

IBSAT Reading Comprehension

Sample Paper – 2

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.

A company's board of directors sits at the intersection of ownership and management, a position that is easy to describe but hard to occupy well. Shareholders supply capital yet rarely run the firm; executives run the firm yet do not own most of it. The board exists to close this gap, holding managers accountable on behalf of owners while steering the enterprise toward durable value rather than short-lived gains. In principle its duties are clear: appoint and, if necessary, remove the chief executive, approve major strategy, test the integrity of financial reporting, and ensure that risk is understood rather than merely hoped away.

In practice, boards often struggle. Directors depend on management for the very information they are meant to scrutinise, and a chief executive who controls the flow of data can shape the questions a board thinks to ask. Social dynamics compound the problem.



Boards prize collegiality, and the director who repeatedly presses uncomfortable points risks being seen as disloyal rather than diligent. Independence, the quality regulators most prize, can wither into politeness.

Reforms have tried to address these weaknesses by separating the roles of chair and chief executive, recruiting directors with no commercial ties to the firm, and empowering audit and remuneration committees. Such measures help, but they are not self-executing. A board packed with nominally independent members can still defer to a charismatic leader, while a smaller, engaged board may govern superbly without ticking every procedural box. Ultimately, good governance depends less on structure than on temperament: the willingness of ordinary, capable people to ask awkward questions when everyone in the room would prefer that they did not.

- Q1.** Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage?
- (A) Corporate boards have unlimited legal power over the companies they govern.
 - (B) Regulatory reforms have completely solved the problems of weak boards.
 - (C) Effective board governance depends more on directors' willingness to challenge management than on formal structures alone.
 - (D) Shareholders should take direct control of the day-to-day management of the firm.
- Q2.** According to the passage, which of the following is listed as a duty of the board?
- (A) Appointing and, if necessary, removing the chief executive.
 - (B) Setting the daily production schedule of the firm.
 - (C) Personally auditing every financial transaction of the company.
 - (D) Supplying the capital that the company invests.
- Q3.** In the passage, the phrase "risk is understood rather than merely hoped away" suggests that a board should ensure that risk is:
- (A) eliminated entirely from the business.
 - (B) transferred wholly to the shareholders.



- (C) ignored until it becomes urgent.
- (D) genuinely analysed rather than optimistically dismissed.
- Q4.** It can be inferred from the passage that a chief executive who controls the flow of information to the board can:
- (A) legally prevent the board from ever meeting.
- (B) influence which questions the board chooses to ask.
- (C) guarantee higher dividends for the shareholders.
- (D) remove directors without any shareholder approval.
- Q5.** The author's attitude toward structural governance reforms is best described as:
- (A) wholly dismissive.
- (B) uncritically enthusiastic.
- (C) cautiously appreciative but sceptical of their sufficiency.
- (D) indifferent and detached.
- Q6.** The primary purpose of the second paragraph ("In practice, boards often struggle...") is to:
- (A) explain why boards frequently fail to exercise genuine independence.
- (B) argue that boards of directors should be abolished.
- (C) list the statutory penalties for negligent directors.
- (D) praise executives for managing information efficiently.

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.

Each year billions of birds undertake journeys that would defeat the finest human navigator, crossing oceans and deserts to arrive, often within days of the same date, at destinations they may never have seen. How they accomplish this has fascinated naturalists for centuries, and the answer appears to be not a single sense but a toolkit of



overlapping ones.

The sun offers one reference. Many species can read the sun's position and, crucially, compensate for its movement across the sky using an internal clock, so that a bird treats the same solar angle differently at dawn than at noon. At night, other species orient by the stars, learning as nestlings to locate the fixed point around which the northern sky appears to rotate. Neither cue is reliable when clouds intervene, and here a third sense becomes decisive.

Birds can perceive the Earth's magnetic field. Experiments in which caged migrants are placed inside artificial magnetic coils show that altering the field alters the direction in which the birds attempt to depart. The mechanism remains debated: some evidence points to tiny crystals of magnetite in the beak, while other work suggests that light-sensitive proteins in the eye allow the bird, in effect, to see magnetic lines as patterns of shading.

What makes migration so robust is that these systems back one another up. A bird denied the stars can fall back on magnetism; one confused by a magnetic anomaly can recalibrate against the setting sun. Landmarks such as coastlines and rivers refine the final approach. Navigation, in short, is less a single miracle than a chorus of imperfect instruments whose errors happen to cancel.

