

# 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:** Modern advancements in renewable energy sources have led to significant improvements in reducing carbon emissions. Solar and wind energy are now being widely adopted as sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels. However, there are concerns about the reliability of these energy sources and the initial costs of implementation.

**Question:** What is one concern mentioned in the passage regarding the use of renewable energy sources?

- (A) They are too expensive to implement.
- (B) They cannot reduce carbon emissions.
- (C) They may increase the use of fossil fuels.
- (D) They lack technological advancement.

**Correct Answer:** (A) They are too expensive to implement.

**Solution:**

The passage highlights both the benefits and concerns related to renewable energy sources.

- It mentions that solar and wind energy help reduce carbon emissions and are being adopted widely.
- However, it also points out concerns about the reliability and the initial costs of implementation.

- Among the options, only (A) directly relates to the “initial costs” concern, meaning they can be too expensive to implement.

Options (B), (C), and (D) contradict the passage’s content since the passage states renewable energy reduces emissions, does not suggest increased fossil fuel use, and implies technological progress.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on identifying concerns or challenges explicitly mentioned in the passage to select the correct option.

---

**2. Passage:** The growing popularity of urban gardening has provided city dwellers with fresh produce and a connection to nature. However, challenges such as limited space and pollution pose significant obstacles. Encouraging community gardens and rooftop farms can help overcome these challenges and promote sustainable living.

**Question:** According to the passage, what is one challenge faced by urban gardening?

- (A) Excessive sunlight
- (B) Lack of interest
- (C) Limited space
- (D) Overabundance of produce

**Correct Answer:** (C) Limited space.

#### Solution:

The passage highlights both the benefits and challenges of urban gardening.

- Benefits include fresh produce and a connection to nature.
- Challenges specifically mentioned are “limited space” and “pollution.”
- Among the options, (C) Limited space matches one of the challenges directly stated in the passage.

Options (A), (B), and (D) are not mentioned or contradicted by the passage, making them incorrect.

#### Quick Tip

Identify specific problems or challenges mentioned in the passage to select the correct answer.

---

**3. Passage:** Online education has revolutionized learning by providing access to quality education for students worldwide. It offers flexibility and a variety of courses that traditional

classrooms cannot match. However, the lack of face-to-face interaction and the potential for distractions at home are significant drawbacks.

**Question:** What is one drawback of online education mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Lack of flexibility
- (B) Limited course variety
- (C) Lack of face-to-face interaction
- (D) Excessive costs

**Correct Answer:** (C) Lack of face-to-face interaction.

**Solution:**

The passage discusses the advantages and disadvantages of online education.

- Advantages: Access to quality education, flexibility, and diverse courses.
- Drawbacks: Specifically mentions “lack of face-to-face interaction” and “potential for distractions.”
- Among the options, (C) directly matches one of the drawbacks stated.

Options (A) and (B) are incorrect as the passage says online education offers flexibility and variety, while (D) is not mentioned.

#### Quick Tip

When answering, focus on both benefits and drawbacks mentioned explicitly to distinguish correct options.

---

**4. Passage:** Electric bikes (e-bikes) are becoming increasingly popular as an eco-friendly transportation option. E-bikes offer the benefits of traditional cycling with added motor assistance, making them suitable for longer commutes and challenging terrains. However, safety concerns and the need for proper infrastructure remain significant issues.

**Question:** According to the passage, what is one issue related to the use of e-bikes?

- (A) Lack of motor assistance
- (B) Excessive weight
- (C) Safety concerns
- (D) High fuel consumption

**Correct Answer:** (C) Safety concerns.

**Solution:**

The passage highlights both the advantages and challenges of electric bikes:

- Advantages include eco-friendliness and motor assistance aiding longer rides and difficult terrain.

- Challenges mentioned are safety concerns and the lack of infrastructure.
- Among the answer choices, (C) Safety concerns is explicitly stated as an issue.

Options (A) and (D) contradict the passage, and (B) is not discussed.

#### Quick Tip

Always connect your answer to explicit challenges mentioned in the passage for accuracy.

---

**5. Passage:** Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming customer service by providing instant responses and personalized experiences. AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants can handle numerous customer inquiries simultaneously, improving efficiency. Nevertheless, the lack of human empathy and understanding remains a limitation.

