CAT Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension

Sample Paper – 3

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. The large language models that now write essays and answer questions have a startling gift for fluency. Trained on vast quantities of text, they learn which words tend to follow which, and they string together sentences that are grammatical, plausible and often genuinely useful. It is tempting to conclude that a machine which speaks so well must also understand what it says. That conclusion, many researchers argue, mistakes the surface for the substance.

What these models actually do is predict. Given a stretch of text, the system estimates the most likely next word, then the next, and so on, guided by patterns absorbed from billions of examples. Nowhere in this process is there a model of the world to which the words refer. The system does not know that water is wet or that a promise can be broken; it knows only that certain words cluster near certain others. When the output happens to be true, it is true by inheritance from the human text it was trained on, not because the machine has checked it against reality.

This gap explains the models' most characteristic failure. Asked a question whose answer lies outside their training patterns, they do not fall silent; they produce a confident, fluent falsehood,

because generating plausible text is exactly what they are built to do. A person who does not know an answer usually signals uncertainty. The model has no such instinct, since it is not tracking truth in the first place, only likelihood. Its errors are therefore not glitches but the natural product of its design.

None of this means the tools are worthless. A system that reliably produces fluent, mostly accurate text is enormously useful for drafting, summarising and translating, tasks where a human remains in the loop to catch mistakes. The danger lies in forgetting what kind of thing the machine is. Treating fluency as a proxy for understanding, we may hand these systems decisions they are not equipped to make, and trust their outputs precisely when we should check them.

The deeper point is that fluency and understanding, so tightly bound together in humans, have here come apart. We are used to taking articulate speech as evidence of a thinking mind behind it. These machines break that link, and in doing so they force a useful question: not merely what our tools can say, but what, if anything, they can be said to know.

Q1. Which of the following best captures the main point of the passage?

(A) Large language models understand language just as well as human beings do.

(B) Language models produce fluent text by predicting likely words, so their fluency should not be mistaken for genuine understanding.

(C) Language models are worthless because they sometimes produce false statements.

(D) Fluency and understanding amount to exactly the same thing in both humans and machines.

Q2. According to the passage, language models produce confident falsehoods mainly because:

(A) they are deliberately programmed to deceive the people who use them.

(B) their training text happened to contain no true statements at all.

(C) they fall silent whenever they lack a reliable answer.

(D) generating plausible text, rather than tracking truth, is exactly what they are built to do.

Q3. It can be inferred that, when a language model's output is true, the passage regards that truth as:

(A) inherited from the human text the model was trained on rather than verified against reality.

(B) proof that the model has built an accurate internal model of the world.

(C) the result of the model carefully checking facts before it answers.

(D) evidence that the model experiences uncertainty in the way a person does.

Q4. With which of the following statements would the author most likely agree?

(A) The tools should be abandoned altogether because they cannot be trusted at all.

(B) A model's fluency is reliable evidence that it understands its subject.

(C) The tools are genuinely useful when a human stays in the loop to catch their mistakes.

(D) Any machine that speaks fluently must also possess real knowledge of the world.

Directions (Q5–Q8): Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. For most of human history the great majority of people lived on the land; the city was the exception. That balance has now tipped, and it is tipping further. More than half the world's population lives in urban areas, and the fastest growth is not in the familiar capitals of rich countries but in the sprawling megacities of the developing world, places that add the population of a small town every few weeks. Understanding why cities keep swelling, and at what cost, has become one of the central questions of our age.

The pull of the city is, at bottom, economic. Firms cluster together because being near other firms, workers and customers makes each of them more productive; this concentration, which economists call agglomeration, means that wages and opportunities are simply higher where people are densely packed. A young person leaving a poor rural district for a crowded urban edge is usually making a rational bet: even a precarious foothold in the city offers more than the countryside can. Cities also spread ideas. Density puts people with different skills close enough to combine them, which is one reason so much invention happens in crowded places.

