CAT Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension

Sample Paper – 7

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. For most of its history the internet presented itself as free. Search, email, maps and social networks arrived at no charge, and users rarely asked how the companies offering them stayed in business. The answer, it turned out, was that the users themselves were the product. What these firms sold was not software but attention and prediction, and the raw material for both was personal data gathered quietly as people clicked, scrolled and typed.

Every action online leaves a trace: the links you follow, the time you linger on a page, the location your phone reports, the people you message. Individually these traces seem trivial. Combined, they compose a detailed portrait of habits, desires and vulnerabilities. Firms discovered that this portrait could be used to predict what a person would buy, believe or do next, and that such predictions could be sold to advertisers and others willing to pay. A market grew up in behavioural forecasts, and the surest way to improve a forecast was to collect still more data.

This is the logic that critics call the surveillance economy. Its engine is not malice but incentive: a company that gathers more data can predict more accurately, and so earn more, than a competi-

tor that restrains itself. Privacy, under this pressure, is not so much invaded as slowly redefined. Practices that would once have seemed intrusive become the ordinary price of a convenient service, accepted through consent forms that almost no one reads.

Defenders argue that the exchange is fair. People receive genuinely useful tools, and in return give up data they might not value highly. If a user dislikes the bargain, the argument runs, she is free to walk away. Critics reply that the choice is more apparent than real. The services have become so woven into work and social life that opting out carries a heavy cost, and the terms are set by the firm, not negotiated. Consent given under these conditions, they say, is thin.

The deeper worry is not about advertisements but about power. A handful of companies now hold predictive knowledge about billions of people, knowledge that can be used to shape not only what they buy but what they notice and how they vote. The question the surveillance economy forces is no longer whether a particular secret is safe, but whether a society is comfortable with so much knowledge, and so much of the power that knowledge brings, concentrated in so few hands.

Q1. Which of the following best captures the primary purpose of the passage?

(A) To argue that all internet services should be made permanently free of charge.

(B) To explain how personal data became a commodity and to raise concern about the power this concentrates.

(C) To prove that online advertising is always harmful to the consumers who see it.

(D) To describe the technical methods firms use to encrypt personal data.

Q2. The passage suggests that the phrase “the users themselves were the product” means that:

(A) users had to pay a hidden subscription fee for the services they used.

(B) users were required to manufacture goods for the companies.

(C) companies chiefly sold physical devices assembled by their users.

(D) what companies sold was users’ attention and predictions about their behaviour, drawn from their data.

Q3. According to the passage, the “engine” of the surveillance economy is:

(A) incentive, since a firm that gathers more data can predict more accurately and so earn more.

(B) the personal malice of a few powerful company executives.

(C) government regulations that require firms to collect data.

(D) users' explicit and repeated demand to be tracked more closely.

Q4. How does the passage respond to the claim that the data-for-services exchange is fair?

(A) By fully accepting the claim and dismissing every criticism of it.

(B) By concluding that all such services ought simply to be banned.

(C) By noting that opting out is costly and the terms are set by the firm, so the consent is thin.

(D) By stating that users always read and fully understand the consent forms.

Directions (Q5–Q8): Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. Before the fifteenth century, European painters represented space in ways that strike the modern eye as flat. Figures were sized according to their importance rather than their distance; a saint might tower over the buildings behind him, and parallel lines such as the edges of a floor ran across the picture without converging. The paintings were not crude, but they followed a different logic, one in which sacred meaning, not optical appearance, decided how things were arranged.

The change came with the discovery, or rediscovery, of linear perspective. Working in Florence in the early 1400s, the architect Brunelleschi demonstrated that the apparent size of objects shrinks with distance in a regular, measurable way, and that parallel lines receding from the viewer appear to meet at a single vanishing point. A few years later Alberti set out the method in writing, describing the picture surface as a window through which the viewer looks onto a constructed scene. With these rules a painter could build an illusion of depth as consistent as the view through a real window.

The effect on painting was profound. Space became continuous and rational; figures now stood in a room that obeyed the same geometry as the world outside it. A painter could place a viewer at a precise spot and organise everything, floor tiles, columns and distant hills, around that single point of view. Perspective gave the artist a new kind of control, and it gave the picture a new kind of truth, a fidelity to how things actually look from one position in space.