**Question:** What is one limitation of AI in customer service mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Limited efficiency
- (B) Lack of human empathy
- (C) High operational costs
- (D) Inability to personalize experiences

**Correct Answer:** (B) Lack of human empathy.

#### Solution:

The passage describes both the strengths and limitations of AI in customer service:

- Strengths: Instant responses, personalized experiences, and handling multiple inquiries efficiently.
- Limitation: Explicitly states “lack of human empathy and understanding.”
- Among the answer choices, (B) correctly identifies this limitation.

Options (A), (C), and (D) are either contradicted by the passage or not mentioned.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on contrasting benefits and limitations in the passage to pinpoint the correct answer.

---

**6. Passage:** Organic farming practices are gaining traction as consumers become more health-conscious. These practices avoid the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, promoting healthier and more sustainable agriculture. However, organic farming can be labor-intensive and yield lower productivity compared to conventional methods.

**Question:** What is one challenge of organic farming mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Excessive use of synthetic pesticides
- (B) High productivity
- (C) Labor-intensive practices
- (D) Poor soil health

**Correct Answer:** (C) Labor-intensive practices.

**Solution:**

The passage outlines both the benefits and challenges of organic farming:

- Benefits: Avoidance of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, healthier and more sustainable agriculture.
- Challenges: Specifically mentions that organic farming “can be labor-intensive” and have “lower productivity.”
- Among the answer choices, (C) Labor-intensive practices directly corresponds to one of the challenges mentioned.

Options (A), (B), and (D) either contradict the passage or are not discussed.

#### Quick Tip

Look for explicit challenges or drawbacks mentioned in the passage to select the best answer.

---

**1. Question:** The new initiative was \_\_\_\_\_ by the local government, but it was \_\_\_\_\_ by environmental groups who believed it would benefit the community.

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

**Correct Answer:** (A) opposed and (E) celebrated.

**Solution:**

The sentence contrasts two reactions to the new initiative:

- The local government’s reaction is negative, indicated by “\_\_\_\_\_ by the local government.” Among options, (A) opposed fits this negative stance.

- Environmental groups have a positive reaction, shown by “but it was \_\_\_\_\_ by environmental groups who believed it would benefit the community.” The word (E) celebrated best reflects this positive response.
- Other options either do not fit the context or would not form a contrasting pair.

### Quick Tip

In sentence completion questions with contrasting clauses, look for words that create a clear opposition or difference in attitude.

**2. Question:** The scientist’s groundbreaking research was \_\_\_\_\_ for its innovative approach, yet it was \_\_\_\_\_ for its controversial conclusions.

- (A) ignored
- (B) lauded
- (C) dismissed
- (D) praised
- (E) criticized
- (F) welcomed

**Correct Answer:** (B) lauded and (E) criticized.

### Solution:

This sentence shows a mixed reaction to the scientist’s research:

- The first blank reflects a positive reception due to the “innovative approach.” Both (B) lauded and (D) praised could fit, but since the correct answer includes (B), it is preferred here.
- The second blank shows a negative reception regarding “controversial conclusions.” Among the options, (E) criticized best fits this meaning.
- The conjunction “yet” signals contrast between the two reactions.

### Quick Tip

Look for conjunctions like “yet” or “but” to identify contrasting sentiments for the blanks.

**3. Question:** The new policy was \_\_\_\_\_ by industry leaders for its forward-thinking measures, but some sectors found it \_\_\_\_\_ due to the significant changes it required.

- (A) welcomed
- (B) criticized

- (C) lauded
- (D) implemented
- (E) celebrated
- (F) opposed

**Correct Answer:** (A) welcomed and (F) opposed.

**Solution:**

The sentence shows contrasting reactions to the new policy:

- The first blank refers to a positive reception by industry leaders, who appreciated the “forward-thinking measures.” The word (A) welcomed best expresses this positive reaction.
- The second blank refers to some sectors reacting negatively because of “significant changes.” The word (F) opposed clearly fits this negative reaction.
- The conjunction “but” highlights the contrast between these differing viewpoints.

