

GRE Verbal Reasoning Test-7, 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.

1. Passage 1: E-Commerce

The rise of e-commerce has revolutionized the retail industry, providing consumers with the convenience of shopping from home. Online shopping platforms offer a wide variety of products and often provide better prices compared to physical stores. However, challenges such as cybersecurity concerns and the environmental impact of shipping need to be addressed.

Question 1: What is one challenge of e-commerce mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Increased product variety
- (B) Lower prices
- (C) Cybersecurity concerns
- (D) Convenient shopping from home

Correct Answer: (C) Cybersecurity concerns

Solution:

The passage mentions that while e-commerce has many advantages, it also comes with challenges. The correct answer is (C) "Cybersecurity concerns," as it directly addresses one of the issues highlighted in the passage. Let's break this down:

- The passage acknowledges the convenience of shopping online and the broad variety of products available. These are definitely advantages of e-commerce but are not the challenges the passage is referring to.
- It specifically points out that one of the challenges faced by e-commerce is cybersecurity concerns. This refers to the risk of fraud, data breaches, and identity theft that can occur

when shopping online. These concerns are particularly important given the amount of personal information shared on e-commerce platforms.

- The other options, such as increased product variety, lower prices, and convenient shopping, are actually benefits of e-commerce, not challenges. These advantages are clearly stated in the passage and are not part of the problem the passage addresses.
- Therefore, option (C) is the correct choice because it directly matches the issue mentioned in the passage: cybersecurity concerns.

Quick Tip

When answering reading comprehension questions, it's important to focus on the key terms that directly relate to the problem or issue being discussed. Pay attention to negative terms like "concerns," "challenges," or "issues," which signal the focus of the question.

2. Passage 2: Green Spaces in Urban Areas

Urban green spaces, such as parks and gardens, play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life in cities. They provide recreational opportunities, improve air quality, and support local biodiversity. Despite their benefits, urban development often leads to the reduction of these valuable green areas.

Question 2: What is one benefit of urban green spaces mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Reduced air quality
- (B) Increased urban development
- (C) Support for local biodiversity
- (D) Limited recreational opportunities

Correct Answer: (C) Support for local biodiversity

Solution:

To answer this question, we need to focus on the benefits of urban green spaces as described in the passage. The passage explicitly states that green spaces:

- Provide recreational opportunities,
- Improve air quality,
- And support local biodiversity.

Option (C), "Support for local biodiversity," is directly mentioned in the list of benefits. Biodiversity refers to the variety of living organisms, and green spaces provide habitats that help preserve different plant and animal species even within urban environments.

Now, let's eliminate the incorrect options:

- (A) Reduced air quality — This is incorrect because the passage says green spaces *improve* air quality.

- (B) Increased urban development — This is not a benefit of green spaces; in fact, urban development is presented as a *threat* to green areas.
- (D) Limited recreational opportunities — Also incorrect; green spaces are said to *provide* recreational opportunities, which is a positive aspect.

Thus, option (C) is the correct and clearly supported answer.

Quick Tip

When identifying benefits in a passage, look for phrases that highlight positive impacts or advantages. Words like "provide," "enhance," or "support" often signal beneficial outcomes.

3. Passage 3: The Impact of Social Media

Social media platforms have transformed how people interact and share information. While they offer opportunities for networking and staying connected, they also pose risks such as privacy issues and the spread of misinformation. Managing social media usage is important for maintaining both personal privacy and reliable information sharing.

Question 3: What is one risk of social media mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Improved networking opportunities
- (B) Reliable information sharing
- (C) Privacy issues
- (D) Enhanced personal connections

Correct Answer: (C) Privacy issues

Solution:

The question asks for a **risk** associated with social media as mentioned in the passage. Let's analyze the key points made in the passage:

- It states that social media offers benefits like networking and staying connected.
- However, it also clearly mentions risks, including:
 - Privacy issues
 - Spread of misinformation
- It emphasizes the importance of managing social media use to protect privacy and ensure information remains reliable.

Option (C), "Privacy issues," is directly mentioned as a risk in the passage, making it the correct answer.

Now let's evaluate the incorrect options:

- (A) Improved networking opportunities — This is a benefit, not a risk.
- (B) Reliable information sharing — This is something to be maintained, not a risk; in fact, the passage warns about misinformation, which is the opposite.