But the same concentration that generates wealth also generates strain. When a city grows faster than its pipes, roads and housing, the result is not prosperity evenly shared but slums, congestion and overloaded services. Infrastructure is slow and expensive to build; migration is fast and free. The gap between the two is where urban misery collects. A megacity can therefore hold, side by side, some of the most productive districts on earth and some of the most deprived, often within

walking distance of each other.
What makes the problem hard is that the forces driving growth are largely benign at the level of the individual. No one who moves to the city for a better wage is acting foolishly, yet the sum of these sensible decisions can overwhelm a city's capacity to cope. Planning, when it works, tries to run ahead of this tide, laying down transport and sanitation before the crowds arrive rather than scrambling after them. When it fails, the city grows anyway, but grows badly.
The lesson is not that urbanisation should be resisted, which is neither possible nor desirable, but that its benefits are not automatic. A city concentrates human energy; whether that energy becomes shared prosperity or stacked-up hardship depends on choices, mostly public ones, about what gets built and when.

Q5. The primary purpose of the passage is to:

(A) explain why cities keep growing and argue that their benefits depend on public choices rather than arriving automatically.

(B) prove that urbanisation should be resisted wherever it is possible to do so.

(C) show that rural life is always preferable to life in a megacity.

(D) describe the street layout of one named megacity in close detail.

Q6. As used in the passage, "agglomeration" refers to the idea that:

(A) cities should be planned in full before any migrants arrive.

(B) rural districts are required by law to offer lower wages than cities.

(C) firms and workers become more productive by being densely concentrated near one another.

(D) slums form whenever a city grows faster than its infrastructure.

Q7. It can be inferred that the author considers urban strain difficult to solve because:

(A) the people who move to cities are behaving irrationally.

(B) cities in fact produce no wealth of any kind.

(C) infrastructure can always be built faster than migrants arrive.

(D) individually sensible decisions to migrate can collectively overwhelm a city's capacity to cope.

Q8. The author's overall attitude toward urbanisation is best described as:

(A) hostile, urging that it be halted as soon as possible.

(B) accepting of it as inevitable while insisting that its benefits require deliberate planning.

(C) indifferent to whether cities ultimately succeed or fail.

(D) certain that megacities will always turn into shared prosperity on their own.

Directions (Q9–Q12): Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. Few scientific ideas are as widely known and as widely misunderstood as natural selection. The phrase "survival of the fittest", which Darwin himself borrowed only later and reluctantly, is the source of much of the confusion. In everyday speech "fittest" suggests the strongest or the most ruthless, and evolution is imagined as a brutal contest won by the biggest teeth. But in biology "fitness" means nothing so dramatic. It refers simply to reproductive success: an organism is fit if it leaves more surviving offspring than its rivals. A drab, timid creature that breeds prolifically is, in this precise sense, fitter than a magnificent one that leaves no young.

A second misconception is that evolution is aiming at something, working steadily toward higher, better or more complex forms with humans at the summit. Natural selection has no goal and no foresight. It cannot plan for a future environment; it can only sift the variations that happen to exist now, favouring whatever leaves more offspring in present conditions. A trait that is advantageous today may be useless or harmful tomorrow, and the process neither knows nor cares. Complexity sometimes increases, but simplicity is just as often favoured; many successful lineages have lost organs their ancestors possessed.

The language of purpose is hard to avoid, and even biologists slip into it, saying that a moth "developed" camouflage "in order to" hide. This is shorthand, not mechanism. No individual moth altered itself to match the bark. Rather, moths already varied in colour; in a sooty wood the darker ones were eaten less often, so they left more descendants, and over generations the population shifted. Nothing was trying to become anything. The appearance of design emerges, without a designer, from the repeated filtering of chance variation.

Why do these errors persist? Partly because the correct picture is counter-intuitive. Our minds are quick to see intention behind order, and a process that produces the intricate eye or the orchid's lure without any intending agent strains that instinct. Partly, too, the loose metaphors of textbooks and nature films reinforce the very misreadings they mean to simplify.

