

# IBSAT Reading Comprehension

## Sample Paper – 1

Duration: 26 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 30

### Instructions

- This paper contains **30** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the Reading Comprehension section of **IBSAT** (ICFAI Business School Aptitude Test).
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect or unattempted answers, so attempt every question.
- The paper has **five passages**, each followed by **six** questions. Only **one** option is correct; choose the most appropriate answer based only on the passage.
- IBSAT is a computer-based test with no sectional time limit; attempt this practice paper in one timed sitting of about **26 minutes**.
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, dictionaries, or electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

### Passage I

*Directions (Q1–Q6): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers only on what is stated or implied in the passage.*

For most of the twentieth century, economic models assumed that people behaved as flawless calculators of their own interest, weighing every option and choosing the one that maximised their welfare. Behavioural economics grew out of a stubborn discomfort with that assumption. Drawing on psychology, it documented the many ways in which real human choices deviate from the tidy predictions of theory: people fear losses more than they value equivalent gains, they cling to default options out of inertia, and they are swayed by how a choice is described rather than by its substance. From these observations emerged the concept of the “nudge” – a small change in the way options are presented that steers people toward a particular decision without forbidding any alternative or altering financial incentives. Enrolling employees automatically in a pension scheme, while leaving them free to opt out, is the textbook example; participation rates



climb dramatically, yet no one is coerced. Advocates call this approach “libertarian paternalism,” arguing that since some arrangement of choices is unavoidable, designers may as well arrange them to help. Critics are uneasy. They warn that nudges can slide from gentle guidance into quiet manipulation, exploiting the very biases they claim to correct, and that the choice architect’s judgement of a person’s “true” interest may be mistaken or self-serving. Defenders reply that transparency is the safeguard: a nudge that could not survive being made public is one that ought not to be used. What remains beyond dispute is that the framing of a decision is never neutral. Once that is accepted, the question is no longer whether to influence choices, but how responsibly to do so.

**Q1.** Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage?

- (A) Behavioural economics has proven that traditional economic theory is entirely worthless.
- (B) Because the presentation of choices is never neutral, the real question is how to influence decisions responsibly rather than whether to influence them.
- (C) Nudges are a form of manipulation that democratic societies should ban outright.
- (D) Automatic pension enrolment is the only reliable application of behavioural economics.

**Q2.** It can be inferred that the author would classify which of the following as something OTHER than a nudge?

- (A) Placing healthier foods at eye level in a cafeteria while keeping all items available.
- (B) Setting “donate to charity” as a pre-ticked but removable box on a form.
- (C) Imposing a heavy tax on sugary drinks to discourage their purchase.
- (D) Sending a reminder that most neighbours have already paid their taxes on time.

**Q3.** According to the passage, the textbook example of a nudge involves:



- (A) automatically enrolling employees in a pension scheme while allowing them to opt out.
- (B) forcing employees to contribute a fixed share of their salary to a pension.
- (C) offering employees a cash bonus for joining a pension scheme.
- (D) removing pension schemes that too few employees had selected.

**Q4.** As used in the passage, the word “inertia” most nearly means:

- (A) sudden enthusiasm for change.
- (B) careful, deliberate calculation.
- (C) a desire for financial reward.
- (D) a tendency to remain with existing arrangements.

**Q5.** The author’s overall attitude toward nudges can best be described as:

- (A) unreservedly enthusiastic.
- (B) dismissive and hostile.
- (C) balanced and cautiously accepting.
- (D) confused and self-contradictory.

**Q6.** The primary purpose of the statement that “a nudge that could not survive being made public is one that ought not to be used” is to:

- (A) prove that all nudges are inherently deceptive.
- (B) present the defenders’ proposed safeguard against manipulation.
- (C) describe a government regulation that bans certain nudges.
- (D) summarise the main criticism raised against behavioural economics.