**Quick Tip**

In sentences with contrasting views, use positive words for approval and negative words for disapproval in the respective blanks.

---

**1. Question:** The CEO’s \_\_\_\_\_ attitude during the meeting made employees feel \_\_\_\_\_ and concerned about the future of the company.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) supportive
- (B) indifferent
- (C) enthusiastic
- (D) aloof
- (E) motivating
- (F) reassuring

**Correct Answer:** (B) indifferent and (D) aloof.

**Solution:**

The sentence describes a cause-effect relationship between the CEO’s attitude and employees’ feelings:

- The first blank should describe a negative or distant attitude that causes concern among employees. Both (B) indifferent and (D) aloof convey detachment or lack of engagement, fitting this context well.

- The second blank reflects the employees' feelings resulting from the CEO's attitude — feeling uncertain or uneasy, which matches with the negative tone of the CEO's attitude.
- Positive words such as (A) supportive, (C) enthusiastic, (E) motivating, and (F) reassuring would contradict

**2. Question:** Despite the actor's \_\_\_\_\_ efforts to revive his career, his latest movie was a \_\_\_\_\_ disappointment at the box office.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) half-hearted
- (B) fervent
- (C) futile
- (D) dedicated
- (E) major
- (F) colossal

**Correct Answer:** (B) fervent and (F) colossal.

**Solution:**

The sentence contrasts the actor's strong efforts with the movie's poor performance:

- The first blank describes the actor's efforts, which were strong and passionate, so (B) fervent best fits.
- The second blank describes the level of disappointment at the box office. Words like (E) major and (F) colossal indicate a significant scale, with (F) colossal emphasizing an especially large failure, matching the tone.
- The conjunction "despite" highlights the contrast between the actor's efforts and the outcome.

**Quick Tip**

Look for contrast words like "despite" to help identify opposing ideas for the blanks.

**3. Question:** The professor's lecture was so \_\_\_\_\_ that it left the students both \_\_\_\_\_ and eager to delve deeper into the subject.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) tedious
- (B) compelling
- (C) confusing
- (D) engaging
- (E) enlightening
- (F) baffling



**Correct Answer:** (B) compelling and (E) enlightening.

**Solution:**

The sentence indicates a positive effect of the professor’s lecture on the students:

- The first blank should describe a lecture that grabs attention and motivates students, so (B) compelling fits best.
- The second blank describes students’ reactions — feeling informed and motivated — which matches (E) enlightening.
- Negative words such as (A) tedious, (C) confusing, and (F) baffling would not lead to students feeling eager to learn more.

**Quick Tip**

Focus on the overall tone of the sentence—words like “eager to delve deeper” indicate a positive, engaging experience.

---

**1. Passage:** The field of nanotechnology involves manipulating matter at the atomic and molecular scale to create new materials with unique properties. Nanotechnology has applications in medicine, electronics, and environmental science. However, there are concerns about the potential health and environmental risks associated with the use of nanomaterials, which are not yet fully understood.

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

- (A) Nanotechnology lacks applications in medicine.
- (B) Nanotechnology is too expensive to develop.
- (C) Nanotechnology may pose health and environmental risks.
- (D) Nanotechnology cannot create new materials.

**Correct Answer:** (C) Nanotechnology may pose health and environmental risks.

**Solution:**

The passage highlights several aspects of nanotechnology, including its wide-ranging applications in fields like medicine and electronics. Despite these benefits, it explicitly mentions concerns about the potential health and environmental risks posed by nanomaterials. These risks are still not fully understood, making option (C) the correct choice.

Options (A), (B), and (D) are incorrect because the passage states that nanotechnology does have applications in medicine, does not discuss cost concerns, and emphasizes its ability to create new materials with unique properties.

**Quick Tip**

When answering questions based on a passage, focus on explicit concerns or challenges mentioned by the author to identify the correct response.

---

**2. Passage:** The study of dark matter is one of the most intriguing areas of astrophysics. Dark matter is believed to make up about 27% of the universe, yet it cannot be directly observed. Scientists infer its existence from its gravitational effects on visible matter. Despite extensive research, the exact nature of dark matter remains a mystery.