Getting the concept right matters beyond the classroom. Misunderstanding fitness as raw strength has been used to justify social cruelties that Darwin's biology never implied. Seeing evolution as a ladder with ourselves on top flatters us and distorts the science. Natural selection is stranger and more modest than the slogans suggest: not a march toward perfection, but a blind, patient bookkeeping of who, in each generation, happens to leave the most descendants.

Q9. As used in the passage, the biological term "fitness" refers to:

(A) the physical strength and ruthlessness of an organism.

(B) the size of an organism's teeth relative to its rivals.

(C) the degree of complexity of an organism's body plan.

(D) an organism's reproductive success in leaving surviving offspring.

Q10. The example of the moths in a sooty wood is used mainly to show that:

(A) individual moths deliberately changed their colour to match the bark.

(B) what looks like purposeful design results from the filtering of chance variation, with no intent involved.

(C) camouflage always makes a species more complex over time.

(D) natural selection plans ahead for future changes in the environment.

Q11. It can be inferred from the passage that the author would most firmly reject the claim that:

(A) simplicity is sometimes favoured by natural selection.

(B) a trait useful today may become harmful later.

(C) evolution progresses steadily toward higher, more complex forms with humans at its summit.

(D) natural selection acts only on variations that currently exist.

Q12. The primary function of the final paragraph is to:

(A) argue that misunderstanding natural selection has real consequences beyond the classroom.

(B) concede that the slogan "survival of the fittest" is basically accurate after all.

(C) introduce a new scientific theory that replaces natural selection.

(D) prove that evolution is in fact aiming toward the emergence of human beings.

Directions (Q13–Q16): Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. Democracy is usually defined, in a first approximation, as rule by the majority. Yet at its heart lies a tension that this definition conceals. If the majority may do whatever it wishes simply because it is the majority, then nothing protects the minority who lose the vote, and a numerical majority can oppress a numerical minority with perfect democratic legitimacy. History offers too many examples of exactly this. A system that was nothing but majority rule would carry within it the seeds of a tyranny no less real for being popular.

The usual remedy is to place certain things beyond the reach of any vote. Rights to speak, to worship, to a fair trial, to equal treatment, are written into constitutions precisely so that they cannot be cancelled by a temporary majority, however large. This is why mature democracies are not simply machines for counting heads; they are counting-machines wrapped in a set of limits on what the count is allowed to decide. The majority governs, but only within a fenced area, and the fence is guarded by courts rather than by votes.

Here, though, the paradox deepens rather than resolves. Those limits are themselves undemocratic in an obvious sense: they let a handful of unelected judges overrule the expressed will of millions. Critics on one side complain that this hands too much power to an elite; critics on the other reply that without such a check, rights would exist only at the majority's pleasure, which is to say they would not be rights at all. Each side has hold of something true, and no clever definition makes the discomfort disappear.

Perhaps the honest conclusion is that democracy is not a single principle but a balance between two that pull against each other: the claim that decisions should reflect the will of the many, and the claim that certain freedoms belong to everyone regardless of the will of the many. Push wholly toward the first and you get majoritarian tyranny; push wholly toward the second and you get rule by judges, an unaccountable guardianship. A workable democracy lives in the uneasy space between.

This is why the health of a democracy cannot be read from election results alone. A government can be chosen by an unquestioned majority and still erode the very rights that make the next election meaningful. The paradox is permanent, not a flaw to be engineered away. To keep faith with democracy is to keep both of its commitments in view at once, and to resist the temptation to collapse the tension by sacrificing either one.

Q13. The central idea of the passage is that:

(A) democracy simply means that the majority may do whatever it wishes.

(B) courts should always have the final word over elected majorities.

(C) democracy rests on an enduring tension between majority rule and the protection of minority rights.

(D) election results are the only reliable measure of a democracy's health.