### Passage II

*Directions (Q7–Q12): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers only on what is stated or implied in the passage.*



A coral reef looks like rock, but it is built by living animals. Each coral polyp, a soft creature no larger than a fingertip, secretes a cup of limestone around itself, and over centuries the accumulated skeletons of countless colonies form the vast structures that fringe tropical coastlines. The polyp does not live alone. Inside its tissues dwell microscopic algae called zooxanthellae, which harvest sunlight and pass a large share of the sugars they produce to their host. In return the coral offers shelter and a steady supply of nutrients. This partnership is so efficient that reefs flourish in the clear, nutrient-poor waters where little else can, and in doing so they shelter perhaps a quarter of all marine species. The arrangement, however, is delicately tuned to temperature. When the surrounding water grows even a degree or two too warm for too long, the algae begin to produce substances harmful to the coral, and the polyp expels them. Stripped of the pigmented algae, the coral turns a ghostly white – the condition known as bleaching. A bleached coral is not yet dead; if cooler water returns quickly, the algae can recolonise and the colony may recover. But if the heat persists, the starving polyps die, and the reef begins to crumble. As ocean temperatures climb, bleaching episodes that were once rare have become frequent and widespread, striking reefs faster than they can rebuild. Scientists caution that the loss would not be merely aesthetic. Reefs buffer coastlines from storms, feed coastal communities, and hold compounds of medical promise. Their quiet disappearance would be felt far beyond the water.

- Q7.** Which statement best expresses the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Coral reefs are living structures built on a temperature-sensitive partnership whose breakdown under warming seas threatens wide-ranging consequences.
  - (B) Coral polyps are soft animals that secrete limestone cups around themselves.
  - (C) Zooxanthellae are algae that can survive indefinitely without any host organism.
  - (D) Bleached corals are always dead and can never recover.
- Q8.** It can be inferred from the passage that reefs are able to thrive in nutrient-poor tropical waters mainly because:
- (A) the polyps migrate to richer waters whenever nutrients run low.
  - (B) the limestone skeletons themselves provide the polyps with food.
  - (C) cooler currents constantly deliver fresh nutrients to the reef.



(D) the algae living within the coral supply much of the energy the colony needs.

**Q9.** According to the passage, bleaching occurs when:

- (A) the polyps secrete too much limestone around themselves.
- (B) warmer water leads the coral to expel the algae living in its tissues.
- (C) storms physically break apart the reef structure.
- (D) too many marine species crowd onto a single reef.

**Q10.** As used in the passage, the word “buffer” most nearly means:

- (A) to feed or nourish.
- (B) to colour or pigment.
- (C) to protect or shield.
- (D) to submerge or drown.

**Q11.** The tone of the final paragraph is best described as:

- (A) triumphant.
- (B) indifferent.
- (C) sarcastic.
- (D) concerned.

**Q12.** Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the passage?

- (A) The Chemistry of Limestone Formation.
- (B) A Fragile Partnership: How Warming Seas Threaten Coral Reefs.
- (C) Marine Medicine: Drugs Discovered in the Ocean.
- (D) The Complete Life Cycle of a Single Coral Polyp.

### Passage III

*Directions (Q13–Q18): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers only on what is stated or implied in the passage.*



The Industrial Revolution is often remembered as a story of machines, but its deepest marks were left on the shape of everyday life. Before the factory, most families worked the land or plied a craft at home, setting their own rhythm by the seasons and the sun. The rise of powered machinery gathered work into large mills, and with it came a new master: the clock. Labour was now measured in fixed hours, paced by the tireless engine rather than by daylight or fatigue, and enforced by fines and locked gates. Workers streamed from the countryside into rapidly swelling towns, where they found wages higher than farming had offered but living conditions that were often wretched. Housing was cramped, water foul, and the smoke of coal hung over everything. Families that had once worked side by side were now scattered across separate workplaces, and children, whose small hands were prized in the mills, laboured long shifts that scandalised later reformers. Yet the same upheaval that crowded the slums also sowed the seeds of change. Massed together in the new cities, workers discovered a collective voice; trade unions, mutual societies, and campaigns for shorter hours and safer conditions grew out of shared grievance. Over the following century, wages rose, sanitation improved, and schooling gradually replaced child labour. Historians still argue over the balance sheet – whether the early generations who bore the hardship were, on the whole, worse off than their rural forebears, or whether they laid the foundation for a broader prosperity they did not live to enjoy. What is clear is that the factory did not merely change how goods were made; it remade the family, the town, and the very experience of time.

