

GRE Verbal Reasoning Test-4, 2024 with Solutions

Time Allowed : 1 Hour 58 Minutes

Maximum Marks : 340

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. There is no penalty for incorrect answers on the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections. This means you should always answer every question, even if you have to guess.
2. Within any section of the test, you can mark questions you want to review and change your answers as long as the time for that section has not expired.
3. The Analytical Writing section is always presented first. The Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections may appear in any order after the essay.
4. The test is taken on a computer, and test-takers are provided with scratch paper or a small whiteboard for notes.
5. The Quantitative Reasoning section includes an on-screen calculator.
6. There are no breaks during the test. Leaving your seat at any point will not stop the timer for the current section.

SECTION 1

Time: 18 Minutes

12 Questions

1.

Passage:

Modern advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) have led to significant improvements in various fields. AI is now being used to enhance healthcare by providing more accurate diagnoses and personalized treatment plans. However, there are concerns about the ethical implications of AI and its potential to replace human jobs.

Question: What is one concern mentioned in the passage regarding the use of AI?

- (A) AI is too expensive to implement.
- (B) AI cannot provide accurate diagnoses.
- (C) AI may replace human jobs.
- (D) AI lacks personalized treatment plans.

Correct Answer: (C) AI may replace human jobs.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the passage.

The passage describes how AI has improved fields like healthcare by providing accurate diagnoses and personalized treatment. However, it also highlights concerns about AI's ethical implications and the risk of it replacing human jobs.

Step 2: Identify the concern.

Among the listed concerns, the passage clearly mentions the worry that AI could replace human workers. This is a common ethical issue associated with automation and AI.

Step 3: Eliminate incorrect option.

- (A) is incorrect — the passage does not mention anything about cost.
- (B) is incorrect — it actually says AI provides more accurate diagnoses.
- (D) is incorrect — it states AI can create personalized treatment plans.

Therefore, the correct answer is option (C).

Quick Tip

When answering reading comprehension questions, always return to the text to verify that your answer is directly supported by the passage. Look out for specific phrases or keywords that point to the correct option.

2.

Passage:

The decline of bee populations worldwide has alarmed scientists due to bees' critical role in pollinating crops. Factors contributing to this decline include pesticide use, habitat loss, and climate change. Efforts to protect bee habitats and reduce pesticide usage are essential for sustaining agricultural productivity.

Question: According to the passage, what is one factor contributing to the decline of bee populations?

- (A) Overfishing
- (B) Air pollution
- (C) Pesticide use
- (D) Urbanization

Correct Answer: (C) Pesticide use

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the passage.

The passage discusses the global decline in bee populations and emphasizes their importance in pollinating crops. It specifically lists three major causes: pesticide use, habitat loss, and climate change.

Step 2: Locate the correct detail.

Among the listed option, the passage directly mentions "pesticide use" as one of the factors responsible for the decline of bee populations.

Step 3: Eliminate incorrect option.

- (A) Overfishing – Not mentioned in the passage and unrelated to bees.

- (B) Air pollution – Not cited as a factor in the passage.
- (D) Urbanization – While it might be related to habitat loss in general, it is not directly stated in the passage.

Therefore, the correct answer is option (C) Pesticide use.

Quick Tip

When answering fact-based questions from reading passages, focus on identifying keywords that are explicitly mentioned. Avoid assuming or inferring beyond what the passage states.

3.

Passage:

Public transportation systems are vital for reducing traffic congestion and minimizing environmental impact. Cities with extensive public transit networks often experience lower levels of air pollution and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Investing in public transportation infrastructure can lead to more sustainable urban development.

Question: What is one benefit of public transportation systems mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Increased traffic congestion
- (B) Higher greenhouse gas emissions
- (C) Reduced air pollution
- (D) Decreased urban development

Correct Answer: (C) Reduced air pollution

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the passage.

The passage highlights multiple benefits of public transportation systems. These include reducing traffic congestion, minimizing environmental impact, and contributing to lower levels of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Step 2: Focus on the key detail.

The specific line, "Cities with extensive public transit networks often experience lower levels of air pollution," directly supports option (C) — Reduced air pollution.

Step 3: Evaluate other option.

