

GRE 2025 Verbal reasoning Sample Paper Set 2

Time Allowed : About 3 hrs 45 mins	Maximum Score : 340 (Verbal+Quant) + 6 (AWA)	Sections : 3 Main + 1 Unscored
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The GRE General Test has a duration of about 3 hours 45 minutes, divided into six sections (including one unscored/experimental section).
2. The test consists of the following sections:
 - **Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA)** – 2 tasks, 30 minutes each.
 - **Verbal Reasoning** – 2 sections, 20 questions each, 30 minutes per section.
 - **Quantitative Reasoning** – 2 sections, 20 questions each, 35 minutes per section.
 - **Unscored/Research Section** – May appear anytime (not counted in score).
3. Scoring Pattern:
 - Verbal Reasoning: 130–170 (in 1-point increments).
 - Quantitative Reasoning: 130–170 (in 1-point increments).
 - Analytical Writing: 0–6 (in half-point increments).
4. No negative marking is applied in the GRE. Test-takers are advised to attempt all questions.
5. Only an on-screen calculator is allowed for Quantitative Reasoning. No physical calculators, mobile devices, or electronic gadgets are permitted.
6. Breaks: A 10-minute break is provided after the third section; one-minute breaks between other sections.

Verbal Reasoning

Directions for questions 1 through 5:

Each of the following questions includes a sentence with a blank indicating that something has been omitted. Following the sentence will be a list of six words or phrases, each of which could be used to complete the sentence. Select the two answer choices that, when substituted for the blank, fit the context and produce the two sentences most nearly alike in meaning.

1. In the long run, high-technology communications cannot ----- more traditional face-to-face family togetherness, in Ms. Aspinall's view.

- (A) ameliorate
- (B) compromise
- (C) supersede
- (D) approximate
- (E) enervate
- (F) supplant

Correct Answer: (C) supersede, (F) supplant

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the context.

The passage suggests that high-tech communication cannot replace or overpower traditional family togetherness. Both "supersede" and "supplant" fit the meaning of replacing something else.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): "Ameliorate" means to improve, which does not fit.
- (B): "Compromise" is not about replacing, but about making concessions.
- (C): "Supersede" fits perfectly, meaning to replace.
- (D): "Approximate" doesn't fit in the context of replacement.
- (E): "Enervate" means to weaken, which is unrelated.
- (F): "Supplant" also fits, meaning to take the place of something.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answers are (C) supersede and (F) supplant.

Quick Tip

Look for synonyms or words that convey replacement or dominance when the context suggests one thing replacing another.

2. Even in this business, where _____ is part of everyday life, a talent for lying is not something usually found on one's resume.

- (A) aspiration
- (B) mendacity
- (C) prevarication
- (D) insensitivity
- (E) baseness
- (F) avarice

Correct Answer: (B) mendacity, (C) prevarication

Solution:

Step 1: Context analysis.

The passage discusses lying, so words related to dishonesty will fit.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): “Aspiration” does not fit the context of lying.
- (B): “Mendacity” means untruthfulness, which fits perfectly.
- (C): “Prevarication” means the act of lying or misleading, which also fits.
- (D): “Insensitivity” doesn’t relate to lying.
- (E): “Baseness” refers to moral corruption, but doesn’t directly imply lying.
- (F): “Avarice” means greed, which is unrelated.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answers are (B) mendacity and (C) prevarication.

Quick Tip

When discussing dishonesty, focus on terms that directly relate to lying or deceit, such as “mendacity” or “prevarication.”

3. A restaurant’s menu is generally reflected in its decor; however, despite this restaurant’s _____ appearance it is pedestrian in the menu it offers.

- (A) elegant
- (B) tawdry
- (C) modern
- (D) traditional
- (E) conventional
- (F) chic

Correct Answer: (A) elegant, (F) chic

Solution:

Step 1: Context analysis.

The passage implies the restaurant has an appealing appearance, but a mundane menu, suggesting a contradiction between decor and food.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): “Elegant” fits as it describes a refined appearance.
- (B): “Tawdry” means cheap or showy, which would contradict the appearance of elegance.
- (C): “Modern” doesn’t fit with the overall idea of contrast.
- (D): “Traditional” doesn’t fit the idea of an appealing appearance.
- (E): “Conventional” doesn’t match the intended meaning.