Yet this triumph carried a quieter implication. Perspective assumes a single, fixed, one-eyed observer, standing still at a particular place. The world it shows is the world as it appears to that one viewer at that one instant. In organising the picture around the individual eye, Renaissance perspective mirrored a wider shift in thought, toward the individual as the measure of things. The technique that made painting look more objective in fact placed the subjective human viewpoint at the very centre of the image.

Later artists would rebel against this scheme, deliberately breaking its rules to suggest that a single viewpoint tells only part of the truth. But the rebellion only confirms how completely

perspective had come to seem natural. For centuries it was not one way of picturing the world among many; it was simply what a correct picture was.

Q5. The central idea of the passage is that:

(A) medieval painters lacked the skill to draw convincing human figures.

(B) Brunelleschi and Alberti were the greatest painters of the Renaissance.

(C) linear perspective transformed painting by organising space around a single viewpoint, with consequences for both art and thought.

(D) modern artists were mistaken to abandon the rules of perspective.

Q6. According to the passage, in paintings made before linear perspective, the size of a figure was determined mainly by:

(A) its importance rather than its distance from the viewer.

(B) the precise geometry of a single vanishing point.

(C) the amount of light that happened to fall on it.

(D) the physical size of the wall being painted.

Q7. The passage suggests that, despite making pictures look more objective, perspective in fact:

(A) made paintings much harder for ordinary viewers to understand.

(B) removed all religious meaning from European art.

(C) proved that a single viewpoint captures the whole truth of a scene.

(D) placed the subjective, individual human viewpoint at the centre of the image.

Q8. The primary function of the final paragraph is to:

(A) argue that later artists were wrong to break the rules of perspective.

(B) note that later rebellions against perspective only confirm how natural it had come to seem.

(C) explain the mathematics of the vanishing point in technical detail.

(D) trace Brunelleschi's later career after his demonstration in Florence.

Directions (Q9–Q12): Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. The human body is often imagined as a single organism, but it is closer to a crowded settlement. Trillions of bacteria, along with viruses and fungi, live on our skin and, above all, in our gut. Collectively known as the microbiome, these microbes are so numerous that their genes vastly outnumber our own. For most of medical history they were ignored, or treated simply as threats to be eliminated. Only recently have researchers begun to see them as partners whose activity is bound up with our health.

Most of this community lives in the large intestine, where it does work the human body cannot do alone. Gut bacteria break down fibres that our own enzymes cannot digest, releasing compounds that nourish the cells lining the intestine. They synthesise certain vitamins, help train the immune system to tell friend from foe, and crowd out invading pathogens simply by occupying the space and consuming the resources those invaders would need. A body raised entirely without microbes, experiments in animals show, develops a stunted and confused immune system.

What has surprised researchers most is how far the influence of these microbes reaches. The gut is laced with nerves and connected to the brain through several channels, and the chemicals that bacteria produce appear to affect mood, appetite and even behaviour. Studies have linked disturbances in the microbiome to conditions as varied as obesity, allergies and certain disorders of the mind, though whether the microbes are a cause or merely a marker is often still unclear.

This uncertainty matters, because it is tempting to leap from correlation to cure. The popularity of probiotic supplements and fashionable diets has run well ahead of the evidence for them. The microbiome is not a simple dial that a single product can turn; it is a complex ecosystem shaped by diet, environment, medicine and genes over a lifetime, and what helps one person may do nothing for another.

Still, the shift in perspective is real and important. To treat the body as an ecosystem rather than a fortress is to ask new questions: not only how to kill harmful microbes, but how to cultivate helpful ones. Antibiotics, which clear infections but also flatten the wider community, look different in this light. The lesson emerging from the study of the microbiome is that health may depend less on sterility than on a balance we are only beginning to understand.

Q9. The passage describes the human microbiome as:

(A) the trillions of bacteria, viruses and fungi living on and, especially, inside the body.

(B) the set of human genes responsible for digestion.

(C) a single species of bacterium found only in the large intestine.

(D) the immune cells that attack invading pathogens.

Q10. According to the passage, gut bacteria help protect against invading

pathogens mainly by:

(A) directly attacking and killing the invaders with enzymes.

(B) producing antibiotics that the body then absorbs.

(C) occupying the space and consuming the resources the invaders would need.

(D) signalling the brain to raise the body's temperature.