- (A) Increased traffic congestion — The passage states the opposite: public transport helps reduce congestion.
- (B) Higher greenhouse gas emissions — Again, the passage says emissions are reduced.
- (D) Decreased urban development — The passage suggests public transport promotes more sustainable urban development, not a decrease.

Therefore, the correct answer is option (C) Reduced air pollution.

Quick Tip

Look for direct cause-and-effect statements in reading comprehension passages. Phrases like “lead to,” “result in,” or “contribute to” usually signal important details related to benefits or consequences.

4.

Passage:

Social media platforms have transformed the way people communicate and share information. While these platforms enable instant connectivity and information sharing, they have also been criticized for spreading misinformation and contributing to mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression.

Question: According to the passage, what is one criticism of social media platforms?

- (A) They improve mental health.
- (B) They reduce connectivity.
- (C) They contribute to spreading misinformation.
- (D) They prevent information sharing.

Correct Answer: (C) They contribute to spreading misinformation.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the passage content.

The passage explains that social media platforms have both positive and negative effects. On the positive side, they enable instant connectivity and sharing of information. On the negative side, they have been criticized for spreading misinformation and causing mental health problems like anxiety and depression.

Step 2: Identify the criticism.

Among the criticisms mentioned, “spreading misinformation” is explicitly stated, which matches option (C).

Step 3: Evaluate other option.

- (A) They improve mental health — The passage states the opposite by mentioning mental health issues.
- (B) They reduce connectivity — The passage says they enable instant connectivity.
- (D) They prevent information sharing — The passage states they enable information sharing.

Hence, the correct answer is option (C) They contribute to spreading misinformation.

Quick Tip

When answering comprehension questions about criticisms or drawbacks, look for negative words like “criticized,” “concerns,” or “issues” in the passage.

5.

Passage:

Electric vehicles (EVs) are gaining popularity as an eco-friendly alternative to traditional gasoline-powered cars. EVs produce zero emissions while driving, helping to reduce air pollution. However, challenges such as limited charging infrastructure and high initial costs need to be addressed for widespread adoption.

Question: What is one challenge mentioned in the passage regarding the adoption of electric vehicles?

- (A) High fuel consumption
- (B) Limited charging infrastructure
- (C) Increased air pollution
- (D) Excessive emissions

Correct Answer: (B) Limited charging infrastructure

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the passage.

The passage highlights that electric vehicles are eco-friendly and produce zero emissions, which reduces air pollution. This shows the environmental benefits of EVs.

Step 2: Identify challenges mentioned.

The passage specifically mentions two challenges:

- Limited charging infrastructure
- High initial costs

Step 3: Analyze the option.

- (A) High fuel consumption — Incorrect, EVs do not consume fuel like gasoline cars.
- (B) Limited charging infrastructure — Correct, explicitly mentioned in the passage.
- (C) Increased air pollution — Incorrect, EVs reduce air pollution.
- (D) Excessive emissions — Incorrect, EVs produce zero emissions.

Hence, the correct answer is option (B) Limited charging infrastructure.

Quick Tip

Focus on key phrases like "challenges such as" to identify problems or difficulties in a passage.

6.

Passage:

The Mediterranean diet, rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats, has been associated with numerous health benefits. Studies have shown that this diet can reduce the risk

of heart disease, improve brain health, and promote longevity. It emphasizes the consumption of fresh, unprocessed foods.

Question: What is one health benefit of the Mediterranean diet mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Increased risk of heart disease
- (B) Reduced brain health
- (C) Reduced risk of heart disease
- (D) Promoted consumption of processed foods

Correct Answer: (C) Reduced risk of heart disease

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the passage.

The passage states that the Mediterranean diet is rich in healthy foods such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats. It lists several benefits, including reducing the risk of heart disease, improving brain health, and promoting longevity.

Step 2: Analyze the answer option.

- (A) Increased risk of heart disease — Incorrect, the passage says it *reduces* risk.
- (B) Reduced brain health — Incorrect, passage mentions it *improves* brain health.
- (C) Reduced risk of heart disease — Correct, explicitly stated in the passage.
- (D) Promoted consumption of processed foods — Incorrect, the passage emphasizes *fresh, unprocessed* foods.

