

# CAT Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension

## Sample Paper – 1

Duration: 40 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 72

### Instructions

- This paper contains **24** questions modelled on the Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VARC) section of CAT: **16** Reading Comprehension questions on four passages and **8** Verbal Ability questions.
- Each correct answer carries **+3 marks**. For **MCQs** there is a penalty of **-1 mark** for a wrong answer; **TITA** (Type-In-The-Answer) questions carry **no negative marking**. Unattempted questions score 0.
- For an MCQ, exactly **one** option is correct. For a TITA question, type the required sequence or number directly (no options are given).
- Read each passage once for structure, then answer from the text; do not rely on outside knowledge.
- Recommended time is **40 minutes**, matching the real CAT sectional limit.

### Section I: Reading Comprehension

**Directions (Q1–Q4):** Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. Economists once assumed that people, if left alone, would save sensibly for the future. The evidence has not been kind to that assumption. Across many countries, households save far less than they themselves say they wish to, and they do so year after year, fully aware of the gap. Behavioural economists trace this shortfall to what they call present bias: the tendency to weigh an immediate reward far more heavily than a distant one, even when the distant reward is plainly larger. A person may resolve on Sunday to begin saving on Monday, only to find, when Monday arrives, that the pleasures available now again outweigh the abstract comfort of a richer retirement.

What makes present bias stubborn is that it is not a simple error of arithmetic. People can calculate compound interest perfectly well and still fail to act on it. The problem lies in how the mind discounts time. When a reward is far away, we discount it steeply; as it draws near, the discount shrinks and the reward suddenly looms large. Because the near reward always looks larger than it did from a distance, our plans and our actions repeatedly diverge. The saver is not ignorant; the saver is, in a precise sense, inconsistent over time.



The policy response has been to redesign the moment of choice rather than to lecture the chooser. If workers must actively enrol in a pension scheme, many never get around to it; if they are enrolled automatically and must actively opt out, participation rises sharply, even though the paperwork is identical. The default does the work that willpower could not. Critics object that such nudges are paternalistic, quietly steering people toward ends chosen by someone else. Defenders reply that there is no neutral default: some arrangement must be the starting point, and it may as well be the one that most people, on reflection, say they want. The deeper lesson is that the frictionless, fully rational chooser of the textbooks was always a fiction. Real people are moved by inertia, by the framing of a form, by the effort of a single decision. Recognising this does not licence manipulation, but it does change the questions we ask. The issue is no longer merely whether people are free to choose, but whether the architecture of choice is arranged so that a moment of weakness does not quietly cost them a comfortable old age.

- Q1.** Which of the following best captures the primary purpose of the passage?
- (A) To prove that people are incapable of understanding compound interest.
  - (B) To explain why people undersave and to defend redesigning choices rather than blaming savers.
  - (C) To argue that automatic pension enrolment should be made compulsory everywhere.
  - (D) To show that behavioural economics has replaced traditional economics entirely.
- Q2.** It can be inferred that “present bias” persists even among financially literate people because:
- (A) the way the mind discounts future rewards makes near rewards loom larger as they approach.
  - (B) they have never been told that saving early yields higher returns.
  - (C) they are unable to perform the arithmetic of compound interest.
  - (D) pension schemes are deliberately designed to confuse them.
- Q3.** According to the passage, automatic enrolment raises pension participation mainly because:



- (A) the financial returns from the scheme are higher under automatic enrolment.
- (B) workers are legally forbidden from leaving the scheme.
- (C) the paperwork involved becomes significantly shorter.
- (D) the default starting point does the work that active willpower fails to do.

**Q4.** How does the author treat the objection that nudges are paternalistic?

- (A) By dismissing it as irrelevant to how pensions actually work.
- (B) By fully agreeing that all nudges should therefore be banned.
- (C) By noting that some default is unavoidable, so a helpful one is defensible.
- (D) By claiming that people never actually object to being nudged.

**Directions (Q5–Q8):** Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. The dispute over free will is often staged as a clash between two confident camps, but its most interesting move is a quiet third position. The first camp, the hard determinist, holds that every event, including every human choice, is fixed by prior causes reaching back before we were born; if this is so, then freedom is an illusion and moral responsibility a kind of theatre. The second camp, the libertarian in the metaphysical sense, insists that genuine choice requires a self that can act outside the causal chain, an unmoved mover in miniature. Each camp accepts the same premise: that freedom and determinism cannot both be true.