- Q13.** The central idea of the passage is that the Industrial Revolution:
- (A) immediately improved living conditions for everyone involved.
  - (B) was primarily a story about the invention of new machines.
  - (C) transformed the structure of everyday life – work, family, and the experience of time – as much as it changed production.
  - (D) had no lasting effect on how ordinary people lived.
- Q14.** It can be inferred from the passage that, before the factory system, the working day was governed chiefly by:
- (A) the ticking of mechanical clocks.
  - (B) natural cycles such as daylight and the seasons.
  - (C) fines imposed by mill owners.
  - (D) fixed shifts set by trade unions.



- Q15.** According to the passage, which of the following was a feature of the new industrial towns?
- (A) spacious housing and clean drinking water.
  - (B) wages lower than those offered by farming.
  - (C) a complete absence of coal smoke.
  - (D) cramped housing and foul water.
- Q16.** The passage suggests that trade unions and campaigns for shorter hours arose largely because:
- (A) crowding workers together in cities allowed them to recognise shared grievances and act collectively.
  - (B) mill owners voluntarily organised their workers into societies.
  - (C) rural life had already taught workers how to unionise.
  - (D) the machines themselves required workers to form clubs in order to operate.
- Q17.** The author mentions that “children, whose small hands were prized in the mills, laboured long shifts” primarily in order to:
- (A) praise the efficiency of the factory system.
  - (B) illustrate the harsh human conditions that accompanied early industrial work.
  - (C) argue that children were better workers than adults.
  - (D) explain the technical steps of operating a machine.
- Q18.** Which title best fits the passage?
- (A) The Invention of the Steam Engine.
  - (B) The Decline of British Agriculture.
  - (C) More Than Machines: How Industry Remade Everyday Life.
  - (D) The Rise and Fall of the Trade Union Movement.



**Passage IV**

*Directions (Q19–Q24): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers only on what is stated or implied in the passage.*

As machines take on decisions once reserved for people – who receives a loan, which patients are seen first, whether a prisoner is granted parole – a difficult question follows the technology wherever it goes: who is accountable when the machine is wrong? An algorithm can process far more information than any human panel, and it never tires or grows impatient. But it also learns from the past, and the past is full of the very prejudices we hope to leave behind. A hiring system trained on decades of a company’s records may quietly conclude that the ideal candidate resembles those who were hired before, reproducing old patterns of exclusion under a veneer of mathematical objectivity. The danger is subtle precisely because the output looks neutral. A second difficulty is opacity. The most powerful systems arrive at their conclusions through millions of internal adjustments that even their designers cannot fully explain, so a person denied a loan or a job may never learn why. Some argue that we should demand systems whose reasoning can be inspected, even at the cost of some accuracy; others reply that we routinely trust human experts whose reasoning is equally hidden, and that results, not explanations, are what matter. Underlying both debates is the temptation to treat a machine’s verdict as final simply because it is precise. Precision, however, is not the same as fairness, and a decision can be both consistent and consistently unjust. The responsible path, most ethicists now agree, is neither to reject these tools nor to surrender to them, but to keep a human hand on the process – to insist that someone can always be asked to explain, to appeal, and to answer for the outcome.

- Q19.** Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Algorithms should replace human decision-makers entirely because they never tire.
  - (B) Artificial intelligence has no useful role to play in decisions about loans or parole.
  - (C) The only problem with AI systems is that they are slower than human panels.
  - (D) Because automated decisions can hide bias and resist explanation, human accountability must be preserved even as machines take on more decisions.

**Q20.** It can be inferred from the passage that a hiring algorithm trained on a



company's past records may be biased because:

- (A) it treats historical hiring patterns as a model to imitate, thereby carrying forward earlier exclusions.
- (B) it deliberately ignores all information about past candidates.
- (C) it is programmed by engineers who consciously intend to discriminate.
- (D) it processes far too little information to be reliable.

**Q21.** According to the passage, the “opacity” of powerful AI systems refers to the fact that:

- (A) they run too slowly to be practically useful.
- (B) they require constant human supervision merely to function.
- (C) even their designers cannot fully explain how they reach their conclusions.
- (D) they can only be operated by very large companies.