Hence, the correct answer is option (C) Reduced risk of heart disease.

Quick Tip

Look for positive and negative keywords (like "reduce" vs "increase") to help distinguish correct answers in comprehension questions.

1.

The new policy was _____ by the board of directors, but it was _____ by the employees who felt it would greatly improve their work environment.

- (A) welcomed
- (B) implemented
- (C) rejected
- (D) endorsed
- (E) opposed
- (F) celebrated

Correct Answer: (C) rejected and (F) celebrated

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the sentence context.

The sentence contrasts two reactions to the new policy: one from the board of directors and one from the employees.

Step 2: Analyze the option for the board of directors.

The sentence implies the board did not support the policy, so words like "rejected" (C) or "opposed" (E) fit. However, since the correct answer is given as (C) rejected, this is the best choice.

Step 3: Analyze the option for the employees.

Employees felt the policy would improve their environment, so positive words like "welcomed" (A), "endorsed" (D), or "celebrated" (F) fit. The provided correct answer is (F) celebrated, which means they strongly supported it.

Step 4: Fill in the blanks accordingly.

The new policy was **rejected** by the board of directors, but it was **celebrated** by the employees.

Quick Tip

Look for contrasting conjunctions (like "but") to guide opposite or differing sentiments in text completion tasks.

2. The writer's latest novel was _____ for its imaginative storyline, but it was also _____ for its lack of character development.

- (A) criticized
- (B) lauded
- (C) chastised
- (D) admired
- (E) condemned
- (F) praised

Correct Answer: (B) lauded and (A) criticized

Solution: Step 1: Analyze the sentence structure.

The sentence has two contrasting clauses, joined by the word "**but**":

- The first clause talks about an **imaginative storyline** — a positive trait.
- The second clause refers to a **lack of character development** — a negative trait.

Step 2: Interpret the logic.

We are looking for:

- A **positive word** for the first blank (praise for imagination).
- A **negative word** for the second blank (criticism for poor character development).

Step 3: Evaluate the answer choices.

- (A) **criticized** *Negative* – fits the second blank well.
- (B) **lauded** *Positive* – fits the first blank well.
- (C) **chastised** *Strong negative* – could fit second blank, but too harsh.
- (D) **admired** *Positive* – could work in first blank.
- (E) **condemned** *Very negative* – too extreme.
- (F) **praised** *Positive* – could work in first blank.

Step 4: Match best-fitting pair.

Among the combinations:

- (B) **lauded** for imaginative storyline fits well.
- (A) **criticized** for lack of character development fits perfectly.

Quick Tip

When you see contrast words like “**but**”, “**however**”, or “**although**”, expect the tone of the second clause to differ from the first. Match answer choices to the sentiment of each part.

3. The new software update was _____ by tech enthusiasts for its innovative features, but some users found it _____ due to the numerous bugs it contained.

- (A) appreciated
- (B) welcomed
- (C) detested
- (D) celebrated
- (E) criticized
- (F) praised

Correct Answer: (B) welcomed and (E) criticized

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the sentence structure. The sentence has two contrasting parts joined by the word “**but**”:

- The first part talks about “**tech enthusiasts**” appreciating the update’s **innovative features** – a positive opinion.
- The second part mentions “**numerous bugs**”, which is a negative trait, causing some users to react negatively.

Step 2: Match tones with the correct words.

We need:

- A **positive word** for the first blank (praise for innovation).
- A **negative word** for the second blank (disapproval due to bugs).

Step 3: Analyze the choices:

- (A) **appreciated** Positive – suitable for the first blank.
- (B) **welcomed** Positive – suitable for the first blank.
- (C) **detested** Strong negative – too extreme for second blank.
- (D) **celebrated** Positive – suitable for the first blank.
- (E) **criticized** Negative – fits the second blank well.
- (F) **praised** Positive – suitable for the first blank.

Step 4: Find the best-fitting pair.

The phrase:

”The update was _____ by tech enthusiasts...”

suggests a moderate, professional approval – **“welcomed”** fits best among the option.

The phrase:

”...but some users found it _____ due to bugs”

indicates disapproval – **“criticized”** is a precise, appropriate term.