**Question:** According to the passage, what is one way scientists infer the existence of dark matter?

- (A) By observing its chemical composition.
- (B) By detecting its light emissions.
- (C) By studying its gravitational effects on visible matter.
- (D) By measuring its temperature.

**Correct Answer:** (C) By studying its gravitational effects on visible matter.

**Solution:**

The passage explains that dark matter cannot be directly observed, so scientists infer its presence through its gravitational effects on visible matter. This indirect observation is crucial because dark matter does not emit or reflect light, ruling out options involving chemical composition, light emissions, or temperature measurements. Thus, option (C) correctly reflects the method described.

Options (A), (B), and (D) are incorrect because the passage explicitly states that dark matter cannot be directly observed or detected by light or other traditional means.

#### Quick Tip

When answering questions about scientific phenomena, pay attention to the methods or evidence scientists use to support their theories, especially when direct observation is not possible.

---

**3. Passage:** Blockchain technology, initially developed for cryptocurrencies, is being explored for various other applications, including supply chain management, healthcare records, and voting systems. The decentralized and transparent nature of blockchain can enhance security and reduce fraud. However, the technology faces challenges such as scalability issues and high energy consumption.

**Question:** What is one challenge mentioned in the passage regarding blockchain technology?

- (A) Blockchain lacks applications in healthcare.
- (B) Blockchain is centralized.
- (C) Blockchain faces scalability issues.
- (D) Blockchain is not secure.

**Correct Answer:** (C) Blockchain faces scalability issues.

**Solution:**

According to the passage, while blockchain technology offers benefits such as decentralization, transparency, enhanced security, and fraud reduction, it also has challenges. One key challenge explicitly mentioned is scalability issues, which refers to difficulties in handling an increasing number of transactions efficiently.

Option (A) is incorrect because the passage states blockchain is being explored for healthcare records, indicating applications exist. Option (B) is incorrect as blockchain is described as decentralized, not centralized. Option (D) contradicts the passage which highlights enhanced security due to blockchain's nature.

Therefore, option (C) correctly identifies a challenge discussed in the passage.

#### Quick Tip

When evaluating technological challenges, focus on limitations or issues explicitly mentioned, such as performance constraints or resource demands.

---

**4. Passage:** The human brain's ability to adapt and change in response to experience is known as neuroplasticity. This remarkable capacity allows for learning, memory formation, and recovery from brain injuries. Research into neuroplasticity has led to new treatments for neurological conditions, but there is still much to learn about the underlying mechanisms.

**Question:** What is one benefit of neuroplasticity mentioned in the passage?

- (A) It prevents brain injuries.
- (B) It allows for recovery from brain injuries.
- (C) It hinders memory formation.
- (D) It limits learning capacity.

**Correct Answer:** (B) It allows for recovery from brain injuries.

#### Solution:

Neuroplasticity refers to the brain's ability to adapt and reorganize itself in response to experiences. According to the passage, this ability supports important functions such as learning, memory formation, and crucially, recovery from brain injuries. This benefit is emphasized as it has paved the way for new treatments of neurological conditions.

Option (A) is incorrect because the passage does not state that neuroplasticity prevents brain injuries, only that it helps in recovery. Options (C) and (D) are incorrect because the passage indicates that neuroplasticity supports learning and memory, rather than hindering or limiting them.

Therefore, option (B) correctly identifies a benefit of neuroplasticity described in the passage.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on key terms in the passage that describe positive effects or benefits when answering questions on scientific concepts.

**5. Passage:** The development of renewable energy technologies is crucial for addressing climate change. Solar and wind power are leading the way, but energy storage remains a significant hurdle. Batteries and other storage solutions are needed to ensure a stable energy supply when renewable sources are not generating power. Advances in this area are essential for a sustainable energy future.

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

- (A) Renewable energy technologies are too costly.
- (B) Energy storage solutions are needed for stability.
- (C) Renewable energy technologies are fully developed.
- (D) Solar and wind power are insufficient for addressing climate change.

**Correct Answer:** (B) Energy storage solutions are needed for stability.

**Solution:**

The passage highlights that while solar and wind energy are key renewable sources, a major challenge is maintaining a stable energy supply when these sources are not actively producing power (such as at night or during calm weather). This necessitates effective energy storage technologies, such as batteries, to store excess energy and release it as needed.