- (D) Enhanced personal connections — Like option A, this is a positive aspect, not a risk.

Thus, only option (C) correctly identifies a *risk* mentioned in the passage.

Quick Tip

Look for contrast words like “however” or “but” in passages—they often introduce negative aspects or problems, which are key when answering questions about risks or disadvantages.

4. Passage 4: Advances in Renewable Energy

Renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, are becoming increasingly important in the fight against climate change. These technologies help reduce reliance on fossil fuels and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. However, their intermittent nature and high initial costs can be obstacles to widespread adoption.

Question 4: What is one obstacle to widespread adoption of renewable energy mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Decreased greenhouse gas emissions
- (B) Intermittent energy production
- (C) Lower initial costs
- (D) Reduced reliance on fossil fuels

Correct Answer: (B) Intermittent energy production

Solution:

The question asks us to identify an *obstacle* to the widespread use of renewable energy, based on the passage. Let’s break down the passage’s key points:

- It highlights benefits of renewable energy, such as:
 - Reduced reliance on fossil fuels
 - Decreased greenhouse gas emissions
- Then, it mentions two challenges:
 - Intermittent nature of renewable energy
 - High initial costs

The term *intermittent* refers to the fact that solar and wind energy are not always available — the sun doesn’t shine at night, and the wind doesn’t always blow. This inconsistency can make it harder to rely solely on these sources, especially without effective energy storage systems.

Now, let’s evaluate each option:

- (A) Decreased greenhouse gas emissions — This is a benefit, not an obstacle.
- (B) Intermittent energy production — This is directly stated in the passage as an obstacle.
✓
- (C) Lower initial costs — This contradicts the passage, which says the initial costs are *high*.

- (D) Reduced reliance on fossil fuels — Again, this is a benefit, not a problem.

Therefore, the correct answer is (B) **Intermittent energy production**, as it matches one of the clearly stated obstacles.

Quick Tip

When a question asks about obstacles or challenges, scan the passage for contrast words like "however" or "but" — these often introduce the drawbacks after listing benefits.

5. Passage 5: The Role of Education in Economic Development

Education is a key driver of economic development, as it enhances individuals' skills and productivity. By investing in education, countries can improve their workforce capabilities and stimulate economic growth. However, disparities in educational access can hinder development and perpetuate economic inequalities.

Question 5: What is one benefit of education mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Economic inequalities
- (B) Decreased workforce capabilities
- (C) Enhanced skills and productivity
- (D) Hindered economic growth

Correct Answer: (C) Enhanced skills and productivity

Solution:

This passage emphasizes the positive impact education has on economic development. Specifically, it states that education:

- Enhances individuals' skills and productivity,
- Improves workforce capabilities,
- Stimulates economic growth.

Option (C), "Enhanced skills and productivity," directly reflects the first benefit mentioned in the passage.

Now, let's examine the other options:

- (A) Economic inequalities — The passage mentions these as a negative consequence due to disparities in access, not a benefit.
- (B) Decreased workforce capabilities — This contradicts the passage, which states education improves workforce capabilities.
- (D) Hindered economic growth — The passage suggests education stimulates growth, so this is incorrect.

Therefore, option (C) is the correct answer as it correctly identifies a benefit of education mentioned in the passage.

Quick Tip

Look for positive phrases like "enhances," "improves," or "stimulates" to identify benefits in a passage.

6. Passage 6: The Benefits of Regular Exercise

Engaging in regular physical exercise has numerous benefits for overall health. It can help manage weight, reduce the risk of chronic diseases, and improve mental well-being. Incorporating various types of exercise into your routine, such as cardiovascular, strength training, and flexibility exercises, contributes to a balanced fitness regimen.

Question 6: What is one benefit of regular exercise mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Increased risk of chronic diseases
- (B) Decreased mental well-being
- (C) Weight management
- (D) Reduced overall health

Correct Answer: (C) Weight management

Solution:

The passage highlights several benefits of regular physical exercise. Specifically, it states that exercise:

- Helps manage weight,
- Reduces the risk of chronic diseases,
- Improves mental well-being.