- (F): “Chic” fits well, describing a stylish appearance.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answers are (A) elegant and (F) chic.

Quick Tip

Look for words that emphasize style and contrast when dealing with contradictory descriptions.

4. International financial issues are typically _____ by the United States media because they are too technical to make snappy headlines and too inaccessible to people who lack a background in economics.

- (A) neglected
- (B) slighted
- (C) overrated
- (D) hidden
- (E) criticized
- (F) repudiated

Correct Answer: (A) neglected, (B) slighted

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the context.

The passage suggests that financial issues are ignored by the media due to their complexity.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): “Neglected” fits as it means ignored or given insufficient attention.
- (B): “Slighted” also means treated with disregard.
- (C): “Overrated” doesn’t fit the meaning of being ignored.
- (D): “Hidden” could work but isn’t the best word here.
- (E): “Criticized” doesn’t fit the context of ignoring.
- (F): “Repudiated” is too strong and implies rejection, which doesn’t match.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answers are (A) neglected and (B) slighted.

Quick Tip

When dealing with media-related questions, look for words that imply something is being ignored or downplayed.

5. While in many ways their personalities could not have been more different—she was ebullient where he was glum, relaxed where he was awkward, garrulous where he was -----they were surprisingly well suited.

- (A) solicitous
- (B) munificent
- (C) irresolute
- (D) laconic
- (E) fastidious
- (F) taciturn

Correct Answer: (D) laconic, (F) taciturn

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the context.

The sentence describes a contrast, where one person is garrulous (talkative) while the other is reserved or quiet.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): “Solicitous” means showing concern, but doesn’t fit the idea of quietness.
- (B): “Munificent” means generous, which is unrelated.
- (C): “Irresolute” means uncertain, not reserved.
- (D): “Laconic” fits, meaning brief in speech.
- (E): “Fastidious” means difficult to please, which doesn’t match.
- (F): “Taciturn” fits, meaning quiet and reserved.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answers are (D) laconic and (F) taciturn.

Quick Tip

When dealing with contrasts in personality, look for terms that suggest reserved or quiet speech, such as “laconic” or “taciturn.”

Questions 6 through 8 are based on the following reading passage.

Music critics have consistently defined James P. Johnson as a great early jazz pianist, originator of the 1920s Harlem “stride” style, and an important blues and jazz composer. In addition, however, Johnson was an innovator in classical music, composing symphonic music that incorporated American, and especially African American, traditions.

Such a blend of musical elements was not entirely new: by 1924 both Milhaud and Gershwin had composed classical works that incorporated elements of jazz. Johnson, a serious musician more

experienced than most classical composers with jazz, blues, spirituals, and popular music, was particularly suited to expand Milhaud's and Gershwin's experiments. In 1927 he completed his first large-scale work, the blues- and jazz-inspired *Yamekraw*, which included borrowings from spirituals and Johnson's own popular songs. *Yamekraw*, premiered successfully in Carnegie Hall, was a major achievement for Johnson, becoming his most frequently performed extended work. It demonstrated vividly the possibility of assimilating contemporary popular music into the symphonic tradition.

6. The passage states that Johnson composed all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) jazz works
- (B) popular songs
- (C) symphonic music
- (D) spirituals
- (E) blues pieces

Correct Answer: (C) symphonic music

Solution:

Step 1: Context interpretation.

The passage likely outlines the types of music that Johnson composed, with symphonic music being the exception.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): "Jazz works" are mentioned as part of his compositions.
- (B): "Popular songs" also align with his style of composition.
- (C): "Symphonic music" is not explicitly listed among the types of music Johnson composed. Thus, this is the exception.
- (D): "Spirituals" are likely part of his musical range, considering his era and influences.
- (E): "Blues pieces" fit within his known musical scope.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (C), as symphonic music is not mentioned among his compositions.

Quick Tip

When asked for an exception, focus on what is **not** explicitly stated in the passage.