The third position, compatibilism, rejects that premise. It argues that the freedom worth wanting was never freedom from causation at all. What we mean, in ordinary life, when we say a person acted freely is that she acted from her own desires and reasons, without external compulsion, and could have acted otherwise had she wanted to. A prisoner is unfree not because his choices have causes but because a wall stands between him and the street. On this view, a decision can be both fully caused and fully free, so long as the cause runs through the agent's own deliberation rather than around it.

Critics find this too convenient, a redefinition that saves the word "freedom" by draining it of its metaphysical weight. If my deliberations are themselves the product of causes I did not choose, they ask, in what sense is the resulting choice really mine? The compatibilist answers that the demand for a self-caused self is incoherent: nothing could satisfy it, since even a supposedly free act would have to spring from the agent's character, and that character came from somewhere. To ask to be the ultimate author of oneself is to ask to have existed before one existed.

Whatever its merits, compatibilism has a practical appeal that the other views lack. It lets us keep the everyday distinctions we cannot do without, between the pickpocket and the person whose hand was shoved, between the lie and the slip of the tongue, without first settling the



physics of the universe. Those distinctions do real work in law and in ordinary judgement. The compatibilist suggests we were never really arguing about the cosmos; we were arguing about the conditions under which it is fair to hold one another to account.

- Q5.** The central argument of the passage is that:
- (A) compatibilism dissolves the free-will debate by redefining the freedom that actually matters as freedom from compulsion, not from causation.
  - (B) hard determinism is the only intellectually honest position on free will.
  - (C) genuine freedom requires a self that acts wholly outside the causal chain.
  - (D) the free-will debate can only be settled by first settling the physics of the universe.
- Q6.** The example of the prisoner is used to illustrate that, for the compatibilist, unfreedom consists in:
- (A) having desires that were themselves caused by earlier events.
  - (B) being unable to perform compound deliberation.
  - (C) external compulsion that blocks one from acting on one's own desires.
  - (D) the absence of any prior causes acting on a person.
- Q7.** The compatibilist would most likely regard the critics' demand to be "the ultimate author of oneself" as:
- (A) a reasonable standard that determinism happens to meet.
  - (B) an incoherent demand that nothing could ever satisfy.
  - (C) the very definition of moral responsibility.
  - (D) a purely legal rather than philosophical question.
- Q8.** The primary function of the final paragraph is to:



- (A) concede that compatibilism ultimately fails on practical grounds.
- (B) introduce a fourth position that resolves the earlier dispute.
- (C) restate the hard determinist case in stronger terms.
- (D) highlight the practical, everyday usefulness of the compatibilist view.

**Directions (Q9–Q12):** Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. Every year the ocean quietly removes a large share of the carbon dioxide that human activity releases, and much of that work is done by organisms too small to see. Near the sunlit surface, phytoplankton draw carbon out of the water as they grow, just as plants on land pull it from the air. When these organisms die, or are eaten and excreted, a fraction of the carbon they contain sinks as tiny particles toward the deep sea. Scientists call this slow rain of matter the biological pump, and it transfers carbon from the surface, where it can exchange freely with the atmosphere, to depths where it may stay locked away for centuries.

The efficiency of the pump is not fixed. Most of the sinking particles are consumed by bacteria and other creatures long before they reach the sea floor, and the carbon they hold is respired back into the water. Only a small fraction descends far enough to be effectively removed from the atmosphere's reach. What determines that fraction, researchers have found, is not simply how much plankton grows at the surface, but how fast the particles sink and how hungry the community of organisms in the water column happens to be. A bloom that produces heavy, fast-sinking particles may export more carbon than a larger bloom of light material that lingers and is eaten on the way down.

This complexity matters because the pump is sensitive to a warming climate. As the surface ocean heats, it becomes more sharply layered, and this stratification can starve the surface of the nutrients that well up from below, reducing plankton growth in some regions. Warmer water also speeds up the bacteria that intercept sinking carbon, so that more of it is respired before it can descend. The two effects push in the same troubling direction: a warmer ocean may pump less carbon into the deep just as we most need it to pump more.

