious form in tribal narratives.
- (4) The narrative style is not described as rudimentary.

Quick Tip

Look for key terms in the passage like "fluidity" to identify the right answer.

Q21. On the basis of the passage, which one of the following explains the main difference between imagination and memory?

- (1) Imagination helps humans make sense of space while memory helps them understand time.
- (2) Tribal groups value memory over imagination when it comes to creating art and literature.
- (3) Imagination needs to be cultivated whereas memory is more intuitive because it is racial and sensory.
- (4) Imagination is a genetic gift to humans whereas memory is central to human consciousness.

Correct Answer: (1) Imagination helps humans make sense of space while memory helps them understand time.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage explains the difference between imagination (linked to space) and memory (linked to time).

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) Correct answer: The main distinction made in the passage is that imagination relates to space and memory to time.
- (2) The passage does not suggest that tribal groups value memory more than imagination.
- (3) Imagination is cultivated, but the passage connects it to space, not just cultivation.
- (4) The passage does not discuss imagination and memory in genetic terms.

Quick Tip

Focus on the contrast the passage draws between space (imagination) and time (memory).

Q22. All of the following statements may be considered valid inferences from the passage EXCEPT that:

- (1) Tribal art excludes the depiction of the mundane reality of everyday life and objects.
- (2) Shamanic rituals involving conversing with the dead often feature in tribal stories.
- (3) Tribal narratives exhibit a chronological beginning, middle, and end.
- (4) Tribal stories depict the natural world in accordance with rational scientific knowledge.

Correct Answer: (4) Tribal stories depict the natural world in accordance with rational scientific knowledge.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage explains the hallucinatory nature of tribal stories, which blend the natural world with emotional and spiritual elements, not rational scientific knowledge.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) Valid inference: Tribal art avoids mundane depictions, focusing on a hallucinatory style.
- (2) Valid inference: Shamanic rituals are mentioned as part of tribal storytelling.
- (3) Valid inference: Tribal stories are structured with a beginning, middle, and end.
- (4) Incorrect: The passage does not suggest that tribal stories align with rational scientific knowledge.

Quick Tip

When evaluating inferences, look for those that align with the narrative style described in the passage.

Q23. Which one of the following best explains why tribals in India worship their dead ancestors?

- (1) Tribals seek territorial domination over the spaces that they inhabit.
- (2) For tribals, conversing with the dead becomes a way of seeking control over time.
- (3) Tribals show respect to their ancestors through terracotta and carved-wood objects.
- (4) Tribals possess a sophisticated knowledge system that is based on memory.

Correct Answer: (2) For tribals, conversing with the dead becomes a way of seeking control over time.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Passage.

The passage suggests that tribals worship their ancestors as part of their desire to gain control over time.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) Territorial domination is not the main reason for ancestral worship as per the passage.
- (2) Correct answer: The passage directly mentions this as the reason for conversing with the dead.
- (3) Worship through objects is mentioned but is not the main explanation.
- (4) The knowledge system is not linked to the worship of ancestors.

Quick Tip

Look for explanations that align directly with the passage's theme of control over time and spiritual connection.

Q24. The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

In investigating memory-beliefs, there are certain points which must be borne in mind. In the first place, everything constituting a memory-belief is happening now, not in that past time to which the belief is said to refer. It is not logically necessary to the existence of a memory-belief that the event remembered should have occurred, or even that the past should have existed at all. There is no logical impossibility in the hypothesis that the world sprang into being five minutes ago, exactly as it then was, with a population that "remembered" a wholly unreal past. There is no logically necessary connection between events at different times; therefore nothing that is happening now or will happen in the future can disprove the hypothesis that the world began five minutes ago. Hence the occurrences which are CALLED knowledge of the past are logically independent of the past; they are wholly analysable into present contents, which might, theoretically, be just what they are even if no past had existed.

- (1) When we discuss the concept of memory-beliefs, we must understand that it is not logically impossible for the event remembered to have never happened at all; it could just be a figment of our imagination.
- (2) Memory-beliefs depend wholly on what is remembered in the present, and not on anything else; just as it is not logically impossible that the world came into being five minutes ago, and that everyone now just remembers a wholly imaginary past for it.
- (3) When investigating memory beliefs, we must keep in mind that an actual past event is not a prerequisite for a memory-belief to exist, and that what we know of the past could theoretically need a past at all.
- (4) That which we call "knowledge of the past" is logically independent of the past, since the act of remembering which forms memory-beliefs happens in the present, and does not need to be based in real past occurrences, or even need a past at all.

Correct Answer: (4) That which we call "knowledge of the past" is logically independent of the past, since the act of remembering which forms memory-beliefs happens in the present, and does not need to be based in real past occurrences, or even need a past at all.

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Passage.**

The passage focuses on the idea that memory-beliefs are not necessarily tied to actual past events, and they can be understood as present occurrences that reflect the past.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (1) Talks about the possibility of the event never happening, which aligns with the passage's argument about the independence of memory-beliefs from actual past events.
- (2) Focuses too much on the idea of time and doesn't capture the essence of the passage, which highlights the independence of the past from memory-beliefs.
- (3) Addresses memory-beliefs and their independence from actual past events, but doesn't cover the logical independence as well as option (4) does.
- (4) Correct answer: This statement fully encapsulates the passage's point about memory-beliefs being tied to present occurrences, not needing to rely on actual past events.

Quick Tip

Look for answers that directly address the relationship between the present and the past in the context of memory-beliefs.