Option (A) is not explicitly stated in the passage as a primary challenge. Option (C) is incorrect because the passage implies that renewable technologies are still developing, particularly regarding storage solutions. Option (D) is also incorrect because the passage emphasizes solar and wind power as leading solutions to climate change, not as insufficient.

Therefore, option (B) accurately captures the challenge discussed in the passage: the need for energy storage solutions to ensure a reliable and stable renewable energy supply.

#### Quick Tip

When evaluating challenges in scientific or technical contexts, focus on any limitations or hurdles explicitly mentioned by the author.

---

**6. Passage:** The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) has led to significant breakthroughs in machine learning, natural language processing, and robotics. Despite these advancements, there are ethical and societal concerns about the impact of AI on privacy, employment, and decision-making. Ensuring responsible AI development is crucial for mitigating these concerns.

**Question:** What is one ethical concern mentioned in the passage regarding artificial intelligence?

- (A) AI advancements are too slow.
- (B) AI does not impact employment.
- (C) AI may affect privacy and decision-making.
- (D) AI lacks breakthroughs in machine learning.

**Correct Answer:** (C) AI may affect privacy and decision-making.

**Solution:**

The passage clearly mentions ethical and societal concerns regarding AI, specifically focusing on its impact on privacy, employment, and decision-making processes. This highlights potential risks such as unauthorized data use or biased algorithmic decisions affecting individuals and communities.

Option (A) is incorrect because the passage states that AI advancements have been rapid. Option (B) is wrong since the passage explicitly notes employment as one area of concern. Option (D) contradicts the passage, which acknowledges breakthroughs in machine learning. Therefore, the best answer is (C), which directly reflects the ethical concerns discussed: the effects of AI on privacy and decision-making.

**Quick Tip**

When answering questions about ethical concerns, look for mentions of societal impact, privacy, fairness, or employment issues.

---

**7. Passage:** Climate change is accelerating the melting of polar ice caps, which contributes to rising sea levels and the loss of habitat for polar species. This phenomenon also affects global weather patterns, leading to more extreme weather events. Efforts to mitigate climate change include reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting vulnerable ecosystems.

**Question:** According to the passage, what is one consequence of the melting polar ice caps?

- (A) Decreased sea levels.
- (B) Stabilized weather patterns.
- (C) Loss of habitat for polar species.
- (D) Reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

**Correct Answer:** (C) Loss of habitat for polar species.

**Solution:**

The passage states that the melting of polar ice caps contributes to rising sea levels and specifically mentions the loss of habitat for polar species as a direct consequence. It also notes that this phenomenon affects global weather patterns by causing more extreme weather events.

Option (A) is incorrect because the passage says sea levels are rising, not decreasing. Option (B) is wrong since weather patterns become more extreme, not stabilized. Option (D) is unrelated to the consequences of melting ice caps; instead, reducing greenhouse gases is an effort to mitigate climate change.

Thus, the best answer is (C), which directly corresponds to the loss of habitat for polar species caused by melting ice caps.

**Quick Tip**

Focus on cause-and-effect relationships in passages about environmental issues to identify accurate consequences or impacts.

**8. Passage:** The implementation of big data analytics in healthcare has the potential to improve patient outcomes by enabling personalized medicine and more accurate diagnoses. However, there are significant challenges related to data privacy, security, and the integration of disparate data sources. Overcoming these challenges is essential for realizing the full benefits of big data in healthcare.

**Question:** What is one challenge mentioned in the passage regarding the use of big data in healthcare?

- (A) Big data lacks potential for improving patient outcomes.
- (B) Big data ensures data privacy and security.
- (C) Integrating disparate data sources.
- (D) Big data does not enable personalized medicine.

**Correct Answer:** (C) Integrating disparate data sources.

**Solution:**

The passage highlights the benefits of big data analytics in healthcare, such as improving patient outcomes through personalized medicine and accurate diagnoses. However, it also emphasizes challenges, including data privacy, security concerns, and the difficulty of integrating disparate data sources.