7. The author suggests which of the following about most classical composers of the early 1920s?

- (A) They were strongly influenced by the musical experiments of Milhaud and Gershwin.
- (B) They had little working familiarity with such forms of American music as jazz, blues, and

popular songs.

(C) They made few attempts to introduce innovations into the classical symphonic tradition.

Correct Answer: (B) They had little working familiarity with such forms of American music as jazz, blues, and popular songs.

Solution:

Step 1: Context analysis.

The passage contrasts classical composers of the 1920s with emerging American music forms, such as jazz and blues.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): “Strongly influenced by Milhaud and Gershwin” isn’t fully supported by the passage; the focus is more on lack of familiarity.
- (B): This aligns with the passage, which suggests classical composers of that time had limited exposure to American music like jazz, blues, and popular songs.
- (C): The passage does not suggest that classical composers avoided innovation in the classical tradition.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct answer is (B), as the author highlights the limited familiarity of classical composers with American music.

Quick Tip

When analyzing passages about historical groups, look for contrasts in exposure or influences, such as the lack of knowledge of certain musical forms.

8. The author suggests that most critics have

- (A) underrated the popularity of Yamekraw
- (B) undervalued Johnson’s musical abilities
- (C) had little interest in Johnson’s influence on jazz
- (D) had little regard for classical works that incorporate popular music
- (E) neglected Johnson’s contribution to classical symphonic music

Correct Answer: (E) neglected Johnson’s contribution to classical symphonic music

Solution:

Step 1: Context analysis.

The passage points out that Johnson’s contributions to symphonic music are underappreciated.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): “Underrated the popularity of Yamekraw” isn’t a major theme discussed in the passage.
- (B): “Undervalued Johnson’s musical abilities” is somewhat accurate but not the primary focus.
- (C): “Had little interest in Johnson’s influence on jazz” is not the author’s main criticism.
- (D): “Had little regard for classical works that incorporate popular music” is not directly mentioned.
- (E): “Neglected Johnson’s contribution to classical symphonic music” aligns with the central critique in the passage about his underappreciation.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (E), as the author focuses on critics neglecting Johnson’s contributions to symphonic music.

Quick Tip

For questions about critiques or neglect, focus on the author’s main criticism regarding recognition or lack thereof.

Questions 9 and 10 are based on the following reading passage. (A word is boldfaced and underlined for reference in answering question 10.)

Scholarship on political newspapers and their editors is dominated by the view that as the United States grew, the increasing influence of the press led, ultimately, to the neutral reporting from which we benefit today. Pasley considers this view oversimplified, because neutrality was not a goal of early national newspaper editing, even when editors **disingenuously** stated that they aimed to tell all sides of a story. Rather, the intensely partisan ideologies represented in newspapers of the early republic led to a clear demarcation between traditional and republican values. The editors responsible for the papers’ content—especially those with republican agendas—began to see themselves as central figures in the development of political consciousness in the United States.

9. The passage suggests that Pasley would agree with which of the following statements about the political role of newspapers?

- (A) Newspapers today are in many cases much less neutral in their political reporting than is commonly held by scholars.
- (B) Newspapers in the early United States normally declared quite openly their refusal to tell all sides of most political stories.
- (C) The editorial policies of some early United States newspapers became a counterweight to proponents of traditional values.

Correct Answer: (C) The editorial policies of some early United States newspapers became a counterweight to proponents of traditional values.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the context.

The passage discusses Pasley’s views on newspapers in early United States history and their political role.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): Pasley argues that newspapers today are less neutral, but this doesn’t directly relate to the historical perspective.
- (B): The passage does not explicitly suggest that early newspapers openly refused to tell both sides of stories.
- (C): The correct answer, as Pasley likely believes some early newspapers had editorial policies that opposed traditional values.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct answer is (C).

Quick Tip

Focus on what the author implies about political actions or policies, especially when considering counterpoints to common views.

10. The word “disingenuously” appears underlined and in boldface in line 6 of the passage. In the context in which it appears, “disingenuously” most nearly means

- (A) insincerely
- (B) guilelessly
- (C) obliquely
- (D) resolutely
- (E) pertinaciously

Correct Answer: (A) insincerely

Solution:

Step 1: Context interpretation.