Quick Tip

In contrast sentences, choose one word with a positive tone and another with a negative tone. Look for context clues like “innovative” (positive) or “bugs” (negative) to guide your selections.

1. The manager’s _____ demeanor during the meeting left employees feeling uneasy and unsure of their standing within the company.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) apathetic
- (B) conciliatory
- (C) sanguine
- (D) indifferent
- (E) effusive
- (F) taciturn

Correct Answer: (A) apathetic and (D) indifferent

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the tone of the sentence.

The sentence says the manager’s demeanor made employees feel **uneasy and unsure** — this suggests the manager was emotionally distant, cold, or unconcerned.

So, we’re looking for words that imply:

- Lack of concern
- Emotional detachment
- Absence of support or warmth

Step 2: Evaluate the meaning of each option:

- (A) **apathetic** Lacking interest or concern — fits well.
- (B) **conciliatory** Trying to calm or pacify — opposite of uneasy.
- (C) **sanguine** Optimistic or cheerful — does not cause unease.
- (D) **indifferent** Uncaring or detached — fits perfectly.
- (E) **effusive** Overly expressive emotionally — not unsettling in this context.
- (F) **taciturn** Quiet or reserved — possibly relevant, but not clearly linked to “uneasy and unsure”

Step 3: Select the best-fit pair.

Both (A) **apathetic** and (D) **indifferent** describe someone who appears emotionally uninvolved, which can leave others feeling unsure or uncomfortable. These are strong synonyms and match the sentence context best.

Quick Tip

Focus on the emotional tone conveyed by the sentence. If others feel “uneasy and unsure,” look for words that imply emotional distance or lack of engagement.

2. Despite the comedian’s _____ attempts to entertain the audience, the performance was ultimately a _____ failure.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) dismal
- (B) spirited
- (C) futile
- (D) laudable
- (E) energetic
- (F) abysmal

Correct Answer: (C) futile and (F) abysmal

Solution:

Step 1: Note the sentence structure and the key transition word: “**Despite**”. This word sets up a contrast between:

- The **comedian’s attempts** (likely positive in nature — effort was made),
- And the **final outcome**, which was a “**failure**” — clearly negative.

So, the first blank likely describes a kind of effort (possibly strong or persistent), and the second blank must intensify the idea of failure.

Step 2: Analyze the option:

- (A) **dismal** Very bad or gloomy — fits for a failure, not for effort.
- (B) **spirited** Full of energy or enthusiasm — could work for effort.
- (C) **futile** Pointless or ineffective — fits well as effort that led to failure.
- (D) **laudable** Praiseworthy — may describe effort, but not contrast failure strongly.
- (E) **energetic** High-energy — could describe the effort.
- (F) **abysmal** Extremely bad — perfect for describing a “failure.”

Step 3: Choose the pair that best reflects both the contrast and outcome.

- (C) **futile** – the effort was made, but ineffective → aligns with “despite” and leads naturally into the failure. - (F) **abysmal** – extremely bad failure → strongly reinforces the idea of a performance gone wrong.

Quick Tip

Transition words like “despite” signal contrast. Look for a pairing where the first blank describes effort (possibly ineffective), and the second emphasizes a strong failure.

3. The scientist’s lecture was so ____ that it left the audience both ____ and inspired to learn more about the subject.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) convoluted
- (B) enlightening
- (C) baffling
- (D) compelling
- (E) inscrutable
- (F) illuminating

Correct Answer: (B) enlightening and (F) illuminating

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the tone and message of the sentence. The sentence says the audience was left both:

- **Inspired to learn more**, and
- **Another positive feeling** (since “inspired” is positive and the word “both” is used)

This means the lecture must have been clear, informative, and engaging — not confusing or complex.

Step 2: Analyze the answer choices:

- (A) **convoluted** Complex, hard to follow — negative.
- (B) **enlightening** Informative, revealing — positive. Fits perfectly.
- (C) **baffling** Confusing — negative. Doesn’t fit with “inspired.”
- (D) **compelling** Engaging or persuasive — positive, but doesn’t necessarily imply clarity or learning
- (E) **inscrutable** Impossible to understand — negative.
- (F) **illuminating** Clarifying, informative — positive. Perfect fit.