Option (A) is incorrect because the passage states that big data has the potential to improve patient outcomes. Option (B) is false as the passage mentions privacy and security as challenges, not guaranteed features. Option (D) is wrong because personalized medicine is listed as a benefit of big data.

Therefore, the correct challenge mentioned is (C) integrating disparate data sources, which is critical to fully leveraging big data in healthcare.

#### Quick Tip

When analyzing passages about technology applications, pay attention to both the advantages and the obstacles discussed to correctly identify challenges.

---

**1. The politician's speech was \_\_\_\_\_ for its inspirational message, yet it was also \_\_\_\_\_ for its lack of concrete policy proposals.**

- (A) celebrated
- (B) dismissed
- (C) praised
- (D) criticized
- (E) condemned
- (F) questioned

**Correct Answer:** (C) praised and (D) criticized

**Solution:** The sentence is structured to present two contrasting reactions to the politician's speech. The word "yet" in the middle indicates a contrast, which should guide our choice of words. Let's break it down:

- **First Blank:** "The politician's speech was \_\_\_\_\_ for its inspirational message."
  - The phrase "inspirational message" suggests a positive quality. We are looking for a word that conveys approval or admiration.
  - Among the options, **(C) praised** fits perfectly because it means the speech was highly regarded or acknowledged for its positive impact.
  - Option **(A) celebrated** could also be a reasonable choice, but "celebrated" tends to imply more of a public event or occasion, whereas "praised" directly emphasizes positive feedback, which fits the context better.
- **Second Blank:** "Yet it was also \_\_\_\_\_ for its lack of concrete policy proposals."
  - The second half of the sentence introduces a criticism—the "lack of concrete policy proposals" implies a negative aspect of the speech.
  - We are therefore looking for a word that conveys disapproval or critique.
  - Option **(D) criticized** fits this context as it means the speech was negatively reviewed or pointed out for its shortcomings.
  - Other options like **(E) condemned** are too strong in this context. "Condemned" implies a much harsher judgment, whereas "criticized" more moderately fits the idea of pointing out a flaw without extreme condemnation.

Therefore, the most appropriate choice is **(C) praised** for the first blank and **(D) criticized** for the second blank, as they convey the contrasting positive and negative reactions to the speech.

#### Quick Tip

In sentence completion questions, pay close attention to conjunctions like "yet," which signal contrasting ideas. This can help you choose words that reflect opposing views.

2. The new product launch was \_\_\_\_\_ by consumers for its innovative design, but it was \_\_\_\_\_ by experts who doubted its practicality.

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

**Correct Answer:** (A) lauded and (F) questioned

#### Solution:

This sentence presents a contrast between two perspectives — the **\*\*consumers\*\*** and the **\*\*experts\*\*** — as indicated by the word **\*\*"but."\*\*** This implies that the two blanks should represent opposing or differing sentiments.

- **First Blank:** "The new product launch was \_\_\_\_\_ by consumers for its innovative design."
  - The phrase "innovative design" suggests a positive trait appreciated by consumers.
  - We are looking for a positive word that means "praised" or "highly appreciated."
  - **(A) lauded** means to praise or extol, which fits perfectly in this context.
  - Options like **(C) celebrated** and **(E) embraced** are also positive, but "lauded" directly captures the idea of verbal praise, which matches the tone of consumer admiration.
- **Second Blank:** "but it was \_\_\_\_\_ by experts who doubted its practicality."
  - Here, the experts are not impressed — they "doubted its practicality," which implies skepticism, not outright condemnation.
  - So, the word should reflect mild criticism or doubt rather than harsh negativity.
  - **(F) questioned** fits best, as it implies the experts had concerns or were unsure about its real-world utility.
  - Option **(D) condemned** would be too strong — it implies strong disapproval or moral denunciation, which doesn't match the context of technical or practical skepticism.

Therefore, the best choices are **(A) lauded** and **(F) questioned**, which reflect the contrast between public praise and expert doubt.

#### Quick Tip

When you see conjunctions like "but," expect a shift or contrast in tone. Align each blank with the sentiment (positive or negative) of its corresponding clause.

3. The author's novel was \_\_\_\_\_ by readers for its engaging plot, yet it was \_\_\_\_\_ by critics for its predictable ending.