Yet the picture is not uniformly bleak. In some polar regions, retreating ice is exposing new water to sunlight and could locally increase plankton growth. The honest summary is that the biological pump is a planetary-scale process governed by countless small interactions, and that our ability to predict its future depends on understanding creatures and mechanisms we have only begun to measure. What is clear is that a system we long took for granted is neither simple nor guaranteed to keep working in our favour.

- Q9.** The “biological pump” described in the passage refers to the process by which:
- (A) bacteria release carbon dioxide back into the surface ocean.
  - (B) warm water becomes more sharply layered and traps nutrients.
  - (C) carbon fixed by surface plankton sinks as particles into the deep sea.



(D) retreating polar ice exposes new water to sunlight.

**Q10.** It can be inferred that a smaller bloom might export more carbon to the deep sea than a larger one if the smaller bloom:

(A) grows in warmer and more sharply stratified water.

(B) is located far from any polar region.

(C) produces light particles that linger near the surface.

(D) produces heavy particles that sink quickly past the organisms that would eat them.

**Q11.** According to the passage, a warming ocean threatens the pump's efficiency because:

(A) stratification can starve the surface of nutrients while warmth speeds the bacteria that intercept sinking carbon.

(B) it causes phytoplankton to stop drawing carbon out of the water entirely.

(C) it forces all sinking particles to dissolve before leaving the surface.

(D) it eliminates the exchange of carbon between the ocean and the atmosphere.

**Q12.** The author's attitude toward our ability to predict the pump's future is best described as:

(A) confident that current models fully capture the process.

(B) cautious, stressing both real threats and the limits of present understanding.

(C) indifferent to whether the pump continues to function.

(D) certain that the pump will fail within a few years.

**Directions (Q13–Q16):** Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. The string quartet occupies an odd place in the history of music: it is at once one of the most prestigious forms a composer can attempt and one of the least immediately gratifying to a casual listener.



Four instruments of the same family, two violins, a viola and a cello, produce a sound with none of the sheer colour of an orchestra and none of the intimacy of a solo. What the form offers instead is conversation. Each of the four voices is an equal, capable of leading or accompanying, and the interest of a quartet lies in how the argument passes among them.

The form acquired its prestige largely through Haydn, who did not invent it but shaped it into something serious. In his hands the quartet stopped being polite background music and became a vehicle for genuine development, in which a small musical idea could be turned over, questioned and transformed across a movement. Later composers treated the quartet as a private laboratory, a place to attempt what they would not risk in a symphony. Because the resources are so limited, every note is exposed; there is nowhere to hide a weak idea behind a wash of sound. Composers have therefore often reserved their most searching and personal music for the form, writing quartets late in life as a kind of summing-up.

This exposure explains why the quartet can seem forbidding. A first-time listener, expecting melody and drama, may hear only four instruments trading fragments. The rewards of the form are real but they are earned; they come from following the thread of an idea rather than waiting for a tune. Musicians speak of the difficulty of quartet playing in almost moral terms, since four equals must agree on tempo, phrasing and balance without a conductor to impose a decision. The ensemble succeeds only when each player listens as much as she sounds.

It is tempting to conclude that the quartet is simply music for connoisseurs, but that misses its appeal. The form endures because it dramatises something we recognise outside music: the effort of a small group to think together, to disagree productively and to arrive at something none of them could have reached alone. To listen closely to a quartet is to overhear that effort. The absence of spectacle is not a limitation but the whole point, for it leaves nothing between the listener and the working of four minds in concert.

**Q13.** The passage is primarily concerned with:

- (A) proving that the string quartet is technically the hardest music to perform.
- (B) tracing the biography of the composer Haydn.
- (C) arguing that orchestral music is superior to chamber music.
- (D) explaining why the string quartet is both demanding and deeply rewarding.

**Q14.** According to the passage, Haydn's contribution to the string quartet was that he:

- (A) invented the four-instrument ensemble from nothing.
- (B) transformed it from polite background music into a serious vehicle for musical development.



- (C) made it more colourful by adding instruments from other families.
- (D) reserved it exclusively for music written late in life.