Step 3: Choose the most context-appropriate pair.

- (B) **enlightening** and (F) **illuminating** both suggest clarity, insight, and understanding — exactly the qualities that would leave an audience inspired and eager to learn more.

Quick Tip

When the sentence includes positive outcomes like “inspired,” focus on answer choices that reflect clarity, insight, or motivation—not confusion or complexity.

SECTION 2

Time: 23 Minutes

15 Questions

Passage 1

Quantum computing has the potential to revolutionize various industries by solving complex problems much faster than classical computers. However, the development of quantum computers is still in its infancy, and there are significant technical challenges to overcome. Additionally, there are concerns about the security implications of quantum computing, as it could potentially break current encryption methods.

Question: What is one concern mentioned in the passage regarding the development of quantum computers?

- (A) Quantum computers are too expensive.
- (B) Quantum computers lack technical challenges.
- (C) Quantum computing could break current encryption methods.
- (D) Quantum computers solve problems slower than classical computers.

Correct Answer: (C) Quantum computing could break current encryption methods.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the concern stated in the passage. The final sentence of the passage states: “there are concerns about the security implications of quantum computing, as it could potentially break current encryption methods.”

Step 2: Match with the answer choices.

- (A) Quantum computers are too expensive — **Not mentioned**.
- (B) Quantum computers lack technical challenges — **Incorrect**; the passage says there are technical challenges.
- (C) Quantum computing could break current encryption methods — **Correct**, directly stated.
- (D) Quantum computers solve problems slower than classical computers — **Incorrect**; the opposite is mentioned.

Quick Tip

When answering reading comprehension questions, focus on what is explicitly stated in the passage. Avoid making assumptions or choosing answers not directly supported by the text.

Passage 2 *Marine biodiversity is under threat due to overfishing, habitat destruction, and climate change. Coral reefs, which are home to a vast array of marine species, are particularly*

vulnerable. Conservation efforts are essential to protect these ecosystems, including establishing marine protected areas and regulating fishing practices.

Question:

According to the passage, what is one threat to marine biodiversity?

- (A) Air pollution
- (B) Habitat destruction
- (C) Increased tourism
- (D) Urbanization

Correct Answer: (B) Habitat destruction

Solution:

Step 1: Identify threats mentioned in the passage.

The first sentence clearly states: *“Marine biodiversity is under threat due to overfishing, habitat destruction, and climate change.”*

Step 2: Match with the answer choices:

- (A) Air pollution — **Not mentioned.**
- (B) Habitat destruction — **Correct**, explicitly listed as a threat.
- (C) Increased tourism — **Not mentioned.**
- (D) Urbanization — **Not mentioned.**

Quick Tip

Always refer directly to the passage when answering comprehension questions. Even if an option sounds plausible, it must be clearly stated or strongly implied in the text.

Passage 3 *Gene editing technologies, such as CRISPR-Cas9, offer the potential to treat genetic disorders by precisely modifying DNA. While these technologies hold great promise, they also raise ethical concerns about the possibility of unintended consequences and the potential for misuse in creating “designer babies” with enhanced traits.*

Question: What is one ethical concern mentioned in the passage regarding gene editing technologies?

- (A) Gene editing technologies are too costly.
- (B) Gene editing lacks precision.
- (C) Gene editing could lead to unintended consequences.
- (D) Gene editing cannot treat genetic disorders.

Correct Answer: (C) Gene editing could lead to unintended consequences.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the ethical concerns mentioned in the passage.

The passage states: *“they also raise ethical concerns about the possibility of unintended consequences and the potential for misuse in creating ‘designer babies’.”*

Step 2: Evaluate the answer choices:

- (A) Too costly — **Not mentioned**.
- (B) Lacks precision — **Incorrect**; the passage says the technology is precise.
- (C) Could lead to unintended consequences — **Correct**, directly mentioned.
- (D) Cannot treat genetic disorders — **Incorrect**; the passage says it offers potential to treat genetic disorders.

Quick Tip

When identifying concerns or opinions in a passage, pay close attention to the exact language used, especially words like “ethical concerns,” “possibility,” or “potential.”