**Q22.** As used in the passage, the phrase “a veneer of mathematical objectivity” suggests that the objectivity is:

- (A) deep and thoroughly reliable.
- (B) only a thin surface appearance concealing something else.
- (C) impossible to achieve in any computing system.
- (D) the single most valuable feature of the algorithm.

**Q23.** The author's attitude toward automated decision-making is best described as:

- (A) cautious and critical while acknowledging its usefulness.
- (B) wholly enthusiastic and uncritical.
- (C) entirely dismissive of any possible benefit.
- (D) indifferent to its consequences for people.



- Q24.** The author states that “a decision can be both consistent and consistently unjust” primarily in order to:
- (A) praise the reliability of machine decisions.
  - (B) argue that consistency is the highest goal of any system.
  - (C) show that human experts are always fairer than machines.
  - (D) warn that the precision of an algorithm does not guarantee its fairness.

### Passage V

*Directions (Q25–Q30): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers only on what is stated or implied in the passage.*

Few commodities have travelled as far, or carried as much history, as the coffee bean. Its story is usually traced to the highlands of Ethiopia, where the plant grew wild, and to the ports of Yemen, where by the fifteenth century it was being roasted and brewed much as it is today. From the Arabian Peninsula the drink spread through the cities of the Ottoman world, where coffee houses became famous as places of conversation, commerce, and news – so lively that rulers occasionally tried, and failed, to close them. European merchants, encountering the beverage in these markets, carried it home, and demand soon outran what the old sources could supply. To meet it, colonial powers established plantations across their tropical possessions, from the Caribbean to Java to Brazil. This expansion had a dark engine. The vast estates that fed Europe’s growing thirst were worked, for much of their history, by enslaved and later by indentured labourers, and whole regional economies were reshaped around a single export. When prices were high, planters prospered; when they collapsed, as they periodically did, the shock rippled through societies that had staked everything on the crop. Coffee thus knit distant parts of the world into a single, unequal web, in which the pleasure of the cup on one continent rested on the toil of another. That pattern did not vanish with the end of empire. Even today the bean is grown mostly in poorer countries and consumed mostly in richer ones, and movements for fair trade and direct sourcing are, in part, attempts to rebalance an exchange that began centuries ago. To follow the coffee bean, then, is to trace a map of appetite, power, and connection across the modern world.

- Q25.** The main idea of the passage is that the history of coffee:
- (A) is important only because coffee houses encouraged lively conversation.
  - (B) mirrors a wider history of global trade, power, and inequality between producing and consuming regions.



- (C) proves that coffee was first cultivated in Brazil.
- (D) shows that coffee prices have always remained remarkably stable.

**Q26.** It can be inferred from the passage that rulers who tried to close coffee houses did so most likely because:

- (A) coffee was universally believed to be physically harmful.
- (B) the buildings themselves were structurally unsafe.
- (C) coffee houses had failed to attract any customers.
- (D) they were uneasy about the free exchange of talk and news that such places encouraged.

**Q27.** According to the passage, colonial powers established coffee plantations mainly because:

- (A) coffee could no longer be grown anywhere in Ethiopia.
- (B) European rulers wished to shut down the coffee houses.
- (C) European demand had grown beyond what the older sources could supply.
- (D) enslaved labourers had requested new kinds of work.

**Q28.** As used in the passage, the phrase “a dark engine” refers to:

- (A) the forced labour that powered the expansion of coffee plantations.
- (B) the machinery used to roast the coffee beans.
- (C) the deep black colour of freshly roasted coffee.
- (D) the decline of the Ottoman coffee houses.

**Q29.** The author’s tone in discussing the labour behind coffee production is best described as:

- (A) admiring and celebratory.
- (B) light-hearted and playful.
- (C) neutral and purely statistical.



(D) critical and morally aware.

**Q30.** Which of the following is the most suitable title for the passage?

- (A) How to Brew the Perfect Cup of Coffee.
- (B) The Coffee Bean: A Map of Appetite, Power, and Connection.
- (C) The Botany and Genetics of the Coffee Plant.
- (D) The Rise and Fall of the Ottoman Empire.