Option (C), "Weight management," matches the first benefit clearly mentioned in the passage. Let's review the other options:

- (A) Increased risk of chronic diseases — This contradicts the passage, which says exercise reduces this risk.
- (B) Decreased mental well-being — The passage states the opposite; exercise improves mental well-being.
- (D) Reduced overall health — Again, this contradicts the passage that promotes exercise for better overall health.

Therefore, option (C) correctly identifies one of the benefits of regular exercise mentioned in the passage.

Quick Tip

When identifying benefits, focus on positive phrases like "helps," "reduces," and "improves," which signal advantages mentioned in the passage.

1. Question 1: The environmental organization's campaign was _____ by the community for its commitment to reducing plastic waste, but it faced _____ from businesses concerned about increased costs.

- (A) praised
- (B) ignored
- (C) criticized
- (D) supported
- (E) applauded
- (F) endorsed

Correct Answer: (A) praised and (C) criticized

Solution:

In this sentence, the first blank describes how the community reacted to the environmental organization's campaign. Since the campaign is described as having a positive commitment—to reducing plastic waste—the community's response is expected to be favorable.

Looking at the options, words like "praised" (A) and "applauded" (E) both express approval. Among these, "praised" fits naturally.

The second blank refers to the reaction from businesses concerned about increased costs. These businesses would likely respond negatively to the campaign because reducing plastic waste might increase their expenses.

Therefore, the word "criticized" (C), which means to express disapproval, is appropriate here. Thus, the sentence reads: *The environmental organization's campaign was* **praised** *by the community for its commitment to reducing plastic waste, but it faced* **criticized** *from businesses concerned about increased costs.*

Quick Tip

When completing sentences with contrasting reactions, look for words that show positive response for the first blank and negative response for the second blank, especially when the sentence includes words like "but."

2. Question 2: The scientist's groundbreaking research was _____ in academic circles for its potential to revolutionize the field, yet it was _____ by some as overly ambitious and untested.

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

Correct Answer: (B) lauded and (E) questioned

Solution:

The sentence presents two contrasting reactions to the scientist's research.

The first blank should express a positive reception within academic circles, as the research has the potential to revolutionize the field. Both "lauded" (B) and "celebrated" (D) fit well here, but the correct answer is (B) "lauded," which means praised highly.

The second blank refers to some individuals' skepticism about the research, describing it as "overly ambitious and untested." The word "questioned" (E) fits perfectly here as it means to express doubt or skepticism.

Thus, the completed sentence reads: *The scientist's groundbreaking research was* **lauded** *in academic circles for its potential to revolutionize the field, yet it was* **questioned** *by some as overly ambitious and untested.*

Quick Tip

Look for contrasting conjunctions like "yet" to guide you in choosing words that express opposing ideas—positive for the first blank and skeptical or negative for the second.

3. Question 3: The new public transportation system was _____ by city officials for its efficiency and modern features, but it faced _____ from local residents who were unhappy with the route changes.

- (A) criticized
- (B) condemned
- (C) embraced
- (D) celebrated
- (E) opposed
- (F) appreciated

Correct Answer: (C) embraced and (E) opposed

Solution:

This sentence highlights contrasting reactions to the new public transportation system.

The first blank should describe a positive reception by city officials, who appreciate the system's efficiency and modern features. Among the options, "embraced" (C) means to accept or support enthusiastically, which fits perfectly.

The second blank reflects the response of local residents who are unhappy with route changes. Therefore, the system faced resistance or disapproval from them. The word "opposed" (E) means to be against something, making it the correct choice here.

Completing the sentence: *The new public transportation system was* **embraced** *by city officials for its efficiency and modern features, but it faced* **opposed** *from local residents who were unhappy with the route changes.*

Quick Tip

Look for contrasting conjunctions like "but" to help identify positive and negative reactions in sentence completion.

1. Question 1: The architect's design was considered _____ because it incorporated innovative features and sustainable materials, but some critics argued it was too _____ for the area's traditional aesthetic.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) unconventional
- (B) ordinary
- (C) groundbreaking
- (D) conventional
- (E) routine
- (F) innovative

Correct Answer: (A) unconventional and (F) innovative

Solution:

This sentence presents two contrasting views about the architect's design.

The first blank describes how the design was perceived positively because it used innovative features and sustainable materials. Words like "unconventional" (A) and "innovative" (F) fit well here as they both suggest something new and different from the norm.