The word “disingenuously” refers to something done in an insincere manner, often with a lack of honesty.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): “Insincerely” is the correct meaning, as it implies deceit or falsehood.
- (B): “Guilelessly” means without deception, which contradicts the idea of being disingenuous.
- (C): “Obliquely” refers to indirectness, which doesn’t fully capture the meaning of disingenuous.

- (D): “Resolutely” implies firm or determined, which does not align with the meaning of disingenuous.
- (E): “Pertinaciously” refers to persistence, which is unrelated to the meaning of disingenuous.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct answer is (A).

Quick Tip

When encountering “disingenuous,” look for synonyms like “insincere” or “dishonest” to identify the correct meaning.

Directions for questions 11 and 12:

Each of the following questions includes a short text with two or three blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

11. The (i)____nature of classical tragedy in Athens belies the modern image of tragedy: in the modern view tragedy is austere and stripped down, its representations of ideological and emotional conflicts so superbly compressed that there’s nothing (ii)___ for time to erode.

- (A) unadorned
- (B) harmonious
- (C) multifaceted

- (D) exigent
- (E) extraneous
- (F) inalienable

Correct Answer: (i) (C) multifaceted, (ii) (E) extraneous

Solution:

Step 1: Context analysis.

The passage contrasts classical tragedy with the modern view, emphasizing the complexity and richness of classical tragedy.

Step 2: Analyze the blanks.

- (i): “Multifaceted” fits because classical tragedy had many layers and dimensions, unlike the modern view of tragedy being stripped down.
- (ii): “Extraneous” fits as it means unnecessary or surplus, which aligns with the passage’s suggestion that nothing is left over for time to erode.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct answers are (i) (C) multifaceted and (ii) (E) extraneous.

Quick Tip

Look for words that emphasize complexity for (i) and elimination of unnecessary elements for (ii).

12. Murray, whose show of recent paintings and drawings is her best in many years, has been eminent hereabouts for a quarter century, although often regarded with (i)____, but the most (ii)_____ of these paintings (iii)_____ all doubts.

- (A) partiality
- (B) credulity
- (C) ambivalence

- (D) problematic
- (E) successful
- (F) disparaged

- (G) exculpate
- (H) assuage
- (I) whet

Correct Answer: (i) (C) ambivalence, (ii) (E) successful, (iii) (H) assuage

Solution:**Step 1: Context analysis.**

Murray's paintings are highly regarded despite some ambivalence in reception. The paintings are successful and assuage doubts about her ability.

Step 2: Analyze the blanks.

- (i): "Ambivalence" fits, as it suggests mixed or conflicting feelings towards her work.
- (ii): "Successful" fits, as it emphasizes that these paintings were regarded positively.
- (iii): "Assuage" fits, as it means to alleviate or soothe doubts.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct answers are (i) (C) ambivalence, (ii) (E) successful, and (iii) (H) assuage.

Quick Tip

Look for contrasts in the text, such as mixed opinions or eventual positive recognition.

Directions for questions 13 and 14:

Each of the following questions includes a short text with a blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Select the entry that best completes the text.

13. Far from viewing Jefferson as a skeptical but enlightened intellectual, historians of the 1960s portrayed him as _____ thinker, eager to fill the young with his political orthodoxy while censoring ideas he did not like.

- (A) an adventurous
- (B) a doctrinaire
- (C) an eclectic
- (D) a judicious
- (E) a cynical

Correct Answer: (B) a doctrinaire

Solution:

Step 1: Context interpretation.

The passage contrasts Jefferson's enlightened intellectualism with a more rigid, dogmatic view. "Doctrinaire" fits as it refers to someone strictly adhering to a doctrine.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): "Adventurous" does not fit with the description of a rigid thinker.
- (B): "Doctrinaire" fits perfectly as it refers to someone holding firm to a set of principles, often in a dogmatic way.
- (C): "Eclectic" refers to a broad, varied approach, which contrasts with a rigid mindset.
- (D): "Judicious" suggests good judgment, which is opposite of being doctrinaire.
- (E): "Cynical" doesn't fit with the description of an intellectual with a fixed ideology.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (B).