Q11. The passage's treatment of probiotic supplements and fashionable diets is best described as:

(A) an enthusiastic endorsement of their firmly proven benefits.

(B) cautious, warning that their popularity has run ahead of the evidence.

(C) certain that they are entirely useless for absolutely everyone.

(D) indifferent to whether they work in any way at all.

Q12. In the final paragraph, the word "flatten" (as in antibiotics that "also flatten the wider community") most nearly means to:

(A) map out the community in careful detail.

(B) gently support and strengthen the community.

(C) make a surface level and smooth.

(D) sharply reduce or wipe out the community.

Directions (Q13–Q16): Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. We are used to ranking minds on a single ladder, with human intelligence at the top and other creatures arranged on the rungs below according to how closely they resemble us. This picture is comforting and convenient, but the study of animal cognition has made it increasingly hard to defend. The minds of other species, it turns out, are not simply dimmer versions of our own; they are often organised along entirely different lines.

Consider the octopus. Most of its neurons lie not in a central brain but distributed through its arms, so that each arm can taste, feel and act with a striking degree of independence. An octopus solves problems, remembers, and appears to play, yet it does so with a body and nervous system so unlike ours that we can barely imagine what its experience is like. A crow fashions and uses tools; a bee, with a brain smaller than a grain of rice, can count and learn abstract rules. None

of these achievements fits neatly on the single human ladder.
The difficulty is not merely scientific but moral. Much of our ethics rests on the idea that certain beings matter because they can suffer, and suffering seems to require some form of consciousness. But if minds can be built so differently from ours, how are we to judge which creatures are conscious, and to what degree? We cannot step inside another animal to check. We are left to infer from behaviour and biology, and those inferences grow shakier the further a creature departs from the human pattern.
This uncertainty has real consequences. If we set the bar for moral concern at resemblance to ourselves, we risk ignoring the suffering of beings whose minds are alien but real. If we set it too low, we may paralyse ourselves with obligations to everything that twitches. Neither error is comfortable, and the science, for now, cannot tell us exactly where the line falls.
What the study of other minds does offer is a kind of humility. It reminds us that our own way of being conscious is one solution among many that evolution has found, not the standard against which all others must be measured. To take animal minds seriously is to accept that the moral world may be larger and stranger than our inherited categories allow, and that drawing its boundaries will require both better science and a willingness to be surprised.

Q13. The passage is primarily concerned with:

(A) proving that the octopus is the most intelligent animal on Earth.

(B) showing that human intelligence is simply the brightest version of a single kind of mind.

(C) arguing that ethics should extend identical rights to every living creature.

(D) arguing that, because other minds are built differently from ours, judging their consciousness and moral status is difficult and demands humility.

Q14. According to the passage, what makes the octopus's mind especially hard for us to imagine is that:

(A) it has no neurons of any kind.

(B) most of its neurons lie distributed through its arms rather than in a central brain.

(C) it is far more intelligent than any human being.

(D) it cannot solve problems or remember anything.

Q15. The passage suggests that the moral problem posed by different kinds of minds arises because:

(A) our ethics ties moral concern to the capacity to suffer, yet we cannot easily judge consciousness in creatures unlike us.

(B) animals are now known with certainty to lack any consciousness whatsoever.

(C) suffering has been shown to have nothing to do with consciousness.

(D) only creatures physically identical to humans are able to feel pain.

Q16. The author's attitude toward ranking animal minds on a single ladder is best described as:

(A) confident that the ladder accurately reflects reality.

(B) indifferent to whether animals have minds at all.

(C) skeptical, holding that the ladder is comforting but hard to defend.

(D) certain that humans in fact occupy the lowest rung.

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. By the nineteenth century, falling prices had turned it from a luxury into a daily necessity for ordinary households.

2. Soap is so ordinary today that few of us pause to consider its long history.

3. The earliest recipes, recorded on clay tablets, mixed animal fat with ashes to produce a crude cleanser.

4. For centuries afterwards it remained expensive, a mark of wealth rather than a tool of hygiene.

(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 wheel is often held up as the supreme human invention, yet it was useless on its own. A wheel turning on a fixed axle is what does the work, and that pairing demands smooth axles, hard roads and loads worth moving. In rough or forested country, where none of these existed, peoples who knew the wheel sensibly ignored it. An invention, in short, is worth only as much as the surrounding conditions that let it function."