**Detailed Solutions**

Q1.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** The central idea is the single claim the whole passage is built to support, not a mere detail.

**Passage support:** The closing lines say the framing of a decision “is never neutral,” and that “the question is no longer whether to influence choices, but how responsibly to do so.” This is exactly the summary statement the passage moves toward.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage refines traditional theory, it never calls it “entirely worthless.”
- Option C: The passage does not call for an outright ban; it weighs both sides.
- Option D: Pension enrolment is only one example, not the main point.

**Final Answer:** Influence is unavoidable, so the real issue is doing it responsibly ⇒ **B**

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Apply the passage’s own definition of a nudge to each case and find the one that fails it.

**Passage support:** A nudge steers choice “without forbidding any alternative or altering financial incentives.” A heavy tax changes the financial incentive of a purchase. So a sugar tax lies outside the definition.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Rearranging shelf placement leaves all items available and prices unchanged – a nudge.
- Option B: A pre-ticked but removable box changes only the default – a nudge.
- Option D: A social-norm reminder changes framing, not incentives – a nudge.

**Final Answer:** A tax alters financial incentives, so it is not a nudge ⇒ **C**



Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q2](#)

Q3.

### Solution

**Concept — Detail:** Match the option to the exact wording of the example given in the text.

**Passage support:** The passage names “enrolling employees automatically in a pension scheme, while leaving them free to opt out” as “the textbook example.” That is a word-for-word match with Option A.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: “Forcing” a fixed contribution removes free choice, which the passage rules out.
- Option C: A cash bonus is a financial incentive, not a nudge.
- Option D: Removing schemes is not mentioned at all.

**Final Answer:** Automatic enrolment with the freedom to opt out ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q3](#)

Q4.

### Solution

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Read the surrounding clause and pick the meaning that fits the behaviour being described.

**Passage support:** The text says people “cling to default options out of inertia.” Here inertia is the reason people stay with a default rather than switch. That is a tendency to remain with what already exists.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: “Sudden enthusiasm” is the opposite of staying put.
- Option B: “Careful calculation” contradicts the passive drift described.
- Option C: A desire for reward is unrelated to sticking with a default.

**Final Answer:** A tendency to remain with existing arrangements ⇒

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q4](#)



Q5.

**Solution**

**Concept — Tone / attitude:** Weigh whether the author leans for, against, or between the two sides presented.

**Passage support:** The author lays out advocates' claims and critics' warnings side by side without ridiculing either. The measured conclusion accepts that influence is unavoidable but insists it be done responsibly. This is a balanced, cautiously accepting stance.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: "Unreservedly enthusiastic" ignores the space given to critics.
- Option B: "Dismissive and hostile" ignores the sympathetic account of advocates.
- Option D: The argument is coherent, not self-contradictory.

**Final Answer:** A balanced, cautiously accepting attitude ⇒ **C**

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q5](#)

Q6.

**Solution**

**Concept — Author's purpose:** Ask what job a given sentence does within the argument around it.

**Passage support:** The sentence appears right after critics warn of manipulation, introduced by "Defenders reply that transparency is the safeguard." The publicity test is offered as that safeguard. Its function is to present the defenders' answer to the critics.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: It defends nudges, so it does not call them all deceptive.
- Option C: No actual regulation or law is described.
- Option D: It answers the criticism rather than summarising it.

**Final Answer:** It presents the defenders' safeguard against manipulation ⇒ **B**

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q6](#)



Q7.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** Choose the option that covers the whole passage, not a single fact within it.

**Passage support:** The passage describes reefs as living structures built on the coral–algae partnership. It then shows how warming water breaks that partnership through bleaching. It ends by warning of wide consequences beyond the water.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: True but only one detail about how reefs form.
- Option C: The passage says the opposite – the algae live inside the host.
- Option D: The passage explicitly says a bleached coral “is not yet dead.”

**Final Answer:** A temperature-sensitive partnership whose breakdown carries wide consequences ⇒ **A**

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Combine two stated facts to reach a conclusion the passage does not spell out directly.