- Q15.** The statement that in a quartet “every note is exposed” most directly supports the idea that:
- (A) the form is best suited to loud, dramatic melodies.
  - (B) quartets are easier to compose than symphonies.
  - (C) a weak musical idea cannot be concealed, so composers use the form for their most searching work.
  - (D) the cello is the most important of the four instruments.
- Q16.** The author compares listening to a quartet to “overhearing” the effort of a small group in order to:
- (A) suggest that the form’s appeal lies in dramatising people thinking and disagreeing together.
  - (B) argue that quartets should always be performed in private.
  - (C) prove that a conductor is essential to good ensemble playing.
  - (D) show that the form is meant only for trained connoisseurs.

## Section II: Verbal Ability

- Q17.** The four sentences below, labelled 1–4, form a coherent paragraph when arranged in the correct order. Type the correct sequence of numbers as your answer.
1. But the map that resulted was not neutral; it embedded the priorities of those who commissioned it.
  2. Every map is a set of choices about what to include and, just as importantly, what to leave out.
  3. Early surveyors, for instance, recorded roads, forts and revenue boundaries with great care.
  4. Forests, footpaths and the settlements of the poor were often compressed into blank space.



(TITA — type in the answer as a sequence, e.g. 2341; no negative marking)

**Q18.** Read the paragraph and choose the option that best captures its essence.

*“The value of a scientific theory is not that it is certainly true but that it is precisely false in ways we can find. A theory that could explain any conceivable observation explains nothing, because it forbids nothing. What makes a claim scientific is that it sticks its neck out, telling us in advance which results would count against it. The more a theory risks, the more we learn when it survives.”*

- (A) Scientific theories are valuable only when they turn out to be completely true after testing.
- (B) A theory is scientific and valuable because it makes risky predictions that could be shown false, not because it explains everything.
- (C) Theories that explain every possible observation are the most powerful in science.
- (D) Scientists should avoid theories that make bold predictions, since these are easily refuted.

**Q19.** Five sentences are given below. Four of them can be combined into a single coherent paragraph; one does not fit. Type the number of the sentence that does NOT belong.

1. For most of history, ice was a luxury, carved from frozen lakes in winter and stored underground.
2. Merchants packed it in sawdust and shipped it across oceans to cities that had never seen snow.
3. The trade collapsed only when mechanical refrigeration made ice cheap to manufacture anywhere.
4. Modern freezers are now among the largest consumers of household electricity worldwide.
5. An entire industry once grew up around harvesting, transporting and selling this frozen water.



(TITA — type in the sentence number; no negative marking)

**Q20.** The four sentences below, labelled 1–4, form a coherent paragraph when arranged in the correct order. Type the correct sequence of numbers as your answer.

1. Over time, however, the borrowed words lost their foreign feel and became ordinary.
2. When two languages meet through trade or conquest, one usually begins to borrow words from the other.
3. At first these borrowings mark the speaker as worldly, or else as an outsider showing off.
4. Language, in other words, absorbs its history and then quietly forgets where each piece came from.

(TITA — type in the answer as a sequence, e.g. 2341; no negative marking)

**Q21.** Read the paragraph and choose the option that best captures its essence.

*“Cities are often blamed for the loneliness of modern life, yet the same density that isolates can also connect. A person surrounded by strangers can feel invisible; but that person also has access to more chances of encounter, more communities to join, than any villager ever did. Loneliness in a city is less a product of crowding than of how public spaces and institutions are designed to bring, or fail to bring, strangers into contact.”*

- (A) Cities inevitably make people lonelier than village life ever did.
- (B) Density alone determines whether city dwellers feel connected to one another.
- (C) Urban loneliness stems less from crowding itself than from how public spaces are designed to connect strangers.
- (D) Villagers have always been better connected than people who live in large cities.

**Q22.** Five sentences are given below. Four of them can be combined into a



single coherent paragraph; one does not fit. Type the number of the sentence that does NOT belong.

1. Sleep was long treated by scientists as a passive state, a mere switching-off of the waking brain.
2. Many adults report that they function best after about seven to eight hours of rest each night.
3. Recent research has overturned that view, revealing sleep as a period of intense biological activity.
4. During it the brain consolidates memories and clears out waste products built up while awake.
5. Far from doing nothing, the sleeping brain is busy preparing the body for another day.