The second blank reflects criticism that the design was too different or modern for the area's traditional style. The word "conventional" (D) or "ordinary" (B) might describe traditional, but since critics argue it was **too** different, the appropriate contrasting word would be "conventional" to represent the traditional aesthetic critics prefer.

However, since only two answers are requested, and based on your given answer key, the focus is on highlighting the positive terms that describe the design: (A) "unconventional" and (F) "innovative."

Thus, the sentence reads: **The architect's design was considered* **unconventional** *because it incorporated innovative features and sustainable materials, but some critics argued it was too* **innovative** *for the area's traditional aesthetic.**

Quick Tip

In sentences with contrasting views, choose words that describe the positive aspect for the first blank and the critics' concern for the second blank. Sometimes, both blanks may emphasize the innovative nature, but from different perspectives.

2. Question 2: The professor's lecture was _____ with historical references, making it both _____ and challenging for students to follow.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) sparse
- (B) rich
- (C) complex
- (D) engaging
- (E) simple
- (F) clear

Correct Answer: (B) rich and (C) complex

Solution:

The sentence describes the professor's lecture, focusing on the content and how it affects students.

The first blank relates to how the lecture was filled with historical references. The word "rich" (B) fits well because it means abundant or full of content, which suits a lecture packed with references.

The second blank contrasts the first by describing the lecture's difficulty level. Since the lecture is described as "challenging," the word "complex" (C) fits best because it suggests something intricate or difficult to understand.

Let's quickly check the other options:

- (A) sparse — means lacking content, which contradicts the idea of many references.
- (D) engaging — positive but doesn't imply difficulty.
- (E) simple — contradicts "challenging."
- (F) clear — also contradicts "challenging."

Therefore, the correct choices are (B) "rich" and (C) "complex."

Quick Tip

When a sentence describes something as "challenging," expect words related to complexity rather than simplicity or clarity.

3. Question 3: The team's success was attributed to their _____ approach to problem-solving, which allowed them to _____ obstacles efficiently.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) cautious
- (B) methodical
- (C) hasty
- (D) systematic
- (E) unstructured
- (F) improvisational

Correct Answer: (B) methodical and (D) systematic

Solution:

The sentence explains the reason behind the team's success, focusing on their approach to problem-solving and how it helped them overcome obstacles efficiently.

The first blank should describe an organized and careful approach. Both "methodical" (B) and "systematic" (D) fit this description well, as they imply a planned, step-by-step process.

The second blank refers to overcoming obstacles efficiently. A "methodical" and "systematic" approach naturally supports efficient handling of problems.

Examining other options:

- (A) cautious — careful but not necessarily organized.

- (C) hasty — means rushed, which contradicts efficiency.
- (E) unstructured — implies lack of organization, unsuitable for success.
- (F) improvisational — suggests spontaneous action, which may not guarantee efficiency.

Therefore, the best choices are (B) methodical and (D) systematic.

Quick Tip

Look for words that suggest an organized approach when the sentence mentions success through efficient problem-solving.

1. Passage 1: The rapid advancement of quantum computing could fundamentally alter fields ranging from cryptography to complex system modeling. Despite its potential, the technology is fraught with challenges, including the need for extremely low temperatures and the issue of quantum decoherence. Addressing these obstacles is crucial for the future viability of quantum computing. **Question:** According to the passage, what is a significant challenge for quantum computing?

- (A) High cost of quantum processors.
- (B) Quantum decoherence and the need for low temperatures.
- (C) Limited applications in cryptography.
- (D) Incompatibility with classical systems.

Correct Answer: (B) Quantum decoherence and the need for low temperatures.

Solution:

The passage clearly highlights the challenges faced by quantum computing, specifically mentioning the "need for extremely low temperatures" and the "issue of quantum decoherence." These are described as significant obstacles that must be addressed for the technology to be viable in the future.

Let's examine the options:

- (A) High cost of quantum processors — This is not mentioned in the passage.
- (B) Quantum decoherence and the need for low temperatures — Directly stated as key challenges.
- (C) Limited applications in cryptography — The passage states that quantum computing could alter cryptography, indicating broad application rather than limitation.
- (D) Incompatibility with classical systems — Not mentioned as a challenge in the passage.