Q14. According to the passage, certain rights are written into constitutions primarily so that:

(A) they cannot be cancelled by a temporary majority, however large.

(B) unelected judges can rule without any check on their power.

(C) elections become unnecessary in a mature democracy.

(D) the majority can decide every question by a simple count of heads.

Q15. When the author says the paradox "deepens rather than resolves", the point is that:

(A) constitutional limits fully remove the danger of majority tyranny.

(B) the limits protecting minorities are themselves undemocratic, letting unelected judges overrule the majority.

(C) courts and voters always reach the same conclusions in practice.

(D) minorities no longer need any protection once rights have been written down.

Q16. With which statement would the author most likely agree?

(A) The tension within democracy is a flaw that good design can eventually eliminate.

(B) A government chosen by a clear majority cannot possibly threaten rights.

(C) Democracy should be pushed wholly toward the will of the majority.

(D) A healthy democracy must hold majority rule and minority rights in view at once, resisting the urge to sacrifice either.

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. Yet on a cloudy night, with no star in sight, a ship could quickly lose all sense of direction.

2. For centuries, sailors found their way by watching the sun by day and the stars by night.

3. The magnetic needle, always swinging toward the north, offered a bearing in any weather.

4. The compass changed this, freeing ships to sail confidently far out of sight of land.

(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 calendar we take for granted is a patched-together compromise, not a discovery. Because the Earth's year does not divide evenly into whole days, every calendar must cheat a little, inserting extra days or months to keep the seasons from drifting. The familiar leap year is only the most visible of these adjustments. What looks like a fixed natural unit is in fact a running repair, constantly corrected to keep human timekeeping in step with the sky."

(A) The Earth's year divides evenly into whole days, which makes calendars simple to design.

(B) The leap year is the only adjustment ever needed to keep a calendar accurate.

(C) Calendars should be abandoned because they can never match the Earth's year.

(D) The calendar is not a fixed natural unit but a constantly adjusted human device for keeping timekeeping aligned with the astronomical year.

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. The horse was first tamed on the grasslands of Central Asia thousands of years ago.

2. Herders at first kept the animals for their milk and meat, long before anyone thought to ride them.

3. Once people learned to ride, they could cross in days distances that had taken weeks on foot.

4. The mounted rider soon reshaped trade, migration and warfare across the whole continent.

5. Arabian horses are prized today by breeders for their speed and their elegant build.

(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, cheap mined and evaporated salt made these old routes worthless.

2. Salt was once so scarce that in some places it was traded ounce for ounce against gold.

3. Caravans crossed deserts for months on end to carry it to the inland cities that craved it.

4. Whole towns, and the taxes that funded kingdoms, grew up along the roads that carried it.

(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.

"For a long time the yearly disappearance of birds was a genuine mystery, and people explained it with stories of birds hibernating in the mud or turning into other species. Only patient observation, and later the tagging of individual birds, revealed the truth: many species travel thousands of miles between their breeding and wintering grounds. The wonder did not shrink when the myth fell; if anything, the real journey proved stranger than the inventions it replaced."

(A) Birds were once believed to hibernate in mud, and that belief has never been disproved.

(B) The discovery of migration made bird behaviour far less interesting than the old stories had been.

(C) Patient observation replaced fanciful myths about vanishing birds with the reality of long migration, which proved even more astonishing than the myths.

(D) Tagging birds is the only method scientists have ever used to study animal behaviour.

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. Early glass was a costly luxury, made by melting sand together with soda and lime.

2. Stained-glass windows filled medieval cathedrals with pools of coloured light.

3. The invention of the blowpipe let workers shape hot glass into thin vessels quickly.

4. What had once been rare and precious slowly became an ordinary material.

5. Mass production eventually put a glass window within reach of ordinary homes.

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

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

"A vaccine does not fight disease directly; it teaches. By presenting the immune system with a harmless imitation of a germ, it prompts the body to build its defences in advance, so that a later encounter with the real pathogen meets a prepared response rather than a surprised one. The protection comes not from the vaccine itself but from the memory it leaves behind. In this sense a vaccine is less a weapon than a rehearsal."