- Q7.** Which statement best expresses the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Birds navigate solely by memorising visible landmarks.
 - (B) Bird migration relies on several overlapping navigational senses that reinforce one another.
 - (C) The Earth's magnetic field is the only cue that birds ever use.
 - (D) No real progress has been made in understanding bird navigation.
- Q8.** According to the passage, to use the sun as a compass a bird must also:
- (A) wait until the sun is directly overhead.
 - (B) ignore the time of day entirely.
 - (C) fly only in cloudy conditions.
 - (D) compensate for the sun's movement using an internal clock.
- Q9.** The passage presents which of the following as one proposed mechanism for magnetic perception in birds?



- (A) Light-sensitive proteins in the eye that render magnetic lines as patterns of shading.
- (B) A specialised organ in the wing that measures wind pressure.
- (C) The ability to hear low-frequency ocean sounds.
- (D) Chemical signals released by other birds in the flock.

Q10. It can be inferred that the redundancy of birds' navigational systems is valuable primarily because:

- (A) it makes the birds fly faster.
- (B) it allows birds to migrate without ever resting.
- (C) it lets a bird keep navigating even when one cue is unavailable.
- (D) it eliminates every trace of navigational error.

Q11. In the final sentence, the phrase “a chorus of imperfect instruments whose errors happen to cancel” most nearly means that:

- (A) each sense is perfectly accurate on its own.
- (B) multiple flawed cues combine to yield reliable overall direction.
- (C) birds sing in order to coordinate their flight.
- (D) navigation is fundamentally a matter of chance.

Q12. The reference to caged migrants placed inside artificial magnetic coils serves to:

- (A) suggest that migratory birds should not be kept in cages.
- (B) prove that birds cannot sense magnetism at all.
- (C) describe how coastlines guide the final approach.
- (D) provide experimental evidence that birds respond to the magnetic field.

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 dazzling art of the Italian Renaissance is often remembered as the triumph of individual genius, yet almost none of it would exist without patrons. Painters and sculptors of the period rarely worked on speculation; they worked to commission, and the person who paid largely determined what was made. A wealthy banker, a guild of merchants, a religious confraternity, or a prince would agree a contract specifying the subject, the size, sometimes the precise pigments, and even the number of figures. The artist supplied skill; the patron supplied purpose.

Patronage was seldom pure charity. To commission a chapel fresco or a bronze was to advertise one's piety, taste, and standing all at once. The Medici of Florence understood this perfectly, financing buildings and altarpieces that bound the family's name to the glory of the city and softened resentment of their political dominance. A magnificent gift to a church could also, conveniently, be read as an act of penance for the worldly business of banking.

This system shaped the art itself. Because commissions clustered around churches and civic institutions, religious and mythological themes predominated, and the conventions of a genre were understood by patron and artist alike. Yet constraint did not extinguish invention. Within an agreed subject an ambitious artist could experiment with perspective, anatomy, and emotional depth, and a discerning patron might prize exactly such daring. The competition among patrons to secure the most celebrated hands drove prices, and reputations, upward.

To study Renaissance art, then, is to study a marketplace as much as a muse. The masterpieces on gallery walls are the surviving records of negotiations between those who could imagine beauty and those who could afford to pay for it.

- Q13.** The central argument of the passage is that Renaissance art was:
- (A) shaped decisively by the patrons who commissioned and paid for it.
 - (B) produced entirely without financial constraints.
 - (C) valued only for its religious content.
 - (D) created mainly on speculation for open sale.
- Q14.** According to the passage, a Renaissance commission contract could specify all of the following EXCEPT:
- (A) the subject of the work.
 - (B) the size of the work.
 - (C) the market price the finished work would later fetch at auction.
 - (D) the pigments to be used.