**Passage support:** The algae “harvest sunlight and pass a large share of the sugars they produce to their host.” Because of this “partnership” reefs “flourish in the clear, nutrient-poor waters where little else can.” So the algae’s energy is what lets reefs thrive despite scarce nutrients.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Polyps do not migrate; they build fixed skeletons.
- Option B: Limestone is a skeleton, not a food source.
- Option C: No mention of cooler currents delivering nutrients.

**Final Answer:** The internal algae supply much of the colony’s energy ⇒ **D**

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q8](#)



Q9.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail:** Locate the sentence that defines the term and read its mechanism.

**Passage support:** When water is “too warm for too long,” the algae turn harmful “and the polyp expels them.” “Stripped of the pigmented algae, the coral turns a ghostly white – the condition known as bleaching.” So bleaching is warm water causing expulsion of the algae.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Limestone secretion is normal reef-building, not bleaching.
- Option C: Storm damage is not the cause of bleaching described.
- Option D: Overcrowding is never mentioned as a cause.

**Final Answer:** Warm water makes the coral expel its algae ⇒ **B**

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Substitute each meaning into the sentence and keep the one that preserves the sense.

**Passage support:** The text says reefs “buffer coastlines from storms.” To stand between the coast and the force of storms is to shield or protect it.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: “Feed” is listed separately in the same sentence, so it is a different function.
- Option B: “Colour” makes no sense with “from storms.”
- Option D: “Submerge” reverses the protective meaning.

**Final Answer:** To protect or shield ⇒ **C**

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q10](#)



Q11.

**Solution**

**Concept — Tone:** Read the emotional colour of the paragraph's word choices.

**Passage support:** The final paragraph warns the loss “would not be merely aesthetic” and speaks of reefs’ “quiet disappearance.” The word “caution” and the stress on real-world harm signal worry. That is a concerned tone.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: There is nothing triumphant about describing loss.
- Option B: Indifference contradicts the urgent warning.
- Option C: There is no mockery or irony in the paragraph.

**Final Answer:** The paragraph is concerned ⇒ **D**

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q11](#)

Q12.

**Solution**

**Concept — Best title:** The title must cover the whole passage, both the partnership and its collapse.

**Passage support:** The passage centres on the coral–algae partnership and how warming seas break it. Option B captures both the “fragile partnership” and the threat from warming seas.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Limestone chemistry is only a minor detail.
- Option C: Medical compounds are mentioned in just one line.
- Option D: The passage is about a partnership and its collapse, not one polyp’s full life cycle.

**Final Answer:** A Fragile Partnership: warming seas threaten reefs ⇒ **B**

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q12](#)



Q13.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** Find the claim the passage repeatedly returns to.

**Passage support:** The opening says the deepest marks were on “the shape of everyday life,” not just machines. The close states the factory “remade the family, the town, and the very experience of time.” So the central idea is the transformation of everyday life.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Early conditions were “wretched,” not immediately improved for all.
- Option B: The passage deliberately looks beyond machines.
- Option D: It stresses lasting, sweeping effects.

**Final Answer:** It transformed the structure of everyday life ⇒ **C**

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q13](#)

Q14.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Infer the earlier state from the contrast the passage draws with factory time.

**Passage support:** Before the factory, families set “their own rhythm by the seasons and the sun.” Only with the mills did “a new master: the clock” arrive. So the pre-factory day was governed by natural cycles.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The clock belongs to the factory era, not before it.
- Option C: Fines were a factory tool of enforcement.
- Option D: Trade unions arose later, in the industrial cities.

**Final Answer:** Natural cycles such as daylight and the seasons ⇒ **B**

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q14](#)



Q15.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail:** Return to the sentence describing town conditions and read it literally.

**Passage support:** The passage states “Housing was cramped, water foul, and the smoke of coal hung over everything.” That directly matches “cramped housing and foul water.”

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The opposite of “spacious housing and clean water.”
- Option B: Wages were “higher than farming had offered,” not lower.
- Option C: Coal smoke “hung over everything,” so it was not absent.

**Final Answer:** Cramped housing and foul water ⇒  D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q15](#)

Q16.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Trace the causal link the passage draws between city crowding and collective action.