(A) Vaccines protect the body by directly attacking and destroying invading germs.

(B) A vaccine protects not by attacking disease itself but by training the immune system in advance, so the body is prepared for the real pathogen.

(C) A vaccine's protection lasts only as long as the vaccine itself remains in the body.

(D) The immune system cannot remember past infections without repeated vaccination.

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

"When the first telegraph lines were strung across the country, they were hailed mainly as a convenience for merchants, a faster way to send prices and orders. Few of those early enthusiasts foresaw how completely the technology would collapse distance itself. _____"

(A) Within a few years, news that had once taken weeks to travel could cross a continent in minutes.

(B) Merchants had in any case always preferred to send their orders by post rather than by messenger.

(C) Many of the earliest operators learned to read the incoming clicks purely by ear.

(D) The wires themselves were made of copper, which happens to conduct an electric signal well.

Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Main point: The main point is the single claim the whole passage is built to support, not one supporting detail.

Step 1 — Track the arc: The passage praises the models' fluency, warns that fluency is mistaken for understanding, explains that they merely predict likely words, and closes by separating fluency from understanding.

Step 2 — Match to an option: Option B names both halves, that models predict likely words and that this fluency must not be read as understanding.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage argues the opposite, that speaking well is not the same as understanding.
- C: The passage explicitly says the tools are "enormously useful," so "worthless" is denied.
- D: The final paragraph says fluency and understanding "have here come apart," contradicting the claim that they are the same.

Final Answer: Fluency comes from prediction and is not understanding $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q 1

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Stated cause: The answer must be the reason the passage actually gives, not an outside guess.

Step 1 — Locate the sentence: Paragraph 3 says the model produces "a confident, fluent falsehood, because generating plausible text is exactly what they are built to do," since it is "not tracking truth in the first place, only likelihood."

Step 2 — Match: Option D restates this design point exactly.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: No claim of deliberate deception is made; the errors follow from design, not malice.
- B: The passage says truth is "inherited from the human text," so the training

text did contain true statements.
- C: The passage says the model does "not fall silent," the opposite of C.

Final Answer: Producing plausible text, not truth, is its purpose ⇒ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q 2

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Inference: A valid inference restates a point the passage makes without adding to it.

Step 1 — Find the basis: Paragraph 2 states that when output is true, "it is true by inheritance from the human text it was trained on, not because the machine has checked it against reality."

Step 2 — Match: Option A repeats this "inherited, not verified" idea.

Why other options are wrong:

- B: The passage says there is "no model of the world," so no accurate world-model is built.
- C: The passage explicitly denies that the machine "checked it against reality."
- D: The model "has no such instinct" for uncertainty, so it does not feel uncertainty like a person.

Final Answer: True output is inherited from training text ⇒ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q 3

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Author would agree: Choose the statement consistent with the author's overall stance.

Step 1 — Read the balanced view: Paragraph 4 says the tools are useful "for drafting, summarising and translating, tasks where a human remains in the loop to catch mistakes."

Step 2 — Match: Option C states precisely this, that they are useful with a human checking their mistakes.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage says they are not worthless, so wholesale abandonment is wrong.
- B and D: Both equate fluency with knowledge, which the passage rejects throughout.

Final Answer: Useful when a human stays in the loop ⇒ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q 4

Q5.

Solution

Concept — Primary purpose: The purpose is the whole job of the passage, stated at the level of its thesis.

Step 1 — Track the arc: The passage asks why cities keep swelling, explains the economic pull and the resulting strain, and ends that the benefits "are not automatic" but "depend on choices, mostly public ones."

Step 2 — Match: Option A names both the "why they grow" and the "benefits depend on public choices" halves.