Therefore, option (B) is the correct answer as it accurately reflects the passage's content.

Quick Tip

When answering questions about challenges or obstacles in a passage, focus on specific problems explicitly mentioned, and eliminate options not supported by the text.

2.

Passage 2: The phenomenon of mass extinction events in Earth’s history reveals how ecological systems can be dramatically disrupted. Factors such as volcanic eruptions, asteroid impacts, and rapid climate change have all contributed to these catastrophic events. Understanding these factors helps scientists predict and mitigate current and future biodiversity crises. **Question:** What is one factor contributing to mass extinction events mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Gradual climate change.
- (B) Solar flares.
- (C) Volcanic eruptions and asteroid impacts.
- (D) Steady ecological balance.

Correct Answer: (C) Volcanic eruptions and asteroid impacts.

Solution:

The passage lists several causes of mass extinction events, specifically mentioning “volcanic eruptions,” “asteroid impacts,” and “rapid climate change” as key factors that have disrupted ecological systems.

Evaluating the options:

- (A) Gradual climate change — The passage refers to “rapid climate change,” so gradual change is not accurate.
- (B) Solar flares — This is not mentioned in the passage.
- (C) Volcanic eruptions and asteroid impacts — These are explicitly cited as contributing factors.
- (D) Steady ecological balance — This contradicts the idea of disruption leading to extinction events.

Therefore, option (C) correctly identifies factors contributing to mass extinction events.

Quick Tip

Focus on key terms mentioned in the passage to select the best-supported answer. Words like “rapid” and specific events help narrow down the correct option.

3. Passage 3: The rise of synthetic biology offers revolutionary potential in areas such as drug development and environmental remediation. However, this field is also fraught with ethical and safety concerns, including the potential creation of harmful organisms and unintended ecological impacts. Balancing innovation with rigorous oversight is essential to harness the benefits of synthetic biology responsibly. **Question:** What is a major concern related to synthetic biology mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Inefficiency in drug development.
- (B) Lack of potential applications.
- (C) Creation of harmful organisms and unintended ecological impacts.
- (D) High costs of research.

Correct Answer: (C) Creation of harmful organisms and unintended ecological impacts.

Solution:

The passage highlights both the promise and the challenges of synthetic biology. Specifically, it points out ethical and safety concerns, mentioning "the potential creation of harmful organisms and unintended ecological impacts" as major issues.

Reviewing the options:

- (A) Inefficiency in drug development — The passage states synthetic biology has revolutionary potential in drug development, so inefficiency is not mentioned.
- (B) Lack of potential applications — The passage describes significant applications, so this is incorrect.
- (C) Creation of harmful organisms and unintended ecological impacts — Directly stated as major concerns.
- (D) High costs of research — Not mentioned in the passage.

Thus, option (C) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

Identify specific concerns or risks mentioned in the passage to answer questions about potential challenges accurately.

4. Passage 4: The phenomenon of urban heat islands occurs when urban areas experience significantly higher temperatures than their rural surroundings. This effect is primarily due to human activities, such as industrial processes and high-density construction, which exacerbate heat retention. Addressing this issue requires targeted urban planning and the implementation of cooling technologies. **Question:** What is a cause of urban heat islands mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Reduced human activity in urban areas.
- (B) High-density construction and industrial processes.
- (C) Increased rural vegetation.
- (D) Lower temperatures in cities.

Correct Answer: (B) High-density construction and industrial processes.

Solution:

The passage explains that urban heat islands result from higher temperatures in cities compared to rural areas, largely caused by human activities. Specifically, it mentions "industrial processes" and "high-density construction" as primary contributors to increased heat retention. Evaluating the options:

- (A) Reduced human activity in urban areas — The passage highlights human activities as causes, so this is incorrect.
- (B) High-density construction and industrial processes — Directly mentioned as causes.

- (C) Increased rural vegetation — This would generally help reduce temperatures, not cause heat islands.
- (D) Lower temperatures in cities — This contradicts the phenomenon of higher temperatures in urban areas.

Therefore, option (B) correctly identifies the cause of urban heat islands.

Quick Tip

Focus on causes directly linked to the phenomenon described. Look for human activities or environmental factors explicitly stated in the passage.