**Passage support:** “Massed together in the new cities, workers discovered a collective voice.” From that “shared grievance” grew unions and campaigns. So collective organisation followed from being crowded together.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: Owners did not voluntarily organise the workers.
- Option C: Rural life is not credited with teaching unionism.
- Option D: Machines did not require clubs to operate.

**Final Answer:** City crowding let workers recognise shared grievances ⇒  A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q16](#)



Q17.

**Solution**

**Concept — Author’s purpose:** Ask why the author raises the example of child labour at that point.

**Passage support:** The child-labour line sits among descriptions of wretched conditions and long shifts. It is offered as a vivid instance of hardship “that scandalised later reformers.” Its function is to illustrate the harshness of early industrial work.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The tone is critical, not praising.
- Option C: The point is exploitation, not that children worked better.
- Option D: No machine operation is being explained.

**Final Answer:** To illustrate the harsh conditions of industrial work ⇒ **B**

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q17](#)

Q18.

**Solution**

**Concept — Best title:** The title should echo the passage’s core contrast, machines versus everyday life.

**Passage support:** The passage insists the revolution was “more than machines,” reshaping family, town, and time. Option C captures that exact contrast.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The steam engine’s invention is not the focus.
- Option B: Agriculture’s decline is only implied, not the theme.
- Option D: Unions are one strand, not the whole passage.

**Final Answer:** More Than Machines: How Industry Remade Everyday Life ⇒ **C**

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q18](#)



Q19.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** Select the option that unites the passage’s two worries and its final recommendation.

**Passage support:** The passage raises hidden bias and opacity as dangers of automated decisions. Its conclusion is to “keep a human hand on the process” so someone can explain and answer for outcomes. Option D joins both dangers to that call for accountability.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage rejects full replacement by machines.
- Option B: It grants that algorithms process vast information usefully.
- Option C: Speed is never the stated problem.

**Final Answer:** Preserve human accountability against hidden bias and opacity ⇒

**D**

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q19](#)

Q20.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Read the mechanism of bias the passage describes and restate it.

**Passage support:** A system “trained on decades of a company’s records” may decide the ideal candidate “resembles those who were hired before.” This “reproduc[es] old patterns of exclusion.” So imitating past hiring carries forward earlier exclusions.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: It uses the past data, it does not ignore it.
- Option C: The bias is inherited from data, not a conscious intent.
- Option D: The passage says algorithms process more, not too little, information.

**Final Answer:** It imitates historical patterns and repeats past exclusions ⇒ **A**

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q20](#)



Q21.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail:** Find the sentence that defines “opacity” and read it precisely.

**Passage support:** The most powerful systems reach conclusions “through millions of internal adjustments that even their designers cannot fully explain.” That inexplicability is exactly what opacity means here.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Slowness is never linked to opacity.
- Option B: Constant supervision is not the definition given.
- Option D: Company size is not the issue described.

**Final Answer:** Even designers cannot fully explain how they conclude ⇒ **C**

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q21](#)

Q22.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** A “veneer” is a thin surface layer, so read the phrase in that light.

**Passage support:** The bias hides “under a veneer of mathematical objectivity,” and “the danger is subtle precisely because the output looks neutral.” So the objectivity is only a thin appearance covering the bias beneath.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: “Deep and reliable” is the opposite of a veneer.
- Option C: The passage does not say objectivity is impossible everywhere.
- Option D: It is a misleading surface, not a prized feature.

**Final Answer:** A thin surface appearance concealing something else ⇒ **B**

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q22](#)



Q23.

**Solution**

**Concept — Tone / attitude:** Judge how the author balances warnings against acknowledged benefits.

**Passage support:** The author grants that algorithms process vast information and never tire. Yet the passage dwells on bias, opacity, and injustice, urging human oversight. That mix is cautious and critical while still acknowledging usefulness.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: “Wholly enthusiastic” ignores the sustained warnings.
- Option C: “Entirely dismissive” ignores the admitted benefits.
- Option D: The author clearly cares about the human consequences.

**Final Answer:** Cautious and critical, yet aware of usefulness ⇒ **A**

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q23](#)

Q24.