- (A) praised
- (B) condemned
- (C) celebrated
- (D) criticized
- (E) overlooked
- (F) questioned

**Correct Answer:** (A) praised and (D) criticized

#### Solution:

This sentence presents two contrasting opinions about the author's novel — one from **\*\*readers\*\*** and one from **\*\*critics\*\***, indicated by the conjunction **\*\*"yet"\*\***. This signals that we should expect opposing tones in the two blanks: one positive, the other negative.

- **First Blank:** "The author's novel was \_\_\_\_\_ by readers for its engaging plot."



- The phrase “engaging plot” has a clearly positive connotation, so we need a word that reflects praise or appreciation from readers.
- **(A) praised** fits this context well, as it directly conveys approval and admiration.
- **(C) celebrated** could also work, but “praised” is more straightforward and common when referring to literary feedback.
- **Second Blank:** “yet it was \_\_\_\_\_ by critics for its predictable ending.”
  - The clause “predictable ending” introduces a flaw, and since it’s the opinion of critics, we expect a negative response.
  - **(D) criticized** is the most appropriate choice, as it directly describes how critics typically respond to literary shortcomings.
  - Options like **(B) condemned** are too extreme in this literary context, and **(F) questioned** implies doubt rather than critique. **(E) overlooked** doesn’t fit the sentence structure — critics didn’t ignore the book; they took issue with it.

Thus, the correct answer is **(A) praised** and **(D) criticized**, reflecting the contrast between readers’ admiration and critics’ disappointment.

#### Quick Tip

Look for conjunctions like “yet” or “but” — they signal a shift in tone or opinion. Use that contrast to guide your word choices for each blank.

4. The city’s decision to build more parks was \_\_\_\_\_ by residents for improving quality of life, but it was \_\_\_\_\_ by developers who saw it as a misuse of valuable land.

- (A) applauded
- (B) supported
- (C) opposed
- (D) lauded
- (E) embraced
- (F) denounced

**Correct Answer:** (A) applauded and (C) opposed

#### Solution:

This sentence describes a decision that received **\*\*mixed reactions\*\*** — a **\*\*positive\*\*** response from residents and a **\*\*negative\*\*** one from developers. The conjunction **\*\*“but”\*\*** highlights this contrast and helps guide the tone needed for each blank.

- **First Blank:** “The city’s decision to build more parks was \_\_\_\_\_ by residents for improving quality of life.”
  - The phrase “improving quality of life” suggests a benefit and thus a **\*\*positive reaction\*\*** from residents.

- (A) **applauded** fits well because it means praised or approved enthusiastically.
- (B) **supported** and (E) **embraced** are also positive, but "applauded" best conveys an active, public appreciation, making it the most fitting.
- **Second Blank:** "but it was \_\_\_\_\_ by developers who saw it as a misuse of valuable land."
  - Developers see the land use as inefficient — indicating a **\*\*negative reaction\*\***.
  - (C) **opposed** is the best choice, meaning they were against the decision.
  - (F) **denounced** could also work but is a much stronger term, implying moral outrage or harsh public condemnation — which may be too intense for a disagreement over urban planning.

Thus, the correct answer is (A) **applauded** and (C) **opposed**, capturing the contrast in public sentiment toward the city's decision.

### Quick Tip

Pay attention to who is reacting and why. Residents and developers often have conflicting interests — use logic and tone to pick the best fit.

---

1. The professor's \_\_\_\_\_ lecture left the students both \_\_\_\_\_ and eager to delve deeper into the subject.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) baffling
- (B) enlightening
- (C) confusing
- (D) illuminating
- (E) inscrutable
- (F) stimulating

**Correct Answer:** (B) enlightening and (D) illuminating

### Solution:

This sentence highlights the impact of a professor's lecture, which **\*\*left students eager to learn more\*\***. That suggests a **\*\*positive\*\***, intellectually engaging experience. Let's analyze:

- The key phrase is: **"left the students both [blank] and eager to delve deeper"**, indicating that the students were **\*\*positively affected\*\***, possibly inspired or intellectually stimulated.
- The correct words should reflect this intellectual awakening or clarity.