Why other options are wrong:

- B: The passage says resisting urbanisation is "neither possible nor desirable."
- C: It never claims rural life is always preferable; it says migration is a "rational bet."
- D: No single named city's street layout is described.

Final Answer: Explain growth and stress that benefits need public choices ⇒ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q 5

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Take the meaning from the sentence in which the term is defined.

Step 1 — Find the definition: Paragraph 2 says firms cluster because nearness "makes each of them more productive; this concentration, which economists call agglomeration, means that wages and opportunities are simply higher where people are densely packed."

Step 2 — Match: Option C restates productivity rising with dense concentration.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: Planning is a separate idea from agglomeration.
- B: No law forcing lower rural wages is mentioned.
- D: Slum formation is a consequence of strain, not the meaning of agglomeration.

Final Answer: Productivity gains from dense concentration $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q 6

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Inference about difficulty: Identify the reason the passage gives for the problem being hard.

Step 1 — Find it: Paragraph 4 says the driving forces "are largely benign at the level of the individual . . . yet the sum of these sensible decisions can overwhelm a city's capacity to cope."

Step 2 — Match: Option D restates this gap between sensible individual choices and collective overload.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage says migrants are not acting foolishly.
- B: It says cities generate wealth, so "no wealth" is false.
- C: The passage says infrastructure is "slow," while migration is "fast," the reverse of C.

Final Answer: Sensible individual moves collectively overwhelm capacity $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q 7

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Tone/attitude: Choose the description that fits the author's stance across the passage.

Step 1 — Weigh the cues: The author treats urbanisation as unstoppable ("neither possible nor desirable" to resist) yet insists benefits "are not automatic" and depend on planning.

Step 2 — Match: Option B captures acceptance of inevitability plus the demand for deliberate planning.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The author is not hostile; he does not want it halted.
- C: The concern shown rules out indifference.
- D: The author explicitly denies that prosperity comes on its own.

Final Answer: Accepts inevitability but demands planning ⇒ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q 8

Q9.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: A technical term takes the meaning the passage assigns, not its everyday sense.

Step 1 — Find the definition: Paragraph 1 says in biology fitness "refers simply to reproductive success: an organism is fit if it leaves more surviving offspring than its rivals."

Step 2 — Match: Option D restates reproductive success in leaving surviving offspring.

Why other options are wrong:

- A and B: Strength, ruthlessness and teeth are exactly the everyday misreading the passage rejects.
- C: Complexity is a separate misconception, not the meaning of fitness.

Final Answer: Reproductive success in leaving offspring ⇒ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q 9

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Function of an example: An example illustrates the very point stated around it.

Step 1 — Read the example: The moth passage says "No individual moth altered itself," the population shifted because darker moths survived more, and "the appearance of design emerges, without a designer, from the repeated filtering of chance variation."

Step 2 — Match: Option B captures design-without-intent from filtering chance variation.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage flatly says no individual moth altered itself.
- C: The example is about survival, not increasing complexity.
- D: The passage stresses that selection cannot plan ahead.

Final Answer: Apparent design from filtering chance variation $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q 10

Q11.

Solution

Concept — Claim the author rejects: Find the statement that contradicts the passage's core argument.

Step 1 — Recall the thesis: Paragraph 2 says "Natural selection has no goal and no foresight," and the close calls it "not a march toward perfection."

Step 2 — Match: Option C, that evolution progresses steadily toward higher forms with humans on top, is exactly the "second misconception" the author denounces.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage affirms that simplicity is "just as often favoured."
- B: The passage states a useful trait "may be useless or harmful tomorrow."
- D: The passage says selection sifts "the variations that happen to exist now," which A/B/D all agree with.

Final Answer: Evolution as a ladder toward humans $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q 11

Q12.

Solution

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

Step 1 — Read it: It says "Getting the concept right matters beyond the classroom," then notes that misreading fitness "has been used to justify social cruelties."

Step 2 — Match: Option A captures that the misunderstanding has real consequences beyond the classroom.