(A) The wheel is beyond dispute the single greatest invention in all of human history.

(B) Peoples who did not use the wheel had simply never encountered it.

(C) An invention like the wheel is valuable only when the surrounding conditions allow it to work.

(D) Smooth axles matter far more than the wheels that turn upon them.

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 thousands of years, China guarded the secret of how silk was made from the cocoons of a particular moth.

2. The thread was unwound from the cocoons, twisted together and woven into a fabric prized across the ancient world.

3. Caravans carried the finished cloth westward along routes that came to bear its name.

4. Today most commercial fabric is spun from synthetic fibres derived from petroleum.

5. Eventually the secret escaped China, and the craft spread to other lands.

(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. Torricelli reasoned that the surrounding air had weight and pressed down on the liquid.

2. For a long time engineers could not explain why a pump would not raise water above about ten metres.

3. To test the notion, he sealed mercury in a tube and measured how high the column stood.

4. His device, the barometer, later revealed that this air pressure changes with the weather.

(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.

"Natural rubber was a frustrating material: sticky and soft in summer heat, brittle and hard in winter cold. For decades it promised much and delivered little, ruining the fortunes of those who bet on it. The breakthrough came when Goodyear found that heating rubber with sulphur made it stable across temperatures. The lesson is that a raw material may hold great promise yet remain worthless until a process is found that tames its flaws."

(A) Goodyear was the only person who ever tried to work with rubber.

(B) Natural rubber has no useful properties at any temperature at all.

(C) Rubber became valuable purely because demand for it happened to rise.

(D) A promising raw material can stay worthless until a process is found to overcome its flaws.

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. Before the metric system, every region measured length and weight by its own local units.

2. Merchants and travellers faced a bewildering tangle of units that varied from town to town.

3. A well-designed kitchen scale can today measure ingredients to the nearest gram.

4. Reformers proposed a single decimal system, based on natural constants and the same everywhere.

5. Adopted first in France, the new units gradually spread across most of the world.

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

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

"A beekeeper does not command the hive so much as negotiate with it. The colony has its own logic, built around the queen, the seasons and the search for nectar, and it will swarm, sicken or abscond regardless of the keeper's wishes. The skilled keeper succeeds not by imposing orders but by reading these signs and arranging conditions that suit the bees. To keep bees well is less to control an animal than to cooperate with a system one does not fully govern."

(A) Beekeeping is chiefly a matter of issuing firm commands to the hive.

(B) Successful beekeeping is less about controlling the bees than about cooperating with a system one cannot fully govern.

(C) A hive will always behave exactly as its keeper wishes it to.

(D) Bees are far too unpredictable for anyone to keep them successfully.

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

"A new volcanic island rises from the sea as bare, sterile rock, seemingly hostile to life. Yet within a few years the first colonists arrive, borne on wind, waves and the feet of birds. Seeds, spores and insects establish a foothold, and each new arrival slightly alters the conditions for the next. _____."

(A) Step by step, what began as barren stone is knitted into a living community.

(B) Most tourists, however, prefer islands that already have long sandy beaches.

(C) The volcano beneath it, meanwhile, had been forming for millions of years.

(D) Geologists measure such islands carefully in order to study plate movements.

Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

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

Step 1 — Track the arc: The passage opens with the "free" internet, explains that data became the traded raw material of prediction, names this the surveillance economy, and closes on the worry about concentrated power.

Step 2 — Match to an option: Option B names both halves: how data became a commodity and the concern about concentrated power.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage explains why "free" services are not really free; it does not campaign to keep them free.
- C: It criticises the data economy, not advertising as always harmful to every viewer.
- D: Encryption methods are never discussed.

Final Answer: Explain the data commodity and warn about concentrated power $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q 1

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Inference from a stated line: A valid inference restates what the passage actually claims the phrase means.

Step 1 — Locate the line: Paragraph 1 says "the users themselves were the product" and immediately explains: "What these firms sold was not software but attention and prediction, and the raw material . . . was personal data."

Step 2 — Match: Option D restates exactly this: the firms sold users' attention and behavioural predictions drawn from their data.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The point is that no fee was charged; services "arrived at no charge."
- B and C: Users are not said to manufacture goods or assemble devices; they

generate data by using the service.