- Q15.** It can be inferred that the Medici financed art partly in order to:
- (A) discourage other families from commissioning any works.
 - (B) improve their public image and offset resentment of their power.
 - (C) avoid paying taxes to the church.
 - (D) keep artists from experimenting with new techniques.
- Q16.** As used in the passage, the word “penance” most nearly means:
- (A) a public celebration.
 - (B) a financial investment.
 - (C) a legal contract.
 - (D) an act of atonement for wrongdoing.
- Q17.** The author’s view of the relationship between patronage and artistic invention is best described as:
- (A) convinced that patronage wholly stifled creativity.
 - (B) certain that patronage was irrelevant to the art produced.
 - (C) persuaded that constraint and invention coexisted.
 - (D) dismissive of the artists’ individual skill.
- Q18.** Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the passage?
- (A) The Marketplace Behind the Masterpieces.
 - (B) The Decline of Religious Art in Florence.
 - (C) How the Medici Ruined Italian Painting.
 - (D) Techniques of Fresco Painting Explained.

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.



A conventional computer, however powerful, ultimately manipulates bits, each of which must be either a zero or a one. A quantum computer replaces the bit with the qubit, and it is the strange behaviour of the qubit that gives the machine its promise. A qubit can exist in a superposition, a state that is not simply zero or one but a weighted blend of both possibilities at once. With every additional qubit, the number of combinations the system can represent grows explosively, so that a modest array of qubits can, in principle, hold more states than there are atoms in a room.

Superposition alone is not enough. Qubits can also be entangled, meaning the state of one is bound to the state of another however far apart they are, so that measuring one instantly constrains the other. A well-designed quantum algorithm choreographs superposition and entanglement so that the many possible computations interfere, cancelling the wrong answers and reinforcing the right one when the qubits are finally read.

The difficulty is that a quantum state is exquisitely fragile. The slightest disturbance from heat, stray radiation, or a passing vibration can collapse a superposition, a spoiling effect called decoherence. Building a useful machine therefore demands elaborate isolation, near-absolute-zero temperatures, and layers of error correction that consume many physical qubits to protect a single reliable one.

None of this makes quantum computers faster at ordinary tasks; they will not speed up e-mail. Their advantage is confined to particular problems, such as simulating molecules or searching vast mathematical spaces, where the quantum trick of exploring many paths at once maps naturally onto the structure of the problem. Elsewhere, the humble classical bit remains entirely supreme.

- Q19.** Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Quantum computers will soon replace all classical computers.
 - (B) Quantum computers exploit the unusual properties of qubits to gain an advantage on certain problems, but remain fragile and specialised.
 - (C) Quantum computing offers no real advantage over classical computing.
 - (D) The main challenge of quantum computing is making e-mail faster.
- Q20.** According to the passage, a qubit in “superposition” is best described as:
- (A) permanently fixed at zero.
 - (B) permanently fixed at one.
 - (C) a bit that has been physically damaged.
 - (D) a weighted blend of both zero and one at once.



- Q21.** The passage defines “decoherence” as:
- (A) the process of adding more qubits to a system.
 - (B) the entanglement of two distant qubits.
 - (C) the collapse of a superposition caused by disturbance.
 - (D) the cooling of qubits to near absolute zero.
- Q22.** It can be inferred from the passage that error correction in quantum computers is costly because:
- (A) protecting one reliable qubit requires many physical qubits.
 - (B) qubits are more expensive than classical processors to purchase.
 - (C) quantum computers must be connected to the internet.
 - (D) entanglement is illegal in most jurisdictions.
- Q23.** Based on the passage, a quantum computer would be LEAST likely to outperform a classical computer at:
- (A) simulating the behaviour of molecules.
 - (B) sending and sorting ordinary e-mail.
 - (C) searching very large mathematical spaces.
 - (D) exploring many computational paths simultaneously.
- Q24.** The author’s overall attitude toward quantum computing can best be described as:
- (A) alarmed and fearful.
 - (B) uncritically hopeful about all of its uses.
 - (C) enthusiastic about its promise yet realistic about its limits.
 - (D) convinced that it will never be useful.

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.



Designing a city's public transport is an exercise in reconciling goals that pull against one another. Passengers want services that are fast, frequent, cheap, and close to their doors, but no network can maximise all four at once. A route that stops everywhere is convenient to reach yet slow to ride; one that stops rarely is quick but strands those who live between the stations. Planners spend their careers negotiating this tension.

The most consequential choice is often the shape of the network. A hub-and-spoke design funnels passengers through a central interchange, which concentrates frequency on the busiest corridors but forces awkward journeys between two outer points. A grid, by contrast, lets riders travel in many directions with a single transfer, though it spreads service thinner. Neither is universally right; the correct answer depends on where a city's people actually live and work, information that planners gather through surveys, ticket data, and increasingly the anonymised traces left by mobile phones.