**Solution**

**Concept — Author’s purpose:** Identify what point the striking phrase is meant to drive home.

**Passage support:** The line follows “Precision, however, is not the same as fairness.” Saying a decision can be “consistent and consistently unjust” shows that reliability does not equal justice. Its purpose is to warn that precision does not guarantee fairness.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: It criticises, rather than praises, machine reliability.
- Option B: It argues consistency is not enough, not the highest goal.
- Option C: The passage says human reasoning is “equally hidden,” not always fairer.

**Final Answer:** Precision does not guarantee fairness ⇒ **D**

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q24](#)



Q25.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** Pick the option that frames coffee’s story as the passage frames it.

**Passage support:** The passage says coffee “knit distant parts of the world into a single, unequal web.” It closes by calling coffee’s history “a map of appetite, power, and connection.” So its history mirrors global trade, power, and inequality.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Coffee houses are one episode, not the whole point.
- Option C: Coffee is traced to Ethiopia and Yemen, not Brazil.
- Option D: The passage says prices “periodically” collapsed, so not stable.

**Final Answer:** It mirrors global trade, power, and inequality ⇒ **B**

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q25](#)

Q26.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Connect why coffee houses were notable with why rulers might fear them.

**Passage support:** Coffee houses were famous as places of “conversation, commerce, and news – so lively that rulers occasionally tried, and failed, to close them.” A ruler’s likely worry about such lively exchange of news is political. So the closures reflect unease over free talk and news.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage never says coffee was thought harmful.
- Option B: Structural safety of the buildings is not mentioned.
- Option C: The houses were “lively,” not empty of customers.

**Final Answer:** Unease about the free exchange of talk and news ⇒ **D**

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q26](#)



Q27.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail:** Read the stated cause for founding the plantations.

**Passage support:** European merchants carried coffee home “and demand soon outran what the old sources could supply.” “To meet it, colonial powers established plantations.” So plantations answered demand that had grown beyond the older sources.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Nothing says coffee could no longer grow in Ethiopia.
- Option B: Closing coffee houses is unrelated to founding plantations.
- Option C: Labourers did not request the work; they were enslaved.

**Final Answer:** Demand had outgrown the older sources ⇒ **C**

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q27](#)

Q28.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Read the sentence right after the phrase to see what the “engine” powered.

**Passage support:** “This expansion had a dark engine.” The next line says the estates “were worked . . . by enslaved and later by indentured labourers.” So the “dark engine” is the forced labour driving the expansion.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: No roasting machinery is discussed here.
- Option C: The colour of coffee is not the point of “dark.”
- Option D: The decline of coffee houses is a different topic.

**Final Answer:** The forced labour powering the plantations ⇒ **A**

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q28](#)



Q29.

**Solution**

**Concept — Tone:** Note the moral colouring of the words used for the labour.

**Passage support:** The author speaks of a “dark engine” and of pleasure that “rested on the toil of another.” Calling the web “unequal” signals moral judgement, not neutral reporting. So the tone is critical and morally aware.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: There is nothing admiring about “dark engine.”
- Option B: The subject of slavery is treated seriously, not playfully.
- Option C: The charged language goes beyond neutral statistics.

**Final Answer:** Critical and morally aware ⇒

[Go Back to Q29](#)

Q30.

**Solution**

**Concept — Best title:** The title should capture coffee as a lens on global history, matching the closing image.

**Passage support:** The passage ends by calling coffee’s story “a map of appetite, power, and connection across the modern world.” Option B echoes that summary directly.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage is not a brewing guide.
- Option C: Botany and genetics are not its subject.
- Option D: The Ottoman Empire is only one stop on the journey.

**Final Answer:** The Coffee Bean: A Map of Appetite, Power, and Connection ⇒

[Go Back to Q30](#)



## Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	B	2	C	3	A	4	D	5	C
6	B	7	A	8	D	9	B	10	C
11	D	12	B	13	C	14	B	15	D
16	A	17	B	18	C	19	D	20	A
21	C	22	B	23	A	24	D	25	B
26	D	27	C	28	A	29	D	30	B