Final Answer: Firms sold users' attention and predictions from their data $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q 2

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Specific detail: The answer must be the reason the passage states.

Step 1 — Find the sentence: Paragraph 3 says the engine "is not malice but incentive: a company that gathers more data can predict more accurately, and so earn more."

Step 2 — Match: Option A repeats this incentive mechanism.

Why other options are wrong:

- B: The passage explicitly says the engine is "not malice."
- C: Regulation is never named as the driver.
- D: Users do not demand to be tracked; data is gathered "quietly."

Final Answer: Incentive to predict better and earn more $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q 3

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Author's handling of a counter-argument: Decide whether the author accepts, rejects or qualifies the "fair exchange" claim.

Step 1 — Read the reply: After the defenders' claim, the passage gives the critics' answer approvingly: opting out "carries a heavy cost, and the terms are set by the firm, not negotiated," so "consent . . . is thin."

Step 2 — Match: Option C states exactly this rebuttal.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage does not accept the fairness claim; it presses back on it.
- B: It never calls for an outright ban.
- D: It says the forms are the ones "almost no one reads."

Final Answer: Opting out is costly and terms are dictated, so consent is thin $\Rightarrow$

C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q 4

Q5.

Solution

Concept — Central idea: The thesis is the claim the whole passage builds toward.

Step 1 — Track the arc: Flat pre-perspective space, the arrival of linear perspective, its transforming effect, its "quieter implication" about the single viewpoint, and its lasting hold.

Step 2 — Match: Option C names both the transformation of painting and its consequences for art and thought.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage says the earlier paintings "were not crude," only different in logic.
- B: Brunelleschi and Alberti are cited as an architect and a theorist, not ranked as greatest painters.
- D: The passage treats the later rebellion as understandable, not a mistake.

Final Answer: Perspective reorganised space around one viewpoint, with wide consequences $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q 5

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Specific detail: Match the stated rule for sizing figures before perspective.

Step 1 — Find it: Paragraph 1: "Figures were sized according to their importance rather than their distance."

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

Why other options are wrong:

- B: The vanishing point belongs to the later perspective method.
- C: Light is not the stated factor.
- D: Wall size is never mentioned as governing figure size.

Final Answer: Importance, not distance ⇒ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q 6

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Inference from the "quieter implication": Read what the passage says perspective secretly did.

Step 1 — Find the line: Paragraph 4: "The technique that made painting look more objective in fact placed the subjective human viewpoint at the very centre of the image."

Step 2 — Match: Option D restates this paradox directly.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: Difficulty of understanding is not claimed; if anything depth looks natural.
- B: Religious meaning is discussed for the earlier era, not said to be removed by perspective.
- C: The passage says the single viewpoint shows "only part of the truth," the opposite of C.

Final Answer: It centred the subjective individual viewpoint ⇒ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q 7

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Function of a paragraph: Ask what job the closing paragraph does.

Step 1 — Read it: Later artists broke the rules, "But the rebellion only confirms how completely perspective had come to seem natural."

Step 2 — Match: Option B captures that the rebellion paradoxically confirms how natural perspective had become.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The author does not judge the rebels wrong.
- C: No new mathematics is given here.
- D: Brunelleschi's later career is not traced.

Final Answer: The rebellion confirms how natural perspective had seemed ⇒ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q 8

Q9.

Solution

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

Step 1 — Find it: Paragraph 1: "Trillions of bacteria, along with viruses and fungi, live on our skin and, above all, in our gut. Collectively known as the microbiome . . . "

Step 2 — Match: Option A restates this composition and location.

Why other options are wrong:

- B: The microbiome is microbes, not human genes.
- C: It is a whole community, not one species.
- D: Immune cells are the body's, not the microbiome.

Final Answer: Trillions of microbes on and inside the body ⇒ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q 9

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Specific detail: Identify the mechanism the passage names.

Step 1 — Find it: Paragraph 2: gut bacteria "crowd out invading pathogens simply by occupying the space and consuming the resources those invaders would need."

Step 2 — Match: Option C states exactly this crowding-out mechanism.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: Direct enzyme attack on invaders is not the stated method.
- B: They synthesise vitamins, not antibiotics the body absorbs.
- D: Raising temperature is not mentioned.

Final Answer: By occupying space and consuming resources ⇒ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q 10

Q11.