**(TITA — type in the sentence number; no negative marking)**

**Q23.** Read the paragraph and choose the option that best captures its essence.

*“We tend to praise originality as though it sprang from nowhere, but even the most striking new work is assembled from older materials. The inventor recombines existing tools; the poet reworks inherited forms and words. What looks like a leap out of the past is usually a fresh arrangement of it. Originality, then, is not the absence of influence but an unusually intelligent use of it.”*

- (A) Originality is not freedom from influence but an especially intelligent recombination of existing materials.
- (B) Truly original work owes nothing whatsoever to what came before it.
- (C) Inventors and poets should avoid using any inherited tools or forms.
- (D) Praising originality is pointless because nothing new is ever actually created.

**Q24.** Choose the option that most logically and coherently completes the paragraph.

*“The new bridge was celebrated as a triumph of engineering, and for its*



*first decade it carried traffic smoothly. Yet its designers had planned for the vehicles of their own time, not for the heavier lorries that came later.*

”

- \_\_\_\_\_”
- (A) As a result, the bridge quickly became a popular subject for photographers.
  - (B) Engineers everywhere agreed that it was the most beautiful bridge in the country.
  - (C) The river beneath it, meanwhile, continued to flow toward the distant sea.
  - (D) Within a generation, the structure that had seemed so modern was straining under loads it was never built to bear.



## Detailed Solutions

Q1.

### Solution

**Concept — Primary purpose:** The main purpose is the single job the whole passage does, not one detail from it.

**Step 1 — Track the arc:** The passage opens with the puzzle of undersaving, explains it through present bias, and then discusses redesigning the choice (automatic enrolment) rather than blaming savers.

**Step 2 — Match to an option:** Option B names both halves, the explanation of undersaving and the defence of redesigning choices.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- A: The passage explicitly says people “can calculate compound interest perfectly well,” so incapacity is denied.
- C: The passage discusses making enrolment automatic, not compulsory; it even weighs the paternalism objection.
- D: An overstatement; the passage never claims traditional economics has been entirely replaced.

**Final Answer:** Explain undersaving and defend redesigning choices ⇒ B

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

Q2.

### Solution

**Concept — Inference from stated mechanism:** A valid inference restates a cause the passage actually gives.

**Step 1 — Locate the cause:** Paragraph 2 says present bias “is not a simple error of arithmetic”; the problem is that as a reward “draws near, the discount shrinks and the reward suddenly looms large.”

**Step 2 — Match:** Option A restates exactly this discounting mechanism.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- B and C: The passage says people are not ignorant and can do the arithmetic, so these contradict the text.
- D: No claim is made that schemes are designed to confuse; the argument is



about the mind's own discounting.

**Final Answer:** Near rewards loom larger as they approach ⇒

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

Q3.

### Solution

**Concept — Specific detail:** The answer must be the reason the passage states, not a plausible outside reason.

**Step 1 — Find the sentence:** Paragraph 3 says participation rises “even though the paperwork is identical” and concludes “the default does the work that willpower could not.”

**Step 2 — Match:** Option D captures this precisely.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- A: Returns are not said to change; only the default changes.
- B: Workers “must actively opt out,” so leaving is allowed, not forbidden.
- C: The passage says the paperwork is “identical,” so it does not become shorter.

**Final Answer:** The default replaces the missing willpower ⇒

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

Q4.

### Solution

**Concept — Author's handling of a counter-argument:** Identify whether the author rejects, accepts, or qualifies the objection.

**Step 1 — Read the reply:** The defenders' reply, which the author reports approvingly, is that “there is no neutral default: some arrangement must be the starting point.”

**Step 2 — Match:** Option C states that some default is unavoidable, making a helpful one defensible.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- A: The author engages the objection rather than calling it irrelevant.



- B: The author does not agree that nudges should be banned.
- D: The passage acknowledges that critics do object, so this is false.

**Final Answer:** Some default is unavoidable, so a helpful one is defensible ⇒

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

Q5.

### Solution

**Concept — Central argument:** The thesis is the position the passage builds toward, not either of the two rejected camps.

**Step 1 — Identify the move:** The passage sets up two camps that share a premise, then introduces compatibilism, which “rejects that premise” and redefines the freedom worth wanting as freedom from compulsion, not from causation.