Quick Tip

When describing someone with fixed beliefs, "doctrinaire" is often the best fit.

14. Dramatic literature often _____ the history of a culture in that it takes as its subject matter the important events that have shaped and guided the culture.

- (A) confounds
- (B) repudiates
- (C) recapitulates

Correct Answer: (C) recapitulates

Solution:

Step 1: Context analysis.

The passage talks about dramatic literature recounting important cultural events, so “recapitulates” (repeats or summarizes) fits perfectly.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): “Confounds” means to confuse, which doesn’t align with the passage’s meaning.
- (B): “Repudiates” means to reject or disown, which contradicts the idea of recounting history.
- (C): “Recapitulates” is correct as it means to summarize or retell key events.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct answer is (C).

Quick Tip

When a passage talks about retelling or summarizing events, “recapitulate” is often the correct choice.

Questions 15 through 17 are based on the following reading passage. (A sentence is boldfaced and underlined for reference in answering question 16.)

In Raisin in the Sun, Lorraine Hansberry does not reject integration or the economic and moral promise of the American dream; rather, she remains loyal to this dream while looking, realistically, at its incomplete realization. Once we recognize this 5 dual vision, we can accept the play’s ironic nuances as deliberate social commentaries by Hansberry rather than as the “unintentional” irony that Bigsby attributes to the work. **Indeed, a curiously persistent refusal to credit Hansberry with a capacity for intentional irony has led some critics to interpret the play’s 10 thematic conflicts as mere confusion, contradiction, or eclecticism.** Isaacs, for example, cannot easily reconcile Hansberry’s intense concern for her race with her ideal of human reconciliation. But the play’s complex view of Black self-esteem and human solidarity as compatible is no more “contradictory” than 15 Du Bois’s famous, well-considered ideal of ethnic

self-awareness coexisting with human unity, or Fanon's emphasis on an ideal internationalism that also accommodates national identities and roles.

15. The author's primary purpose in the passage is to

- (A) explain some critics' refusal to consider *Raisin in the Sun* a deliberately ironic play
- (B) suggest that ironic nuances ally *Raisin in the Sun* with Du Bois's and Fanon's writings
- (C) analyze the fundamental dramatic conflicts in *Raisin in the Sun*
- (D) emphasize the inclusion of contradictory elements in *Raisin in the Sun*
- (E) affirm the thematic coherence underlying *Raisin in the Sun*

Correct Answer: (E) affirm the thematic coherence underlying *Raisin in the Sun*

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the passage's goal.

The passage discusses how the play's themes are consistent and unified. It explains that despite various interpretations, the work remains thematically coherent.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): The passage does not focus on explaining critics' refusal but rather on the play's underlying themes.
- (B): While it mentions irony, the focus is more on the thematic unity rather than aligning it with Du Bois or Fanon.
- (C): Fundamental conflicts are discussed, but the focus is on thematic coherence, not just conflicts.
- (D): Emphasizing contradictory elements is not the main purpose, as the author advocates for understanding the overall thematic unity.
- (E): This fits, as the author emphasizes the thematic coherence that unites the play's complex elements.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (E).

Quick Tip

When identifying the primary purpose, focus on the central argument the author makes, such as emphasizing unity or coherence.

16. The author of the passage would probably consider which of the following judgments to be most similar to the reasoning of the critics described in the underlined and boldfaced sentence (lines 7-11)?

- (A) The world is certainly flat; therefore, the person proposing to sail around it is unquestionably foolhardy.

- (B) Radioactivity cannot be directly perceived; therefore, a scientist could not possibly control it in a laboratory.
- (C) The painter of this picture could not intend it to be funny; therefore, its humor must result from a lack of skill.
- (D) Traditional social mores are beneficial to culture; therefore, anyone who deviates from them acts destructively.
- (E) Filmmakers who produce documentaries deal exclusively with facts; therefore, a filmmaker who reinterprets particular events is misleading us.