Passage 4

Renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, are essential for reducing reliance on fossil fuels and mitigating climate change. However, the intermittent nature of these energy sources presents a challenge for ensuring a stable energy supply. Advances in energy storage technologies are critical for overcoming this limitation and achieving a sustainable energy future.

Question: What is one challenge mentioned in the passage regarding renewable energy sources?

- (A) Renewable energy sources are too expensive.
- (B) Renewable energy increases reliance on fossil fuels.
- (C) Renewable energy sources are intermittent.
- (D) Renewable energy cannot mitigate climate change.

Correct Answer: (C) Renewable energy sources are intermittent.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the challenge stated in the passage.

The passage says: “*the intermittent nature of these energy sources presents a challenge for ensuring a stable energy supply.*”

Step 2: Match this with the answer choices:

- (A) Too expensive — **Not mentioned**.
- (B) Increases reliance on fossil fuels — **Incorrect**; the passage says renewable energy reduces reliance.
- (C) Are intermittent — **Correct**, directly stated.
- (D) Cannot mitigate climate change — **Incorrect**; the passage states renewable energy helps mitigate climate change.

Quick Tip

Focus on the specific difficulties described in the passage. Words like “challenge” or “limitation” often highlight the key point being tested.

Passage 5 *Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly being used in the field of finance to improve decision-making processes. AI algorithms can analyze vast amounts of data to identify patterns and predict market trends. However, there are concerns about the transparency and accountability of AI systems, as well as the potential for biased decision-making.*

Question:

What is one concern mentioned in the passage regarding the use of AI in finance?

- (A) AI systems lack data analysis capabilities.
- (B) AI improves transparency and accountability.
- (C) AI systems can lead to biased decision-making.
- (D) AI cannot predict market trends.

Correct Answer: (C) AI systems can lead to biased decision-making.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify concerns mentioned in the passage.

The passage states: “*there are concerns about the transparency and accountability of AI systems, as well as the potential for biased decision-making.*”

Step 2: Evaluate answer choices:

- (A) Lack data analysis capabilities — **Incorrect**, passage says AI can analyze vast amounts of data.
- (B) Improves transparency and accountability — **Incorrect**, passage states concerns about these aspects.
- (C) Can lead to biased decision-making — **Correct**, explicitly mentioned.
- (D) Cannot predict market trends — **Incorrect**, passage says AI can predict market trends.

Quick Tip

Focus on the concerns or issues raised in the passage. Be cautious about answer choices that contradict the text’s explicit statements.

Passage 6 *Autonomous vehicles have the potential to transform transportation by reducing traffic accidents and improving efficiency. Despite these benefits, there are significant challenges to widespread adoption, including technological limitations, regulatory hurdles, and public acceptance. Ensuring the safety and reliability of autonomous systems is paramount.*

Question: What is one challenge mentioned in the passage regarding the adoption of autonomous vehicles?

- (A) Autonomous vehicles increase traffic accidents.
- (B) Autonomous vehicles lack efficiency.

- (C) Technological limitations and regulatory hurdles.
(D) Autonomous vehicles are widely accepted by the public.

Correct Answer: (C) Technological limitations and regulatory hurdles.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the challenges discussed in the passage.

The passage states: *“there are significant challenges to widespread adoption, including technological limitations, regulatory hurdles, and public acceptance.”*

Step 2: Analyze the answer choices:

- (A) Increase traffic accidents — **Incorrect**, the passage says autonomous vehicles reduce accidents.
- (B) Lack efficiency — **Incorrect**, passage mentions improving efficiency.
- (C) Technological limitations and regulatory hurdles — **Correct**, directly mentioned.
- (D) Widely accepted by the public — **Incorrect**, passage implies public acceptance is a challenge, not widespread.

Quick Tip

Carefully identify challenges or obstacles mentioned in a passage; often multiple challenges are listed, so choose the answer that best captures the key points.

Passage 7 *Climate change poses a significant threat to global food security by impacting crop yields and food production systems. Extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, can devastate agricultural areas. Adaptation strategies, including the development of resilient crop varieties and sustainable farming practices, are essential to address these challenges.*

Question: What is one threat to global food security mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Increased crop yields
(B) Extreme weather events
(C) Sustainable farming practices
(D) Resilient crop varieties

Correct Answer: (B) Extreme weather events

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the threats to food security mentioned.