Solution

Concept — Tone/attitude: Pick the adjective that fits the author's stance on probiotics.

Step 1 — Weigh the cues: Paragraph 4 warns it is "tempting to leap from correlation to cure," that popularity "has run well ahead of the evidence," and that "what helps one person may do nothing for another."

Step 2 — Match: Option B (cautious, popularity ahead of evidence) fits precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The author is wary, not enthusiastic.
- C: The author says they may help some people, not that they are useless for everyone.
- D: Real concern is shown, so not indifference.

Final Answer: Cautious; popularity outruns evidence $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q 11

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: A word's meaning is fixed by the sentence around it, not its most common literal sense.

Step 1 — Read the context: Antibiotics "clear infections but also flatten the wider community," set against "how to cultivate helpful" microbes. Here "flatten" is a harm done to the whole microbial community.

Step 2 — Match: Option D, "sharply reduce or wipe out," fits: antibiotics knock down the whole community, not just pathogens.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: "Map out in detail" has no support.
- B: "Support and strengthen" is the opposite of the harm described.
- C: "Make level and smooth" is the literal physical sense, wrong for a living community.

Final Answer: "Flatten" means to sharply reduce or wipe out $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q 12

Q13.

Solution

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

Step 1 — Track the arc: The single ladder is hard to defend; other minds are built differently (octopus, crow, bee); this makes judging consciousness and moral status hard; the upshot is humility.

Step 2 — Match: Option D names the difficulty of judging consciousness and the call for humility.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The octopus is one example, not ranked the most intelligent.
- B: The passage rejects the "single kind of mind" picture.
- C: It warns against setting the bar too low; it does not demand identical rights for all.

Final Answer: Different minds make moral judgement hard and demand humility $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q 13

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Specific detail: Match the stated fact about the octopus.

Step 1 — Find it: Paragraph 2: "Most of its neurons lie not in a central brain but distributed through its arms."

Step 2 — Match: Option B restates this distributed nervous system.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: It has many neurons; the point is where they lie.
- C: The passage does not claim it is more intelligent than humans.
- D: It "solves problems, remembers, and appears to play," so D is false.

Final Answer: Neurons distributed through its arms $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q 14

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Inference of a stated problem: Combine the two premises the passage links.

Step 1 — Find them: Paragraph 3: ethics rests on the idea that beings matter "because they can suffer, and suffering seems to require some form of consciousness"; but with alien minds, "how are we to judge which creatures are conscious."

Step 2 — Match: Option A joins these: concern is tied to suffering, yet consciousness is hard to judge in unlike creatures.

Why other options are wrong:

- B: The passage stresses uncertainty, not certain absence of consciousness.
- C: It says suffering "seems to require . . . consciousness," the opposite of C.
- D: It never claims only human-identical creatures feel pain.

Final Answer: Concern tied to suffering, yet consciousness hard to judge $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{A}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q 15

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Tone/attitude: Choose the word matching the author's stance on the single ladder.

Step 1 — Weigh the cues: The ladder is "comforting and convenient, but . . . increasingly hard to defend"; other minds are "not simply dimmer versions of our own."

Step 2 — Match: Option C (skeptical; comforting but hard to defend) fits both cues.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The author doubts the ladder's accuracy.
- B: Real interest in animal minds rules out indifference.
- D: The passage never places humans on the lowest rung; it questions the ladder itself.

Final Answer: Skeptical; the ladder is comforting but hard to defend $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{C}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q 16

Q17.

Solution

Concept — Para-jumble: Find the general opener, then follow the time line from earliest to latest.

Step 1 — Opening: Sentence 2 makes the general observation (soap is so ordinary we ignore its history); it needs no prior context, so it opens.

Step 2 — Earliest stage: Sentence 3 ("The earliest recipes . . . ") gives the first stage, so it follows 2.

Step 3 — Middle stage: Sentence 4 ("For centuries afterwards it remained expensive") continues the timeline after those earliest recipes.

Step 4 — Latest stage: Sentence 1 ("By the nineteenth century . . . a daily necessity") gives the final stage, so it closes.

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

Final Answer: $\boxed{2341}$

Answer: (2341) Go Back to Q 17

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Para-summary: Keep the author's core claim without adding or reversing it.