Frequency matters more than most passengers realise. A service that arrives every five minutes needs no timetable, because a rider can simply turn up; one that arrives every forty minutes governs the passenger's whole day. For this reason, experienced planners often prefer a smaller network run frequently to a sprawling one run rarely, even though the map of the larger system looks more impressive.

Finally, transport shapes the city as much as it serves it. A new line raises the value of land around its stations and draws development toward them, so a route drawn today quietly dictates where people will live decades hence. Good planning therefore looks beyond current demand to the city its choices will help create.

Q25. The central idea of the passage is that planning public transport involves:

- (A) always building the largest possible network.
- (B) eliminating all transfers between routes.
- (C) maximising speed above every other consideration.
- (D) balancing competing goals that cannot all be satisfied at once.

Q26. According to the passage, a route that stops rarely is:

- (A) quick to ride but inconvenient for those living between stations.
- (B) slow to ride but convenient for everyone.
- (C) both fast and universally accessible.
- (D) unable to attract any passengers.

Q27. The passage states that a hub-and-spoke network:



- (A) allows travel in many directions with a single transfer.
- (B) concentrates frequency on busy corridors but complicates journeys between two outer points.
- (C) spreads service evenly and thinly across the whole city.
- (D) requires no central interchange of any kind.

Q28. It can be inferred that planners gather anonymised mobile-phone traces mainly in order to:

- (A) monitor individual passengers' private conversations.
- (B) replace the need for any physical transport network.
- (C) learn where people actually live and travel.
- (D) set the price of tickets automatically.

Q29. The passage suggests that a service arriving every five minutes is advantageous because:

- (A) it is cheaper to operate than any other service.
- (B) it can serve a larger geographical area.
- (C) it requires a detailed printed timetable.
- (D) passengers can use it without consulting a timetable.

Q30. The main point of the final paragraph is that public transport:

- (A) has no effect on the value of nearby land.
- (B) influences where future development and residents will locate.
- (C) should be planned only around present-day demand.
- (D) always lowers the value of the land around new stations.



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Find the option that captures the passage’s overarching claim, not one narrow detail.

Passage support: The closing sentence states that good governance “depends less on structure than on temperament: the willingness of ordinary, capable people to ask awkward questions.” This subordinates formal machinery to directors’ behaviour. The whole essay builds toward that judgement.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage never claims boards have “unlimited” power; it stresses their difficulties.
- Option B: The text says reforms “help, but they are not self-executing,” so they have not “completely solved” anything.
- Option D: Shareholders taking direct control is contradicted by the opening; they “rarely run the firm.”

Final Answer: Governance rests on the will to challenge management ⇒ **C**

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Detail / fact retrieval: Match the option to an item explicitly named in the list of board duties.

Passage support: The first paragraph lists the duties: “appoint and, if necessary, remove the chief executive, approve major strategy, test the integrity of financial reporting.” Appointing and removing the CEO is stated word for word.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Setting daily production schedules is management’s job, not a listed board duty.
- Option C: The board tests the “integrity of financial reporting”; it does not personally audit every transaction.
- Option D: Supplying capital is the shareholders’ role, per the opening lines.

Final Answer: Appointing and removing the CEO ⇒ **A**



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

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Read the phrase against its contrast (“understood” versus “hoped away”) to fix its meaning.

Passage support: The duty is to “ensure that risk is understood rather than merely hoped away.” “Understood” points to real analysis. “Hoped away” names the failing of dismissing risk optimistically.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The text asks for understanding, not total elimination of risk.
- Option B: Transferring risk to shareholders is never mentioned.
- Option C: Ignoring risk until urgent is the opposite of understanding it.

Final Answer: Risk must be genuinely analysed, not wished away ⇒ **D**

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

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Draw the conclusion the text supports without overreaching.

Passage support: The second paragraph says a chief executive “who controls the flow of data can shape the questions a board thinks to ask.” Shaping the questions is exactly influencing what the board asks.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Preventing meetings is never suggested and is far stronger than the text warrants.
- Option C: Guaranteeing dividends is unrelated to controlling information.
- Option D: Removing directors is a shareholder or governance matter, not implied here.