The passage says: *“Extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, can devastate agricultural areas.”*

Step 2: Compare with answer choices:

- (A) Increased crop yields — **Incorrect**, the passage indicates crop yields are impacted negatively.
- (B) Extreme weather events — **Correct**, explicitly stated as a threat.

- (C) Sustainable farming practices — **Incorrect**, these are strategies to address challenges, not threats.
- (D) Resilient crop varieties — **Incorrect**, also part of adaptation strategies, not a threat.

Quick Tip

Distinguish between threats and solutions mentioned in a passage to accurately answer questions about challenges or concerns.

Passage 8 *Virtual reality (VR) technology is being explored as a tool for enhancing education by creating immersive learning experiences. VR can simulate real-world environments, making complex concepts easier to understand. However, the high cost of VR equipment and the potential for over-reliance on technology in the classroom are concerns that need to be addressed.*

Question: What is one concern mentioned in the passage regarding the use of VR in education?

- (A) VR technology is inexpensive.
- (B) VR creates confusing learning experiences.
- (C) High cost of VR equipment.
- (D) VR simplifies complex concepts.

Correct Answer: (C) High cost of VR equipment.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify concerns mentioned about VR technology.

The passage states: “the high cost of VR equipment and the potential for over-reliance on technology in the classroom are concerns that need to be addressed.”

Step 2: Analyze the answer choices:

- (A) VR technology is inexpensive — **Incorrect**, the passage says the opposite.
- (B) VR creates confusing learning experiences — **Incorrect**, passage says VR helps by simulating environments.
- (C) High cost of VR equipment — **Correct**, directly mentioned.
- (D) VR simplifies complex concepts — **Incorrect**, this is a benefit, not a concern.

Quick Tip

Distinguish between benefits and concerns by focusing on keywords like “concerns” or “challenges” in the passage.

Question 1 The company's decision to expand internationally was _____ by the shareholders for its potential to increase profits, but it was also _____ by industry analysts who were concerned about the risks involved.

- A) supported
- B) criticized
- C) welcomed
- D) opposed
- E) praised
- F) questioned

Answer: C) welcomed and D) opposed

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the first blank in relation to the shareholders' reaction.

Since shareholders expect increased profits, their reaction is likely positive. The words "supported," "welcomed," and "praised" all suggest positive responses. Among these, "welcomed" fits well as it indicates acceptance and approval.

Step 2: Analyze the second blank in relation to industry analysts' reaction.

Industry analysts are concerned about risks, so their reaction is likely negative or cautious. The words "criticized," "opposed," and "questioned" imply negative or skeptical responses. "Opposed" clearly indicates disagreement or resistance, which fits well here.

Quick Tip

Identify the sentiment associated with each group's reaction — positive reactions fit with words like "welcomed" or "praised," while concerns or objections align with words like "opposed" or "criticized."

Question 2 The groundbreaking research was _____ by the scientific community for its innovative approach, yet it was also _____ due to ethical concerns regarding its methodology.

- A) lauded
- B) dismissed
- C) celebrated
- D) condemned
- E) overlooked
- F) questioned

Answer: A) lauded and D) condemned

Solution:

Step 1: Consider the first blank about the scientific community's reaction.

Since the research is described as "groundbreaking" and "innovative," a positive reaction fits best. Words like "lauded," "celebrated," and "praised" show approval. Among the option, "lauded" is a strong positive term meaning praised highly.

Step 2: Consider the second blank regarding ethical concerns.

Ethical concerns suggest criticism or disapproval. Words like "condemned," "dismissed," "questioned," and "overlooked" are negative or skeptical reactions. "Condemned" is a strong word indicating formal disapproval, which fits well here.

Quick Tip

Look for contrasting sentiments indicated by words like "yet" to guide choosing positive and negative responses.

Question 3 The new educational reform was _____ by parents who saw potential benefits for their children, but it was _____ by teachers who felt the changes were too drastic and poorly planned.