Why other options are wrong:

- B: The paragraph criticises the slogan, it does not endorse it.
- C: No replacement theory is offered.
- D: The paragraph explicitly rejects the idea that evolution aims at humans.

Final Answer: Misunderstanding has real-world consequences $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q 12

Q13.

Solution

Concept — Central idea: The thesis is the balance the passage builds toward, not either extreme.

Step 1 — Track the arc: The passage shows pure majority rule risks tyranny, that rights are fenced off from votes, that this fencing is itself undemocratic, and concludes democracy is "a balance between two" claims.

Step 2 — Match: Option C names the enduring tension between majority rule and minority rights.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage warns this leads to "majoritarian tyranny."
- B: Rule by judges is called "an unaccountable guardianship," not the goal.
- D: The passage says health "cannot be read from election results alone."

Final Answer: An enduring tension between two claims $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q 13

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Specific detail: Match the exact reason the passage gives.

Step 1 — Find it: Paragraph 2 says rights "are written into constitutions precisely so that they cannot be cancelled by a temporary majority, however large."

Step 2 — Match: Option A restates this word for word in substance.

Why other options are wrong:

- B: The passage worries about unchecked judges; it does not endorse them as the aim.
- C: Rights protect the meaning of "the next election"; elections are not made unnecessary.
- D: Fencing rights off is the opposite of deciding every question by a count.

Final Answer: So a temporary majority cannot cancel them $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q 14

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Meaning of a phrase in context: Read the sentences that follow the phrase.

Step 1 — Find the basis: Paragraph 3 says the limits "are themselves undemocratic in an obvious sense: they let a handful of unelected judges overrule the expressed will of millions."

Step 2 — Match: Option B states that the very limits protecting minorities are undemocratic because judges overrule the majority.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The paragraph shows a new problem, not a full removal of danger.
- C: The passage stresses that critics disagree, not that courts and voters always agree.
- D: The passage insists rights would "not be rights at all" without protection.

Final Answer: The protective limits are themselves undemocratic $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q 15

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Author would agree: Choose the statement matching the passage's conclusion.

Step 1 — Read the close: The final paragraph says the paradox "is permanent, not a flaw to be engineered away," and that keeping faith means holding "both of its commitments in view at once."

Step 2 — Match: Option D restates holding both commitments and refusing to sacrifice either.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage says the tension cannot be engineered away.
- B: It warns a clear majority "can . . . erode the very rights" that matter.
- C: Pushing wholly to majority rule yields "majoritarian tyranny."

Final Answer: Hold both commitments at once, sacrifice neither $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q 16

Q17.

Solution

Concept — Para-jumble: Find the sentence describing the old method, then the problem, the solution, and how it worked.

Step 1 — Opening: Sentence 2 states the old practice (sailors steered by the sun and stars); it sets the scene, so it opens.

Step 2 — The problem: Sentence 1 begins "Yet on a cloudy night . . . a ship could . . . lose all sense of direction," giving the flaw in that method, so 1 follows 2.

Step 3 — The solution: Sentence 4 says "The compass changed this," where "this" is the problem in 1, so 4 follows 1.

Step 4 — The mechanism: Sentence 3 explains how the needle "offered a bearing in any weather," expanding on 4, so it closes.

Order: $2 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3$.

Final Answer: $\boxed{2143}$

Answer: (2143) Go Back to Q 17

Q18.

Solution

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

Step 1 — Core claim: The calendar "is a patched-together compromise, not a discovery," a "running repair, constantly corrected to keep human timekeeping in step with the sky."

Step 2 — Match: Option D captures a constantly adjusted human device aligned to the astronomical year.

Why other options are wrong:

- B: The leap year is only "the most visible" adjustment, not the only one.
- C: The passage never says calendars should be abandoned.
- A: The passage says the year does "not divide evenly into whole days," the opposite of A.

Final Answer: A constantly corrected human device $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) 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 4 trace the ancient domestication of the horse and its consequences (taming, early use for milk and meat, riding, its effect on trade and war).