Final Answer: Controlling data lets the CEO shape the board’s questions ⇒ **B**

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



Q5.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: Gauge the author's stance from evaluative wording.

Passage support: On reforms the author writes that "such measures help, but they are not self-executing." The word "help" is appreciation; "not self-executing" is scepticism about their sufficiency. So the stance is balanced, not one-sided.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: "Wholly dismissive" ignores the acknowledgement that reforms help.
- Option B: "Uncritically enthusiastic" ignores the stated limits.
- Option D: "Indifferent" is wrong; the author engages closely with the topic.

Final Answer: Appreciative yet sceptical of sufficiency ⇒ C

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

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Author's purpose / function: Ask what job the paragraph does in the argument.

Passage support: The second paragraph catalogues obstacles: dependence on management for information, and the social pressure that makes "independence... wither into politeness." Its function is to explain why boards struggle to be truly independent.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The passage nowhere argues for abolishing boards.
- Option C: No statutory penalties are discussed anywhere.
- Option D: The paragraph criticises information control rather than praising it.

Final Answer: It explains failures of genuine independence ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q6](#)



Q7.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Select the statement that spans the whole passage.

Passage support: The introduction says the answer is “not a single sense but a toolkit of overlapping ones,” and the close describes “a chorus of imperfect instruments.” The passage repeatedly stresses several senses reinforcing one another.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Landmarks are only one refining cue, not the sole method.
- Option C: Magnetism is one of several cues, not the only one.
- Option D: The passage details real progress in understanding, contradicting “no progress.”

Final Answer: Several overlapping senses reinforce one another ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Detail / fact retrieval: Locate the sentence describing the sun cue.

Passage support: The passage says birds “read the sun’s position and, crucially, compensate for its movement across the sky using an internal clock.” The internal-clock compensation is the required extra step.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Waiting for the sun overhead is never stated.
- Option B: The birds use the time of day rather than ignore it.
- Option C: The sun cue fails in cloud, so flying only in cloud is the opposite.

Final Answer: They compensate for the sun’s motion via an internal clock ⇒ **D**

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



Q9.

Solution

Concept — Detail / fact retrieval: Find the specific mechanism named for magnetic sensing.

Passage support: The third paragraph offers two ideas: “tiny crystals of magnetite in the beak” and “light-sensitive proteins in the eye [that] see magnetic lines as patterns of shading.” Option A restates the second mechanism exactly.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: A wind-pressure organ in the wing is never mentioned.
- Option C: Hearing ocean sounds is not proposed anywhere.
- Option D: Chemical signals from other birds are not discussed.

Final Answer: Light-sensitive eye proteins reading magnetic lines ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Reason from the stated redundancy to its practical value.

Passage support: The passage explains that “a bird denied the stars can fall back on magnetism; one confused by a magnetic anomaly can recalibrate against the setting sun.” The benefit is continued navigation when one cue fails.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Speed of flight is not linked to the backup senses.
- Option B: Migrating without rest is never claimed.
- Option D: The text calls the instruments “imperfect,” so error is reduced, not eliminated.

Final Answer: Backups keep navigation working when a cue is lost ⇒

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



Q11.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Interpret the metaphor using the surrounding argument about backup systems.

Passage support: “Imperfect instruments” means each cue is flawed. “Errors happen to cancel” means the flaws offset when combined. The sentence caps an argument that several cues together give reliable direction.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Imperfect” directly denies that each sense is perfectly accurate.
- Option C: The “chorus” is a metaphor, not literal singing.
- Option D: Cancelling errors produces reliability, the opposite of randomness.

Final Answer: Flawed cues combine into reliable direction ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q11](#)

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Author’s purpose / function: Identify why the example is included.

Passage support: The coil experiments “show that altering the field alters the direction in which the birds attempt to depart.” The example is offered as evidence that birds respond to the magnetic field.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage makes no ethical point about caging.
- Option B: The result proves birds do sense magnetism, not that they cannot.
- Option C: Coastlines belong to the final paragraph, not this experiment.

Final Answer: It gives evidence that birds respond to magnetism ⇒ **D**

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q12](#)



Q13.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Choose the thesis the passage repeatedly returns to.