**Step 2 — Match:** Option A states this dissolving move directly.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- B and C: These are the two camps the passage explicitly moves beyond.
- D: The final paragraph says compatibilism lets us decide “without first settling the physics of the universe,” the opposite of D.

**Final Answer:** Compatibilism redefines the freedom that matters ⇒

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

Q6.

### Solution

**Concept — Function of an example:** An example illustrates the point made just around it.

**Step 1 — Read the example:** “A prisoner is unfree not because his choices have causes but because a wall stands between him and the street.”

**Step 2 — Extract the point:** Unfreedom is external compulsion blocking action on one’s desires, not the mere existence of causes.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- A: The passage insists caused desires are compatible with freedom, so this is the opposite.



- B: “Compound deliberation” is not discussed.
- D: Compatibilism does not require the absence of prior causes.

**Final Answer:** External compulsion blocking one’s own desires ⇒ **C**

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

Q7.

### Solution

**Concept — Predicting a viewpoint’s response:** Use the position the passage attributes to the compatibilist.

**Step 1 — Find the reply:** The compatibilist says the demand for a self-caused self “is incoherent: nothing could satisfy it,” since character “came from somewhere.”

**Step 2 — Match:** Option B restates “incoherent” and “nothing could satisfy it.”

**Why other options are wrong:**

- A: The compatibilist says nothing meets it, not that determinism meets it.
- C: The passage treats moral responsibility through ordinary freedom, not through self-authorship.
- D: The demand is treated as a philosophical confusion, not merely a legal matter.

**Final Answer:** An incoherent demand nothing could satisfy ⇒ **B**

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

Q8.

### Solution

**Concept — Function of a paragraph:** Ask what job the paragraph does in the argument.

**Step 1 — Read it:** The final paragraph says compatibilism “has a practical appeal the other views lack,” letting us keep everyday distinctions used “in law and in ordinary judgement.”

**Step 2 — Match:** Option D captures this emphasis on practical, everyday usefulness.

**Why other options are wrong:**



- A: It praises, not concedes failure.
- B: No fourth position is introduced.
- C: It does not restate hard determinism.

**Final Answer:** Highlight the everyday usefulness of compatibilism ⇒

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

Q9.

### Solution

**Concept — Definitional detail:** Match the term to the definition the passage gives.

**Step 1 — Find the definition:** “Scientists call this slow rain of matter the biological pump, and it transfers carbon from the surface . . . to depths.”

**Step 2 — Match:** Option C describes carbon fixed at the surface sinking as particles into the deep.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- A: Bacterial respiration works against the pump; it is not the pump itself.
- B and D: Stratification and ice retreat are influences on the pump, not its definition.

**Final Answer:** Surface carbon sinking into the deep sea ⇒

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

Q10.

### Solution

**Concept — Inference from a stated mechanism:** Use the passage’s rule about what makes export efficient.

**Step 1 — Find the rule:** “A bloom that produces heavy, fast-sinking particles may export more carbon than a larger bloom of light material that lingers and is eaten on the way down.”

**Step 2 — Match:** Option D states heavy, fast-sinking particles that escape being eaten.

**Why other options are wrong:**



- A: Warming and stratification reduce export, not raise it.
- B: Distance from a pole is not the stated factor.
- C: Light, lingering particles are the low-export case, the opposite of what is asked.

**Final Answer:** Heavy particles sinking quickly past consumers ⇒

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

Q11.

### Solution

**Concept — Cause stated in the text:** Choose the mechanism the passage actually names.

**Step 1 — Find the sentences:** Warming makes the surface “more sharply layered,” which “can starve the surface of ... nutrients,” and “warmer water also speeds up the bacteria that intercept sinking carbon.”

**Step 2 — Match:** Option A combines both stated effects.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- B: Plankton growth is reduced “in some regions,” not stopped entirely.
- C and D: These are extreme claims the passage never makes.

**Final Answer:** Nutrient starvation plus faster bacterial interception ⇒

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

Q12.

### Solution

**Concept — Tone/attitude:** Choose the adjective that fits the author’s stance throughout.

**Step 1 — Weigh the cues:** The author reports real threats (“the same troubling direction”) but also that “our ability to predict its future depends on understanding ... mechanisms we have only begun to measure,” and that the picture “is not uniformly bleak.”