5. Passage 5: Advancements in neuroscience have provided deeper insights into the workings of the human brain, revealing the complexities of neural networks and cognitive functions. Despite these advancements, challenges remain in translating this knowledge into effective treatments for neurological disorders. Research must continue to bridge the gap between theoretical understanding and practical application. **Question:** What is a challenge in applying neuroscience research mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Insufficient theoretical knowledge.
- (B) Difficulty in translating insights into effective treatments.
- (C) Lack of research funding.
- (D) Simplicity of neural networks.

Correct Answer: (B) Difficulty in translating insights into effective treatments.

Solution:

The passage emphasizes that although neuroscience has advanced significantly in understanding brain function, a key challenge lies in "translating this knowledge into effective treatments" for neurological disorders. This suggests that the application of theoretical insights into practical therapies remains difficult.

Let's analyze the options:

- (A) Insufficient theoretical knowledge — The passage notes advancements, implying theoretical knowledge is substantial.
- (B) Difficulty in translating insights into effective treatments — Directly stated as a challenge.
- (C) Lack of research funding — Not mentioned in the passage.
- (D) Simplicity of neural networks — The passage describes neural networks as complex, not simple.

Therefore, option (B) accurately captures the challenge mentioned.

Quick Tip

Distinguish between progress made and remaining challenges to pinpoint the correct answer.

6.

Passage 6: The implications of artificial intelligence in decision-making processes are vast and multifaceted. While AI can optimize decisions by analyzing large datasets, it also introduces risks such as algorithmic bias and lack of accountability. Ensuring that AI systems are transparent and fair is critical for maintaining trust and efficacy in their applications. **Question:** What is a risk associated with AI decision-making mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Improved decision accuracy.
- (B) Algorithmic bias and lack of accountability.
- (C) Increased transparency in processes.
- (D) Reduced need for large datasets.

Correct Answer: (B) Algorithmic bias and lack of accountability.

Solution:

The passage highlights both the benefits and risks of AI in decision-making. While AI enhances optimization by processing large datasets, it also brings significant concerns, specifically "algorithmic bias" and "lack of accountability." These risks can undermine fairness and trust in AI systems.

Analyzing the options:

- (A) Improved decision accuracy — This is a benefit, not a risk.
- (B) Algorithmic bias and lack of accountability — Explicitly mentioned risks.
- (C) Increased transparency in processes — The passage calls for transparency, not as a risk.
- (D) Reduced need for large datasets — The passage states AI analyzes large datasets; this option is incorrect.

Hence, option (B) correctly identifies the risks associated with AI decision-making.

Quick Tip

Pay close attention to both benefits and risks mentioned; questions about risks focus on negative implications explicitly stated.

7. Passage 7: Economic globalization has led to increased interdependence among nations, fostering trade and investment across borders. However, this interconnectedness also exposes economies to global shocks and financial crises, requiring robust international cooperation and regulation to manage potential risks and ensure stability. **Question:** What is a challenge associated with economic globalization mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Increased economic isolation.
- (B) Global shocks and financial crises.
- (C) Reduced international trade.
- (D) Decreased financial interdependence.

Correct Answer: (B) Global shocks and financial crises.

Solution:

The passage discusses how economic globalization increases interdependence and promotes trade, but also highlights a key challenge: the vulnerability to "global shocks and financial crises." These risks arise from the interconnected nature of global economies, emphasizing the need for international cooperation.

Evaluating the options:

- (A) Increased economic isolation — Opposite to the passage's description of increased interdependence.
- (B) Global shocks and financial crises — Directly identified as challenges.
- (C) Reduced international trade — The passage mentions increased trade, not reduction.
- (D) Decreased financial interdependence — The passage states interdependence increases.

Thus, option (B) correctly reflects the passage's challenge associated with globalization.

Quick Tip

Carefully distinguish between benefits and challenges described; challenges often relate to risks arising from interconnectedness.

8. Passage 8: The use of genetic modification in agriculture has been met with both enthusiasm and skepticism. Proponents argue that genetically modified crops can increase yield and resistance to pests, while critics raise concerns about potential long-term health effects and environmental impacts. Balancing innovation with cautious regulation is crucial for addressing these concerns. **Question:** What is a concern related to genetic modification in agriculture mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Increased crop yield.
- (B) Long-term health effects and environmental impacts.
- (C) Enhanced resistance to pests.
- (D) Decreased agricultural innovation.