Passage support: The opening insists “almost none of it would exist without patrons,” and “the person who paid largely determined what was made.” The close calls the works “records of negotiations” with those who paid. Patrons decisively shaped the art.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The art was made under contracts specifying details, so not free of constraint.
- Option C: Mythological as well as religious themes appear, and value came from status too.
- Option D: The text states artists “rarely worked on speculation.”

Final Answer: Patrons decisively shaped the art ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q13](#)

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Detail (EXCEPT): Find the option NOT included in the listed contract terms.

Passage support: A contract could specify “the subject, the size, sometimes the precise pigments, and even the number of figures.” A future auction price is nowhere in that list.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Subject is explicitly listed, so it is specifiable.
- Option B: Size is explicitly listed.
- Option D: Pigments are explicitly listed.

Final Answer: A future auction price is not among the terms ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q14](#)



Q15.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Read the Medici example for the motive it implies.

Passage support: Their patronage “bound the family’s name to the glory of the city and softened resentment of their political dominance.” Improving image and offsetting resentment is precisely that.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Discouraging rival commissions is never suggested.
- Option C: Tax avoidance to the church is not mentioned.
- Option D: The text says discerning patrons prized daring, not that they suppressed it.

Final Answer: To improve image and soften resentment ⇒ **B**

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

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Fix the meaning from the surrounding clause about worldly banking.

Passage support: A church gift “could also, conveniently, be read as an act of penance for the worldly business of banking.” Penance here is making amends for a perceived wrong, that is, atonement.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: A celebration does not fit the idea of making amends.
- Option B: An investment misses the moral sense of the word.
- Option C: A legal contract is unrelated to atonement.

Final Answer: Penance means an act of atonement ⇒ **D**

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



Q17.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: Weigh how the author reconciles constraint and creativity.

Passage support: The author writes “constraint did not extinguish invention,” and that within an agreed subject an artist “could experiment with perspective, anatomy, and emotional depth.” So the two coexisted.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The text denies that patronage wholly stifled creativity.
- Option B: Patronage is shown to be highly relevant, not irrelevant.
- Option D: The author credits the artist’s skill rather than dismissing it.

Final Answer: Constraint and invention coexisted ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q17](#)

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Best title: Pick the title that fits the whole passage, not one detail.

Passage support: The passage frames Renaissance art as “a marketplace as much as a muse,” the outcome of commercial negotiation. “The Marketplace Behind the Masterpieces” captures exactly that theme.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The passage does not describe any decline of religious art.
- Option C: The Medici are shown as supporters, not destroyers, of art.
- Option D: Fresco technique is barely touched and is not the focus.

Final Answer: The marketplace behind the masterpieces ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q18](#)



Q19.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Find the balanced statement of promise and limitation.

Passage support: The passage praises qubits' "promise" yet stresses that a quantum state is "exquisitely fragile" and that the advantage is "confined to particular problems." That is promise plus fragility plus specialisation.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The text says the classical bit "remains entirely supreme" elsewhere, so no wholesale replacement.
- Option C: The passage clearly grants a real advantage on some problems.
- Option D: E-mail is used to show what quantum machines will NOT do, not their main challenge.

Final Answer: Real advantage on some problems, but fragile and specialised ⇒

B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q19](#)

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Detail / definition: Retrieve the passage's own definition of superposition.

Passage support: A qubit "can exist in a superposition, a state that is not simply zero or one but a weighted blend of both possibilities at once." Option D restates this directly.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: A fixed zero is an ordinary bit, not a superposition.
- Option B: A fixed one is likewise not a superposition.
- Option C: Nothing suggests a superposition is a damaged bit.

Final Answer: A weighted blend of zero and one at once ⇒ **D**

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q20](#)



Q21.

Solution

Concept — Detail / definition: Match the term to its definition in the text.

Passage support: The passage says “the slightest disturbance... can collapse a superposition, a spoiling effect called decoherence.” Decoherence is that disturbance-driven collapse.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Adding qubits is unrelated to the definition given.
- Option B: Entanglement is a different concept defined earlier.
- Option D: Cooling is a defence against decoherence, not decoherence itself.

Final Answer: Disturbance-driven collapse of a superposition ⇒

[Go Back to Q21](#)

Q22.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Infer the reason error correction is expensive from the stated mechanism.

Passage support: Error correction uses “layers of error correction that consume many physical qubits to protect a single reliable one.” Needing many qubits per reliable qubit is what makes it costly.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Purchase price versus classical processors is never discussed.
- Option C: Internet connection is irrelevant to error correction.
- Option D: The claim about entanglement being illegal is absurd and unsupported.