### Analysis of the options:

- (A) **baffling** – means confusing or puzzling. This has a negative tone and contradicts the idea of students being eager to explore more. ✗

- (B) **enlightening** – means providing insight or knowledge. It fits perfectly. ✓
- (C) **confusing** – similar to "baffling", and again contradicts the positive effect. ✗
- (D) **illuminating** – means clarifying or shedding light on a topic. Also very appropriate. ✓
- (E) **inscrutable** – means impossible to understand. Another negative term. ✗
- (F) **stimulating** – although this could work, it doesn't match as well with the structure "left the students both [blank] and eager..." since "stimulating" is more about sparking interest than providing understanding. It's close but not the best fit.

**Conclusion:** The two words that best convey a clear, impactful lecture are (B) **enlightening** and (D) **illuminating**.

#### Quick Tip

When choosing multiple answers, make sure both fit the sentence logically and reinforce each other in tone and meaning. Redundancy (as in synonyms) is often intentional in such questions.

2. The novel's \_\_\_\_\_ protagonist was both \_\_\_\_\_ and engaging, capturing the readers' attention from start to finish.

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) dynamic
- (B) bland
- (C) inspiring
- (D) mundane
- (E) compelling
- (F) ordinary

**Correct Answer:** (A) dynamic and (E) compelling

#### Solution:

The sentence describes a protagonist who is both "**engaging**" and able to "**capture readers' attention from start to finish**". This clearly indicates that the correct choices should be **\*\*positive in tone\*\***, highlighting the character's appeal and impact.

#### Step-by-step analysis:

- The adjectives used must match the idea of a character who is **interesting, active, and appealing** to the reader.
- (A) **dynamic** – means energetic, changing, and full of life. This fits well for a protagonist who engages the audience. ✓
- (E) **compelling** – means evoking interest, attention, or admiration in a powerfully irresistible way. This also fits perfectly. ✓

**Why the other choices are incorrect:**

- **(B) bland** – dull, lacking strong features. Opposite of "engaging." ×
- **(C) inspiring** – positive, but focuses more on motivation or moral uplift, which is not directly supported by the context. ×
- **(D) mundane** – ordinary or dull. Doesn't fit with a character who captures attention. ×
- **(F) ordinary** – average or unremarkable. Again, inconsistent with the "engaging" description. ×

**Conclusion:** The two choices that best reflect an engaging and captivating protagonist are **(A) dynamic** and **(E) compelling**.

**Quick Tip**

Look for strong positive or negative cues in the sentence. Words like "engaging" and "capturing attention" clearly call for dynamic and powerful descriptors.

---

**3. The startup's \_\_\_\_\_ approach to problem-solving was viewed as both \_\_\_\_\_ and risky by potential investors.**

[Note: Select 2 answer choices]

- (A) conventional
- (B) innovative
- (C) cautious
- (D) bold
- (E) timid
- (F) visionary

**Correct Answer:** (B) innovative and (D) bold

**Solution:**

The sentence discusses a startup's approach that is seen as both "**risky**" and another (positive or neutral) quality. The blank must capture a strategy that is unconventional or daring — something that could attract attention but also raise concerns.

- **Clue:** The phrase "**risky by potential investors**" suggests that the approach was *unusual, ambitious, or forward-thinking* — not safe or cautious.

**Option analysis:**

- **(B) innovative** – means creative, new, or groundbreaking. This fits perfectly for a startup challenging the status quo. ✓
- **(D) bold** – means courageous, daring, or willing to take risks. This aligns well with the mention of risk. ✓

**Why the other options are incorrect:**

- **(A) conventional** – the opposite of innovative. Conventional methods are standard and would not be considered risky. ×
- **(C) cautious** – careful or risk-averse, contradicts the idea of being seen as "risky." ×
- **(E) timid** – shy or lacking courage; again, does not fit with a risky or daring image. ×
- **(F) visionary** – could be appropriate in some contexts, but it emphasizes long-term insight, not risk-taking or boldness directly. ×

**Conclusion:** The words that best convey an approach that is fresh and daring (but therefore risky) are **(B) innovative** and **(D) bold**.

#### Quick Tip

Look for words in the sentence like "risky" or "ambitious" — these help you eliminate options that suggest safety, caution, or tradition.