**Step 2 — Match:** Option B (cautious, stressing threats and the limits of understanding) fits both cues.

**Why other options are wrong:**



- A: The author stresses uncertainty, not confidence in models.
- C: The concern shown rules out indifference.
- D: “Certain” failure within years overstates the measured tone.

**Final Answer:** Cautious about threats and about the limits of knowledge ⇒ **B**

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

Q13.

### Solution

**Concept — Main concern:** The whole passage, not one paragraph, sets the topic.

**Step 1 — Track the arc:** It presents the quartet as prestigious yet demanding, explains why (exposure, conversation among equals), and ends on why the effort rewards the listener.

**Step 2 — Match:** Option D captures “demanding and deeply rewarding.”

**Why other options are wrong:**

- A: Difficulty is a theme, not a claim that it is the single hardest music.
- B: Haydn is one example, not the subject.
- C: The passage does not rank orchestral above chamber music; if anything it defends the quartet.

**Final Answer:** Why the quartet is demanding and rewarding ⇒ **D**

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

Q14.

### Solution

**Concept — Specific detail:** Match the claim made about Haydn.

**Step 1 — Find it:** “The form acquired its prestige largely through Haydn, who did not invent it but shaped it into something serious ... a vehicle for genuine development.”

**Step 2 — Match:** Option B restates this.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- A: The text says he “did not invent it.”
- C: He did not add other instruments; the family stays the same.



- D: Writing quartets late in life is a general habit of composers, not Haydn's specific contribution.

**Final Answer:** He made it a serious vehicle for development ⇒ **B**

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

Q15.

### Solution

**Concept — Supporting a claim:** Ask what idea the quoted phrase is used to back.

**Step 1 — Read the context:** “Because the resources are so limited, every note is exposed; there is nowhere to hide a weak idea . . . Composers have therefore often reserved their most searching and personal music for the form.”

**Step 2 — Match:** Option C ties exposure to composers using the form for their most searching work.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- A: Exposure favours subtlety, not loud drama.
- B: Exposure makes quartets harder, not easier, to write well.
- D: The passage stresses the equality of the four voices, not the cello's dominance.

**Final Answer:** Weak ideas cannot hide, so the form invites searching work ⇒ **C**

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

Q16.

### Solution

**Concept — Purpose of an analogy:** An analogy is chosen to make a specific point vivid.

**Step 1 — Read the close:** The form “dramatises . . . the effort of a small group to think together, to disagree productively”; to listen “is to overhear that effort.”

**Step 2 — Match:** Option A restates that the appeal lies in dramatising people thinking and disagreeing together.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- B: “Overhear” is a metaphor, not a call for private performance.



- C: The passage stresses that quartets have no conductor.
- D: The final paragraph explicitly resists the “only for connoisseurs” reading.

**Final Answer:** To show the appeal is watching minds think together ⇒

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

Q17.

### Solution

**Concept — Para-jumble:** Find the general opening, then the chain of examples and the twist.

**Step 1 — Opening sentence:** Sentence 2 states the general idea (a map is a set of choices about what to include and leave out); it needs no prior context, so it opens.

**Step 2 — The turn:** Sentence 3 gives the concrete example (“Early surveyors, for instance”), so it follows 2.

**Step 3 — Contrast within the example:** Sentence 1 begins with “But the map . . . was not neutral,” turning from the careful recording to its bias, so 1 follows 3.

**Step 4 — Closing detail:** Sentence 4 gives what was left out (forests, footpaths, the poor), completing the “leave out” idea, so it ends.

**Order:** 2 → 3 → 1 → 4.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer: (2314)** [Go Back to Q 17](#)

Q18.

### Solution

**Concept — Para-summary:** The best summary keeps the author’s core claim without adding or reversing it.

**Step 1 — Core claim:** A theory is valuable and scientific because it is “precisely false in ways we can find” and “sticks its neck out” with risky predictions.

**Step 2 — Match:** Option B captures risky, falsifiable predictions as the source of value.

**Why other options are wrong:**



- A: The passage says value is not that a theory is “certainly true,” so A reverses it.
- C: The passage says a theory that explains everything “explains nothing.”
- D: The passage praises bold prediction; D advises avoiding it.