Step 1 — Core claim: The wheel "was useless on its own"; it needed smooth axles, hard roads and worthwhile loads, so "an invention . . . is worth only as much as the surrounding conditions that let it function."

Step 2 — Match: Option C restates that an invention is valuable only when conditions allow it to work.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage questions the "supreme invention" framing rather than endorsing it.
- B: The passage says such peoples "knew the wheel" but sensibly ignored it, not that they never met it.
- D: The axle-and-wheel pairing is the point; the passage does not rank axles above wheels.

Final Answer: An invention is valuable only when conditions let it work $\Rightarrow \boxed{C}$

Answer: (C) 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 history of silk: China's guarded secret, how the cloth was made, its trade westward, and the secret's escape.

Step 2 — Spot the outlier: Sentence 4 jumps to modern synthetic fibres from petroleum, a present-day materials point outside the historical silk narrative.

Step 3 — Confirm coherence without it: 1, 2, 3, 5 form a clean paragraph on silk's history and spread.

Final Answer: Sentence 4 does not belong $\Rightarrow \boxed{4}$

Answer: (4) Go Back to Q 19

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Para-jumble: Start with the puzzle, then reasoning, then test, then result.

Step 1 — Opening: Sentence 2 states the long-standing puzzle (why a pump could not raise water beyond about ten metres); it opens.

Step 2 — Reasoning: Sentence 1 ("Torricelli reasoned that the surrounding air had weight") offers the explanation, so it follows 2.

Step 3 — Test: Sentence 3 ("To test the notion, he sealed mercury in a tube") acts on that reasoning, so it follows 1.

Step 4 — Result: Sentence 4 ("His device, the barometer . . . ") gives the outcome, so it closes.

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

Final Answer: $\boxed{2134}$

Answer: (2134) Go Back to Q 20

Q21.

Solution

Concept — Para-summary: Preserve the passage's "lesson," not an extreme version.

Step 1 — Core claim: Rubber "promised much and delivered little" until vulcanisation tamed it; "a raw material may hold great promise yet remain worthless until a process is found that tames its flaws."

Step 2 — Match: Option D restates this lesson directly.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage does not claim Goodyear was the only person to work with rubber.
- B: Rubber had promise; its problem was instability across temperatures, not zero usefulness.
- C: The turning point was the process, not merely rising demand.

Final Answer: A promising material can stay worthless until a process fixes its flaws $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q 21

Q22.

Solution

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

Step 1 — Find the theme: Sentences 1, 2, 4 and 5 trace the metric system: the old patchwork of local units, the confusion it caused, the reformers' decimal proposal, and its spread from France.

Step 2 — Spot the outlier: Sentence 3 states a present-day practical fact about kitchen scales measuring to the gram, unrelated to the historical rise of the metric system.

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

Final Answer: Sentence 3 does not belong $\Rightarrow \boxed{3}$

Answer: (3) Go Back to Q 22

Q23.

Solution

Concept — Para-summary: Keep the passage's balanced claim about cooperation, not control.

Step 1 — Core claim: "To keep bees well is less to control an animal than to cooperate with a system one does not fully govern."

Step 2 — Match: Option B restates this cooperation-over-control idea.

Why other options are wrong:

- A: The passage says the keeper "does not command the hive so much as negotiate with it," contradicting "firm commands."
- C: The colony "will swarm, sicken or abscond regardless of the keeper's wishes," so it does not always obey.
- D: The passage says the skilled keeper succeeds, so bees are not too unpredictable to keep.

Final Answer: Beekeeping is cooperating with a system one cannot fully govern $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q 23

Q24.

Solution

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

Step 1 — Track the logic: Bare rock, then colonists arrive, each arrival "slightly alters the conditions for the next" – a step-by-step process of life taking hold.

Step 2 — Match: Option A completes the sequence: "what began as barren stone is knitted into a living community."

Why other options are wrong:

- B: Tourists and beaches ignore the colonisation build-up.
- C: The volcano's geological age is a scene-setting detail, not the logical conclusion of the life-arrival sequence.
- D: Geologists studying plate movements shifts the topic away from the colonisation process.

Final Answer: Barren stone is knitted into a living community $\Rightarrow$ 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	C
6	A	7	D	8	B	9	A	10	C
11	B	12	D	13	D	14	B	15	A
16	C	17	2341	18	C	19	4	20	2134
21	D	22	3	23	B	24	A		