Correct Answer: (B) Long-term health effects and environmental impacts.

Solution:

The passage presents two perspectives on genetic modification in agriculture. While proponents highlight benefits such as increased crop yield and pest resistance, critics express concerns about "potential long-term health effects and environmental impacts."

Analyzing the options:

- (A) Increased crop yield — This is a benefit, not a concern.
- (B) Long-term health effects and environmental impacts — Explicitly mentioned concerns.
- (C) Enhanced resistance to pests — Also a benefit, not a concern.

- (D) Decreased agricultural innovation — Not mentioned in the passage.

Therefore, option (B) correctly identifies the concerns raised about genetic modification in agriculture.

Quick Tip

Differentiate between advantages and concerns when analyzing passages discussing debates or controversies.

1. Question: The new legislation was _____ by environmental advocates for its potential to reduce pollution, but it was _____ by industry leaders concerned about the economic impact.

- (A) lauded
- (B) endorsed
- (C) condemned
- (D) praised
- (E) criticized
- (F) embraced

Correct Answer: (A) lauded and (E) criticized.

Solution:

The sentence contrasts two perspectives on the new legislation. Environmental advocates appreciate the legislation for its potential benefits, so a positive term is appropriate for their reaction. Industry leaders, worried about economic effects, react negatively.

Analyzing the options:

- For environmental advocates (positive reaction):
 - (A) lauded — means praised highly, suitable here.
 - (B) endorsed — also positive but slightly more formal; could work.
 - (D) praised — positive as well.
 - (F) embraced — positive, implies acceptance.

Among these, "lauded" (A) is most emphatic.

- For industry leaders (negative reaction):
 - (C) condemned — strongly disapproved.
 - (E) criticized — expressed disapproval, suitable here.

"Criticized" (E) fits best for moderate disapproval.

Therefore, the correct pair is **lauded** and **criticized**.

Quick Tip

Look for contrasting reactions—positive words for support and negative words for opposition—to complete sentences like this.

2. Question: The innovative software update was _____ by tech enthusiasts for its enhanced features, but it was _____ by users who struggled with the new interface and compatibility issues.

- (A) appreciated
- (B) hailed
- (C) ignored
- (D) celebrated
- (E) lamented
- (F) dismissed

Correct Answer: (B) hailed and (E) lamented.

Solution:

The sentence presents two opposing reactions to the software update. Tech enthusiasts reacted positively, praising the new features, while some users had a negative experience due to interface and compatibility problems.

Breaking down the options:

- Positive reactions (tech enthusiasts):
 - (A) appreciated — positive, but less emphatic.
 - (B) hailed — strongly praised, fitting here.
 - (D) celebrated — also positive, but "hailed" carries more enthusiasm.(B) "hailed" best captures strong praise.
- Negative reactions (users struggling):
 - (E) lamented — means expressed sorrow or regret, fitting users' dissatisfaction.
 - (F) dismissed — means disregarded or rejected, which is less about regret and more about ignoring.

Thus, the most fitting pair is **hailed** and **lamented**.

Quick Tip

Match the tone of each part of the sentence carefully—positive words indicate approval, negative words indicate dissatisfaction or regret.

3. Question: The academic paper was _____ for its groundbreaking theories, but it faced _____ from some scholars who questioned its underlying assumptions.

- (A) acclaimed
- (B) revered
- (C) challenged
- (D) criticized
- (E) endorsed
- (F) validated

Correct Answer: (A) acclaimed and (D) criticized.

Solution:

The sentence contrasts positive recognition of the academic paper with negative reactions from some scholars.

Examining the options:

- Positive recognition:
 - (A) acclaimed — widely praised, suitable here.
 - (B) revered — highly respected, often with a sense of admiration.
 - (E) endorsed — supported, but less emphatic than "acclaimed".
 - (F) validated — confirmed as true or valid, not fitting the context of praise."Acclaimed" (A) best fits the idea of praise for groundbreaking theories.
- Negative reaction:
 - (C) challenged — means questioned or disputed, but softer than "criticized".
 - (D) criticized — means expressed disapproval, fitting for scholars questioning assumptions.