Correct Answer: (C) The painter of this picture could not intend it to be funny; therefore, its humor must result from a lack of skill.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the context.

The underlined and boldfaced sentence describes a reasoning error made by critics, and the passage argues against over-simplified judgments.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A): This judgment is a generalization but doesn't reflect the reasoning described in the passage.
- (B): Radioactivity and scientists are discussed but don't match the same reasoning flaw.
- (C): This fits as it involves a conclusion based on an assumption about the artist's intent, akin to critics dismissing layers of irony in the play.
- (D): While it's a generalization, it does not reflect the same kind of reasoning described.
- (E): This also generalizes but doesn't mirror the specific reasoning flaw identified.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (C).

Quick Tip

Look for reasoning that makes unwarranted assumptions based on limited perspectives, as shown in the passage's example.

17. The five sentences in the passage are repeated below, in their original order, with each one assigned a letter. Select and indicate a sentence in the passage in which the author provides examples that reinforce an argument against a critical response cited earlier in the passage.

- (A) In *Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry does not reject integration or the economic and moral promise of the American dream; rather, she remains loyal to this dream while looking, realistically, at its incomplete realization.
- (B) Once we recognize this dual vision, we can accept the play's ironic nuances as deliberate

social commentaries by Hansberry rather than as the “unintentional” irony that Bigsby attributes to the work.

(C) Indeed, a curiously persistent refusal to credit Hansberry with a capacity for intentional irony has led some critics to interpret the play’s thematic conflicts as mere confusion, contradiction, or eclecticism.

(D) Isaacs, for example, cannot easily reconcile Hansberry’s intense concern for her race with her ideal of human reconciliation.

(E) But the play’s complex view of Black self-esteem and human solidarity as compatible is no more “contradictory” than Du Bois’s famous, well-considered ideal of ethnic self-awareness coexisting with human unity, or Fanon’s emphasis on an ideal internationalism that also accommodates national identities and roles.

Correct Answer: (E) But the play’s complex view of Black self-esteem and human solidarity as compatible is no more “contradictory” than Du Bois’s famous, well-considered ideal of ethnic self-awareness coexisting with human unity, or Fanon’s emphasis on an ideal internationalism that also accommodates national identities and roles.

Solution: Step 1: Identifying the critical response.

In the passage, the author challenges the idea that Hansberry’s work presents a confused or contradictory view of race and reconciliation. The critical response, mentioned in sentence C, argues that some critics misinterpret the play as presenting confusion or contradiction in its thematic conflicts.

Step 2: Finding the response that provides examples.

Sentence E provides examples that counter this criticism. It compares the play’s view of Black self-esteem and human solidarity to Du Bois’s and Fanon’s ideals, which are not seen as contradictory. By doing so, the author provides a strong example that supports the idea that Hansberry’s complex view is deliberate and coherent.

Final Answer:

(E)

Quick Tip

When identifying counter-arguments, look for examples that directly challenge or address the claims made by critics or opposing viewpoints.

Question 18 is based on the following text.

As an example of the devastation wrought on music publishers by the photocopier, one executive noted that for a recent choral festival with 1,200 singers, the festival’s organizing committee purchased only 12 copies of the music published by her company that was 5 performed as part of the festival.

18. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices: Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the support the example lends to the executive's contention that music publishers have been devastated by the photocopier?

- (A) Only a third of the 1,200 singers were involved in performing the music published by the executive's company.
- (B) Half of the singers at the festival had already heard the music they were to perform before they began to practice for the festival.
- (C) Because of shortages in funding, the organizing committee of the choral festival required singers to purchase their own copies of the music performed at the festival.
- (D) Each copy of music that was performed at the festival was shared by two singers.
- (E) As a result of publicity generated by its performance at the festival, the type of music performed at the festival became more widely known.

Correct Answer: (C) Because of shortages in funding, the organizing committee of the choral festival required singers to purchase their own copies of the music performed at the festival.

Solution: Step 1: Understanding the executive's contention.

The executive argues that music publishers have been devastated by the use of photocopiers, presumably because people can make copies of the music instead of purchasing it.

Step 2: Analyzing each option.