Final Answer: Many physical qubits are needed per reliable qubit ⇒

[Go Back to Q22](#)



Q23.

Solution

Concept — Inference (LEAST likely): Identify the ordinary task where quantum offers no edge.

Passage support: The passage states quantum computers “will not speed up e-mail” and that their advantage is limited to problems like simulating molecules or searching vast spaces. Ordinary e-mail is the non-advantaged task.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Simulating molecules is named as a quantum strength.
- Option C: Searching large spaces is named as a quantum strength.
- Option D: Exploring many paths at once is the quantum advantage itself.

Final Answer: Ordinary e-mail gains no quantum advantage ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q23](#)

Q24.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: Balance the author’s optimism against the caveats.

Passage support: The author speaks of the machine’s “promise” yet insists the state is “exquisitely fragile” and the advantage “confined to particular problems.” That mix is enthusiasm tempered by realism.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Nothing in the tone is alarmed or fearful.
- Option B: “Uncritically hopeful” ignores the stated limits.
- Option D: The author affirms real usefulness on some problems.

Final Answer: Enthusiastic yet realistic about limits ⇒ **C**

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q24](#)



Q25.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Choose the option describing the passage's governing tension.

Passage support: The opening states planning is “an exercise in reconciling goals that pull against one another” and that “no network can maximise all four at once.” Balancing competing goals is the theme.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage prefers frequent smaller networks over merely large ones.
- Option B: Eliminating all transfers is never advocated.
- Option C: Speed is only one of several goals to be balanced.

Final Answer: Balancing competing goals that cannot all be met ⇒ **D**

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q25](#)

Q26.

Solution

Concept — Detail / fact retrieval: Locate the sentence contrasting frequent and rare stops.

Passage support: The text says a route “that stops rarely is quick but strands those who live between the stations.” Quick to ride, yet inconvenient for in-between residents.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: A rare-stopping route is quick, not slow, in the passage.
- Option C: It is not universally accessible; it strands some riders.
- Option D: The passage does not say it attracts no passengers.

Final Answer: Quick but inconvenient for in-between residents ⇒ **A**

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q26](#)



Q27.

Solution

Concept — Detail / fact retrieval: Match the option to the described hub-and-spoke trade-off.

Passage support: A hub-and-spoke design “concentrates frequency on the busiest corridors but forces awkward journeys between two outer points.” Option B restates both halves of that trade-off.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Travel in many directions with one transfer describes the grid, not the hub.
- Option C: Even, thin spreading describes the grid.
- Option D: The hub-and-spoke design centres on a central interchange, so it is required.

Final Answer: Concentrates frequency but complicates outer-to-outer trips ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q27](#)

Q28.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Infer the planners’ purpose in collecting phone traces.

Passage support: Planners need to know “where a city’s people actually live and work,” gathered through “surveys, ticket data, and increasingly the anonymised traces left by mobile phones.” The traces serve that mapping purpose.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The data is “anonymised,” so private conversations are not the aim.
- Option B: The traces inform the network, not replace it.
- Option D: Automatic ticket pricing is never mentioned.

Final Answer: To learn where people live and travel ⇒ **C**

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q28](#)



Q29.

Solution

Concept — Inference / detail: Read why high frequency helps the rider.

Passage support: “A service that arrives every five minutes needs no timetable, because a rider can simply turn up.” The advantage is that no timetable consultation is needed.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Lower operating cost is not claimed for the frequent service.
- Option B: Serving a larger area is not the stated benefit of frequency.
- Option C: The frequent service needs no timetable, so a printed one is not required.

Final Answer: Riders can use it without a timetable ⇒ **D**

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q29](#)

Q30.

Solution

Concept — Author’s purpose / inference: Capture the argument of the closing paragraph.

Passage support: The final paragraph says a new line “raises the value of land around its stations and draws development toward them,” so a route “dictates where people will live decades hence.” Transport shapes future development and residence.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The text says transport does affect land value, contradicting “no effect.”
- Option C: The author urges looking “beyond current demand,” not planning only for today.
- Option D: The passage says a line raises, not lowers, nearby land value.

Final Answer: Transport influences where future development locates ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q30](#)



Answer Key

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