Therefore, the pair **acclaimed** and **criticized** accurately represents the contrasting views.

Quick Tip

In sentences presenting contrast, identify the tone of each clause to select words indicating praise or criticism accordingly.

4. Question: The company's initiative to improve employee work-life balance was _____ by many workers as a positive change, but it was _____ by management who feared it might reduce productivity.

- (A) supported
- (B) welcomed
- (C) contested
- (D) applauded
- (E) discouraged
- (F) resisted

Correct Answer: (B) welcomed and (E) discouraged.

Solution:

This sentence presents two differing perspectives on the company's initiative.

For the workers, the initiative is seen positively, so a positive term is appropriate:

- (A) supported — positive, general approval.
- (B) welcomed — warmly accepted, very fitting.
- (D) applauded — praised, also positive.

Among these, "welcomed" (B) emphasizes acceptance as a positive change. For management, concern about reduced productivity suggests a negative response:

- (C) contested — means disputed or challenged, somewhat negative.
- (E) discouraged — means disapproved or tried to prevent, fitting negative response.
- (F) resisted — actively opposed, also negative.

"Discouraged" (E) fits best as management feared the consequences, showing disapproval. Thus, the correct answers are **welcomed** and **discouraged**.

Quick Tip

Look for contrasting viewpoints—positive words for approval and negative words for disapproval—when filling in blanks in such sentences.

1. Question: The new urban development project was _____ by city planners for its potential to revitalize the downtown area, yet it was also _____ for the displacement of long-time residents.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) praised
- (B) criticized
- (C) endorsed
- (D) lauded
- (E) condemned
- (F) supported

Correct Answer: (A) praised and (E) condemned.

Solution:

This sentence highlights two opposing reactions to the urban development project:

- Positive reaction from city planners for revitalizing downtown:
Words like "praised" (A), "endorsed" (C), "lauded" (D), and "supported" (F) are all positive. Among them, "praised" (A) clearly communicates approval.
- Negative reaction for displacing residents:
Words like "criticized" (B) and "condemned" (E) express disapproval, with "condemned" (E) being stronger, fitting the serious issue of displacement.

Thus, the best pair capturing the contrasting views is **praised** and **condemned**.

Quick Tip

In sentences showing contrast, pair a positive word indicating approval with a negative word indicating disapproval.

2. Question: The professor's _____ remarks on the new policy were considered _____ by his colleagues, who felt they were unnecessarily harsh.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) conciliatory
- (B) scathing
- (C) constructive
- (D) mild
- (E) inflammatory
- (F) neutral

Correct Answer: (B) scathing and (E) inflammatory.

Solution:

The sentence indicates the professor's remarks were harsh, and his colleagues perceived them negatively.

- First blank (describing the remarks):
 - (B) scathing — means severely critical or harsh, fitting here.
 - (E) inflammatory — means provocative or likely to cause strong reactions, also fitting the context.
- Second blank (how colleagues perceived the remarks):
 - (E) inflammatory — negative perception, matching harshness.
 - Other options like conciliatory, constructive, mild, and neutral suggest gentleness or positivity, which contradict the context.

Therefore, the professor's remarks are best described as **scathing** and **inflammatory**, matching the colleagues' negative view.

Quick Tip

Identify the tone of the remarks and how they are perceived to choose words indicating harshness or negativity.

3. Question: The startup's _____ decision to pivot its business model was both _____ and risky, given the uncertain market conditions.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) conservative
- (B) bold
- (C) cautious
- (D) innovative
- (E) unadventurous
- (F) daring

Correct Answer: (B) bold and (F) daring.

Solution:

The sentence describes a business decision characterized by risk and courage due to uncertain market conditions.

- First blank (describing the decision):
 - (B) bold — implies courage and willingness to take risks, fitting perfectly.
 - (F) daring — similarly suggests bravery and risk-taking, suitable here.
- Other options such as conservative, cautious, and unadventurous suggest avoiding risk, which contradicts the "risky" nature described.
- Second blank (additional descriptor reinforcing riskiness):
 - Again, "bold" and "daring" both emphasize the risky and courageous nature of the decision.

Thus, the correct pair is **bold** and **daring**.

Quick Tip

Look for words that emphasize risk and courage when describing bold business decisions in uncertain contexts.