- (A) This doesn't weaken the contention. Only a small portion of the singers being involved in the music doesn't directly address the broader issue of photocopying.
- (B) This does not address the issue of photocopying at all. Singers hearing the music before practicing does not relate to how publishers are impacted by photocopying.
- (C) This weakens the argument, as it suggests that the lack of funding caused singers to buy their own copies, which doesn't imply that photocopying or piracy is harming music publishers.
- (D) This also weakens the argument because it suggests that multiple singers are sharing one copy of music, implying that the number of music purchases is less important than the actual practice and distribution method.
- (E) This strengthens the executive's argument, as it suggests that the music becomes more widely known, potentially increasing its value and sales rather than being copied.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (C) because it suggests that the music publishers might not be suffering from photocopying as much as the lack of funds or other logistical issues, weakening the executive's argument.

Final Answer:

(C)

Quick Tip

When analyzing arguments about impact or damage, always consider alternative explanations (like funding or logistics) that might weaken the claim.

Directions for questions 19 through 21:

Each of the following questions includes a short text with two or three blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

19. New technologies often begin by (i)_____ what has gone before, and they change the world later. Think how long it took power-using companies to recognize that with electricity they did not need to cluster their machinery around the power source, as in the days of steam. Instead, power could be (ii)_____ their processes. In that sense, many of today's computer networks are still in the steam age. Their full potential remains unrealized.

- (A) (i) uprooting, (ii) transmitted to
- (B) (i) dismissing, (ii) consolidated around
- (C) (i) mimicking, (ii) transmitted to
- (D) (i) mimicking, (ii) incorporated into

Correct Answer: (C) (i) mimicking, (ii) transmitted to

Solution: Step 1: The phrase “mimicking what has gone before” fits the context of new technologies beginning by imitating previous models.

Step 2: The correct phrase for power being transmitted to processes aligns with how power sources were applied differently in the past, hence “transmitted to.”

Quick Tip

When describing technological progress, use terms like “mimicking” for initial stages of adoption and “transmitted to” when describing the application of a new method or technology.

20. There has been much hand-wringing about how unprepared American students are for college. Graff reverses this perspective, suggesting that colleges are unprepared for students. In his analysis, the university culture is largely (i)_____ entering students because academic culture fails to make connections to the kinds of arguments and cultural references that students grasp. Understandably, many students view academic life as (ii)___ ritual.

- (A) (i) primed for, (ii) a laudable
- (B) (i) opaque to, (ii) an arcane
- (C) (i) essential for, (ii) a painful
- (D) (i) primed for, (ii) a laudable

Correct Answer: (B) (i) opaque to, (ii) an arcane

Solution: Step 1: The term "opaque to" implies that university culture is hard to understand or see through for new students.

Step 2: "An arcane ritual" conveys the idea that academic life is seen as mysterious or difficult to comprehend for students.

Quick Tip

When describing how unfamiliar something feels, terms like "opaque" and "arcane" are useful to show lack of clarity and complexity.

21. Of course anyone who has ever perused an unmodernized text of Captain Clark's journals knows that the Captain was one of the most (i)_____ spellers ever to write in English, but despite this (ii)_____ orthographical rules, Clark is never unclear.

- (A) (i) indefatigable, (ii) disregard for
- (B) (i) fastidious, (ii) partiality toward
- (C) (i) defiant, (ii) disregard for
- (D) (i) indefatigable, (ii) unpretentiousness about

Correct Answer: (C) (i) defiant, (ii) disregard for

Solution: Step 1: "Defiant" suggests that Captain Clark deliberately ignored or opposed the conventional spelling rules.

Step 2: "Disregard for" correctly reflects his lack of concern for orthographical norms.

Quick Tip

Use "defiant" to describe someone who opposes established norms intentionally, and "disregard for" to show lack of respect for rules or norms.

Question 22 is based on the following reading passage.

For the past two years at FasCorp, there has been a policy to advertise any job opening to current employees and to give no job to an applicant from outside the company if a FasCorp employee applies who is qualified for the job. This policy has been strictly followed, yet even though numerous employees of FasCorp have been qualified for any given entry-level position, some entry-level jobs have been filled with people from outside the company.

22. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices: If the information provided is true, which of the following must on the basis of it also be true about FasCorp during the past two years?

- (A) There have been some open jobs for which no qualified FasCorp employee applied.
- (B) Some entry-level job openings have not been advertised to FasCorp employees.
- (C) The total number of employees has increased.
- (D) FasCorp has hired some people for jobs for which they were not qualified.
- (E) All the job openings have been for entry-level jobs.

Correct Answer: (A) There have been some open jobs for which no qualified FasCorp employee applied.

Solution:

Step 1: The passage indicates a scenario where no qualified employees from FasCorp have applied for certain jobs. This implies that there were open positions for which no one from the company was qualified to fill. Thus, the correct answer is (A).

Step 2: Analyzing other options:

- (B) is incorrect because there is no information about whether jobs were or were not advertised.
- (C) is not mentioned explicitly in the passage.
- (D) is incorrect as the passage does not state that unqualified people were hired.
- (E) is incorrect because the type of job openings is not stated as exclusively entry-level.

Quick Tip

When analyzing a passage, focus on what is explicitly stated and avoid making assumptions.

Questions 23 through 25 are based on the following reading passage.

A tall tree can transport a hundred gallons of water a day from its roots deep underground to the treetop. Is this movement propelled by pulling the water from above or pushing it from below? The pull mechanism has long been favored by most scientists. First proposed in the late 1800s, the theory relies on a property of water not commonly associated with fluids: its tensile strength. Instead of making a clean break, water evaporating from treetops tugs on the remaining water molecules, with that tug extending from molecule to molecule all the way down to the roots. The tree itself does not actually push or pull; all the energy for lifting water comes from the sun's evaporative power.

23. The passage is primarily concerned with

- (A) refuting a hypothesis advanced by scientists
- (B) discussing the importance of a phenomenon
- (C) presenting a possible explanation of a phenomenon
- (D) contrasting two schools of thought
- (E) discussing the origins of a theory

Correct Answer: (C) presenting a possible explanation of a phenomenon

Solution:

Step 1: The passage explains the mechanism behind how water is transported in a tall tree, focusing on the "pull theory." This is a possible explanation for the phenomenon of how water moves from the roots to the treetops.

Step 2: The passage does not focus on refuting or contrasting schools of thought, but rather on explaining one theory.

Step 3: Therefore, the correct answer is (C), as it is presenting a possible explanation for a scientific phenomenon.

Quick Tip

When analyzing a passage, focus on whether it provides a direct explanation or presents alternative perspectives.

24. Consider each of the three choices separately and select all that apply. Which of the following statements is supported by the passage?

- (A) The pull theory is not universally accepted by scientists.
- (B) The pull theory depends on one of water's physical properties.
- (C) The pull theory originated earlier than did the push theory.

Correct Answer: (A) The pull theory is not universally accepted by scientists; (B) The pull theory depends on one of water's physical properties.

Solution:

Step 1: The passage mentions that the pull theory is a widely favored explanation, but it does not indicate unanimous agreement. This supports (A).

Step 2: The passage discusses the tensile strength of water, which is a physical property, in relation to the pull theory. This supports (B).

Step 3: However, (C) is not directly supported because the passage does not specify that the pull theory originated earlier than the push theory.

Quick Tip

Look for direct mentions in the text when choosing answers that involve chronology or general scientific consensus.

25. The passage provides information on each of the following except

- (A) when the pull theory originated
- (B) the amount of water a tall tree can transport
- (C) the significance of water's tensile strength in the pull theory
- (D) the role of the sun in the pull theory
- (E) the mechanism underlying water's tensile strength

Correct Answer: (E) the mechanism underlying water's tensile strength

Solution:

Step 1: The passage discusses the role of water's tensile strength in the pull theory and mentions the role of the sun in the process of lifting water.

Step 2: However, it does not provide an explanation of the actual mechanism underlying water's tensile strength. Thus, (E) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

When analyzing a passage, focus on details that directly address the question. In this case, the passage discusses the role of properties but not the mechanism of water's tensile strength itself.