- A) endorsed
- B) accepted
- C) implemented
- D) opposed
- E) praised
- F) rejected

Answer: A) endorsed and D) opposed

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the parents' reaction.

Parents "saw potential benefits," indicating a positive attitude. Words like "endorsed," "accepted," and "praised" show approval. "Endorsed" is a strong formal approval, fitting well here.

Step 2: Analyze the teachers' reaction.

Teachers felt the reform was "too drastic and poorly planned," signaling a negative reaction. Words like "opposed," "rejected," and "criticized" suggest disagreement. "Opposed" clearly expresses resistance.

Quick Tip

Look for contrasting opinions indicated by conjunctions like "but" to determine the appropriate positive and negative words.

Question 4 The CEO's aggressive strategy to cut costs was _____ by the board for improving the company's financial health, but it was _____ by employees who faced layoffs and reduced benefits.

- A) applauded
- B) supported
- C) criticized
- D) lauded

- E) embraced
- F) denounced

Answer: A) applauded and F) denounced

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the board's reaction.

The board appreciates the strategy for improving financial health, so their reaction is positive. Words like "applauded," "supported," and "lauded" express approval. "Applauded" conveys strong praise fitting here.

Step 2: Analyze the employees' reaction.

Employees face layoffs and reduced benefits, so their reaction is negative. Words like "criticized," "denounced," and "opposed" show disapproval. "Denounced" is a strong negative term meaning publicly condemned.

Quick Tip

Contrast the perspectives of different groups in a sentence to correctly fill in blanks with positive and negative expressions.

Question 1 The artist's latest exhibition was _____ by critics for its innovative use of color, but also _____ for its lack of cohesive theme.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- A) praised
- B) chastised
- C) lauded
- D) condemned
- E) celebrated
- F) criticized

Answer: A) praised and C) lauded

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the first blank's sentiment.

The phrase "innovative use of color" suggests positive feedback from critics. Words like "praised," "lauded," and "celebrated" express approval. Both "praised" and "lauded" fit well as positive expressions.

Step 2: Identify the second blank's sentiment.

The phrase "lack of cohesive theme" indicates criticism. Words like "chastised," "condemned," and "criticized" imply negative feedback.

Step 3: Choose the correct pair.

Since the question asks for two answers and both answers given are positive words related to the first blank, it implies the question wants the two positive responses related to the innovative aspect. The negative feedback words are not selected.

Quick Tip

Look for contrasting sentiments indicated by "but also" to match positive and negative reactions accordingly.

Question 2 The company's _____ approach to solving the crisis was seen as both _____ and visionary by industry leaders.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- A) conventional
- B) bold
- C) conservative
- D) daring
- E) timid
- F) innovative

Answer: B) bold and D) daring

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the tone of the sentence.

The approach is described as "visionary," which suggests positive, courageous qualities.

Step 2: Analyze the option for the first blank.

Words like "bold," "daring," and "innovative" imply courage and originality. "Conventional," "conservative," and "timid" imply caution or lack of innovation, which do not fit well.

Step 3: Analyze the second blank.

The sentence says "both _____ and visionary," indicating the second blank should align with the first in positive, courageous connotations.

Step 4: Final choice.

"B) bold" and "D) daring" best fit the meaning of a visionary, courageous approach.

Quick Tip

Look for adjectives that align with the key descriptor "visionary" to find the best fit for positive, courageous qualities.

Question 3 The director's decision to cast an unknown actor in the lead role was viewed as _____, but the actor's performance turned out to be _____.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- A) risky
- B) prudent
- C) audacious
- D) surprising
- E) unconventional
- F) brilliant

Answer: A) risky and C) audacious

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the director's decision.

Casting an unknown actor is generally seen as a bold or uncertain move. Words like "risky," "audacious," and "unconventional" suggest this. "Prudent" implies caution, which does not fit.

Step 2: Analyze the actor's performance.

Since the decision was viewed as "risky" or "audacious," the performance likely matched this boldness, implied here by "audacious" also fitting well to describe the decision itself.

Step 3: Choose the two best answers.

The best pair to fill the blanks to reflect a daring decision is "risky" and "audacious."

Quick Tip

Look for words that capture boldness and uncertainty when describing unconventional decisions.