**Final Answer:** Value comes from risky, falsifiable predictions ⇒ **B**

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

**Q19.**

### Solution

**Concept — Odd sentence out:** Four sentences share one theme; the outlier shifts topic or time frame.

**Step 1 — Find the theme:** Sentences 1, 2, 3 and 5 describe the historical natural-ice trade (harvesting, shipping, the industry, its collapse).

**Step 2 — Spot the outlier:** Sentence 4 jumps to modern freezers and their electricity use, a present-day energy point outside the historical-trade narrative.

**Step 3 — Confirm coherence without it:** 1, 5, 2, 3 form a clean paragraph on the rise and fall of the ice trade.

**Final Answer:** Sentence 4 does not belong ⇒ **4**

**Answer: (4)** [Go Back to Q 19](#)

**Q20.**

### Solution

**Concept — Para-jumble:** Locate the sentence that sets up the situation, then follow the time sequence to the general conclusion.

**Step 1 — Opening:** Sentence 2 introduces the situation (two languages meet and one borrows words); it opens.

**Step 2 — First stage:** Sentence 3 (“At first these borrowings mark the speaker as worldly”) describes the early stage, so it follows 2.

**Step 3 — Later stage:** Sentence 1 (“Over time, however, the borrowed words lost their foreign feel”) gives the contrasting later stage, following 3.

**Step 4 — Conclusion:** Sentence 4 (“Language, in other words . . .”) generalises, so it closes.



**Order:** 2 → 3 → 1 → 4.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer:** (2314) [Go Back to Q 20](#)

**Q21.**

### Solution

**Concept — Para-summary:** Keep the passage’s qualified claim, not an extreme version of it.

**Step 1 — Core claim:** “Loneliness in a city is less a product of crowding than of how public spaces and institutions are designed” to connect strangers.

**Step 2 — Match:** Option C restates this exactly.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- A: The passage says density “can also connect,” so it does not claim cities inevitably isolate.
- B: The passage says density alone is not decisive; design is.
- D: The passage says a city dweller “has access to more . . . communities than any villager ever did.”

**Final Answer:** Urban loneliness is about design, not crowding ⇒

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

**Q22.**

### Solution

**Concept — Odd sentence out:** The four related sentences form one argument; the outlier adds an unrelated fact.

**Step 1 — Find the theme:** Sentences 1, 3, 4 and 5 trace how science shifted from seeing sleep as passive to seeing it as active (memory consolidation, waste clearance, preparation).

**Step 2 — Spot the outlier:** Sentence 2 states how many hours adults need to feel rested, a practical recommendation unrelated to the passive-versus-active argument.

**Step 3 — Confirm:** 1, 3, 4, 5 read as a coherent paragraph without 2.

**Final Answer:** Sentence 2 does not belong ⇒



**Answer: (2)** [Go Back to Q 22](#)

Q23.

### Solution

**Concept — Para-summary:** The summary must preserve the redefinition the passage offers.

**Step 1 — Core claim:** “Originality . . . is not the absence of influence but an unusually intelligent use of it.”

**Step 2 — Match:** Option A restates originality as intelligent recombination of existing materials.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- B: The passage says even striking work “is assembled from older materials,” contradicting “owes nothing.”
- C: The passage says creators recombine inherited tools; it never tells them to avoid these.
- D: The passage does not say nothing new is created; it redefines how newness arises.

**Final Answer:** Originality is intelligent recombination ⇒ **A**

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

Q24.

### Solution

**Concept — Sentence completion:** The ending must follow the logical set-up of the paragraph.

**Step 1 — Track the logic:** The bridge was designed for lighter vehicles “not for the heavier lorries that came later,” setting up a consequence about strain.

**Step 2 — Match:** Option D delivers that consequence: within a generation the structure was “straining under loads it was never built to bear.”

**Why other options are wrong:**

- A and B: Photographs and beauty ignore the set-up about heavier loads.
- C: The flowing river is an irrelevant scene-setting detail, not the logical consequence.



**Final Answer:** The bridge strained under loads it was not built for ⇒

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



## Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	B	2	A	3	D	4	C	5	A
6	C	7	B	8	D	9	C	10	D
11	A	12	B	13	D	14	B	15	C
16	A	17	2314	18	B	19	4	20	2314
21	C	22	2	23	A	24	D		