Step 2 — Spot the outlier: Sentence 5 jumps to modern breeders prizing Arabian horses for speed and looks, an aesthetic point from the present day, outside the ancient-domestication narrative.

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

Final Answer: Sentence 5 does not belong $\Rightarrow \boxed{5}$

Answer: (5) Go Back to Q 19

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Para-jumble: Locate the sentence stating the situation, follow the elaboration, then reach the "however" twist.

Step 1 — Opening: Sentence 2 introduces the situation (salt so scarce it was traded against gold); it opens.

Step 2 — Elaboration: Sentence 3 (caravans crossed deserts to carry it) shows what that value led people to do, so it follows 2.

Step 3 — Further elaboration: Sentence 4 (whole towns and taxes grew up along the roads) extends the picture of an economy built on salt, following 3.

Step 4 — The twist: Sentence 1 ("Over time, however, cheap . . . salt made these old routes worthless") closes with the reversal.

Order: $2 \to 3 \to 4 \to 1$.

Final Answer: $\boxed{2341}$

Answer: (2341) Go Back to Q 20

Q21.

Solution

Concept — Para-summary: Keep the passage's full point, including its final twist.

Step 1 — Core claim: Patient observation and tagging replaced myths of hibernating birds with the reality of long migration, and "the wonder did not shrink . . . the real journey proved stranger than the inventions it replaced."

Step 2 — Match: Option C captures both the replacement of myth by migration and that the truth proved more astonishing.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The myth was disproved, not left standing.
- B: The passage says the wonder "did not shrink," so behaviour did not become less interesting.
- D: Tagging is one method mentioned, not the only method ever used.

Final Answer: Observation replaced myth, and the truth was stranger $\Rightarrow \boxed{C}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q 21

Q22.

Solution

Concept — Odd sentence out: The four related sentences form one line of argument; the outlier introduces an unrelated point.

Step 1 — Find the theme: Sentences 1, 3, 4 and 5 trace how glass moved from costly luxury to everyday material (its early cost, the blowpipe, becoming ordinary, mass-produced windows).

Step 2 — Spot the outlier: Sentence 2 describes stained-glass windows colouring cathedrals, a decorative and religious point unconnected to the cost-and-availability story.

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

Final Answer: Sentence 2 does not belong $\Rightarrow \boxed{2}$

Answer: (2) Go Back to Q 22

Q23.

Solution

Concept — Para-summary: The summary must preserve the passage's central redefinition.

Step 1 — Core claim: "A vaccine does not fight disease directly; it teaches," prompting the body to build defences in advance so protection comes "from the memory it leaves behind."

Step 2 — Match: Option B restates protection through training the immune system in advance rather than attacking disease.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage says a vaccine does "not fight disease directly."
- C: Protection comes from lasting "memory," not from the vaccine staying in the body.
- D: The passage does not say memory is impossible without repeat doses.

Final Answer: It trains the immune system in advance $\Rightarrow \boxed{B}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q 23

Q24.

Solution

Concept — Sentence completion: The ending must deliver the consequence the paragraph sets up.

Step 1 — Track the logic: The set-up says few foresaw "how completely the technology would collapse distance itself," promising an example of distance collapsing.

Step 2 — Match: Option A delivers exactly that: news that took weeks could soon "cross a continent in minutes."

Why other options are wrong:

- D: The copper wires are an incidental technical detail, not the promised consequence.
- B: The merchants' postal habit is a backward-looking aside that ignores the set-up.
- C: Operators reading clicks by ear is a colour detail, not the collapse of distance.

Final Answer: News could soon cross a continent in minutes $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q 24

Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	B	2	D	3	A	4	C	5	A
6	C	7	D	8	B	9	D	10	B
11	C	12	A	13	C	14	A	15	B
16	D	17	2143	18	D	19	5	20	2341
21	C	22	2	23	B	24	A		