

IBSAT Reading Comprehension

Sample Paper – 3

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 decades, multinational firms optimised their supply chains around a single ideal: cost. Components were sourced from wherever they were cheapest, inventories were trimmed to the bone, and goods travelled across oceans on tightly synchronised schedules that left almost no slack. This lean model rewarded shareholders handsomely while the world stayed predictable. Then a run of shocks – a pandemic, a blocked canal, sudden export bans, and a war that severed established trade routes – exposed how brittle the system had become. A missing semiconductor or a delayed vessel could idle an entire assembly line half a world away.

Resilience has since replaced pure efficiency as the watchword of the boardroom. Executives now speak of building redundancy: qualifying second and third suppliers, holding buffer stock of critical parts, and shortening the physical distance between factory and



customer. Some manufacturers are “reshoring” production closer to home, while others pursue a “China plus one” strategy that spreads risk across several countries. None of this comes free. Redundancy ties up capital, buffer inventory incurs storage costs, and duplicated suppliers forfeit the discount that volume once secured.

The harder question is whether these changes will endure once memories of disruption fade. History suggests that firms drift back toward thrift when calm returns, quietly dismantling the very safeguards they built in a crisis. Yet a growing number of analysts argue that volatility is now structural rather than exceptional, driven by geopolitical rivalry and a warming climate. If they are right, the companies that treat resilience as a permanent cost of doing business, not a temporary insurance policy, will be the ones left standing when the next shock arrives.

- Q1.** Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage?
- (A) Pandemics are the single greatest threat facing global trade today.
 - (B) Reshoring production is always cheaper than sourcing components from overseas.
 - (C) The pursuit of resilience is displacing pure cost-efficiency in supply chains, though it carries real costs and its permanence is uncertain.
 - (D) Executives no longer care about the interests of their shareholders.
- Q2.** It can be inferred from the passage that the lean supply-chain model performed well as long as:
- (A) external conditions remained stable and predictable.
 - (B) suppliers were located physically close to their customers.
 - (C) firms maintained large buffers of spare inventory.
 - (D) governments actively guaranteed all major trade routes.
- Q3.** The passage implies that a “China plus one” strategy is pursued mainly in order to:
- (A) eliminate all sourcing from China entirely.
 - (B) drive down labour costs even further.
 - (C) increase the volume discounts a firm can obtain.
 - (D) spread risk so that disruption in a single country does less damage.



- Q4.** According to the passage, which of the following is NOT mentioned as a cost of building resilience?
- (A) Capital tied up by holding redundant suppliers.
 - (B) Higher wages paid to reshored factory workers.
 - (C) Storage costs incurred by holding buffer inventory.
 - (D) Loss of the volume discount that a single large supplier once offered.
- Q5.** As used in the passage, the word “brittle” most nearly means:
- (A) easily broken or fragile.
 - (B) inexpensive to operate.
 - (C) rigidly efficient.
 - (D) slow and unresponsive.
- Q6.** The author’s attitude toward the durability of the shift to resilience can best be described as:
- (A) wholly confident that it will last.
 - (B) cautiously skeptical about whether it will endure.
 - (C) openly dismissive of the entire idea.
 - (D) completely indifferent to the outcome.

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.

When Alexander Fleming accepted his Nobel Prize in 1945, he issued a warning that few heeded: bacteria exposed to too little penicillin could learn to survive it. Eight decades later that prophecy has hardened into one of medicine’s gravest threats. Antibiotic resistance arises through ordinary evolution. Within any large bacterial population, a few cells carry random mutations that blunt a drug’s effect. When an antibiotic floods the body, it kills the susceptible majority but spares these hardy variants, which then multiply unchecked and pass their defences to the next generation. Bacteria compound the problem by swapping resistance genes directly with one another, even across species, through loops of DNA called plasmids.



Human behaviour accelerates the process. Patients who stop a course early, doctors who prescribe antibiotics for viral infections they cannot touch, and farmers who dose healthy livestock to speed growth all bathe bacteria in sub-lethal doses – precisely the conditions that select for resistance. Meanwhile the pipeline of new drugs has run dry, because antibiotics are far less profitable for pharmaceutical companies than medicines taken for a lifetime.

The consequences are already visible in hospitals, where infections once cured in days now resist every drug on the shelf. Yet the situation is not hopeless. Stricter stewardship of existing drugs, rapid diagnostics that tell physicians when antibiotics are truly needed, public funding to revive research, and tighter limits on agricultural use could all slow the tide. What resistance cannot be is ignored, for evolution does not pause while institutions deliberate. The bacteria are adapting at their own relentless pace, and the only real question is whether human systems can adapt faster.

Q7. The passage is primarily concerned with:

- (A) the life and scientific career of Alexander Fleming.
- (B) why pharmaceutical companies struggle to remain profitable.
- (C) the detailed molecular biology of bacterial plasmids.
- (D) how antibiotic resistance develops, why it is worsening, and how it might be slowed.

Q8. It can be inferred that prescribing antibiotics for a viral infection is harmful mainly because:

- (A) viruses quickly become resistant to those antibiotics.
- (B) patients dislike having to take additional pills.
- (C) it exposes the body's bacteria to sub-lethal doses that select for resistance.
- (D) it is far more expensive than the correct treatment.

Q9. According to the passage, bacteria can share resistance genes across different species by means of:

- (A) plasmids, loops of DNA passed directly between cells.
- (B) random mutation acting alone within one cell.



- (C) the growth hormones administered to livestock.
- (D) the rapid diagnostic tests used in hospitals.

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

- (A) outright ownership of a resource.
- (B) rapid disposal of unused stock.
- (C) aggressive commercial marketing.
- (D) careful and responsible management.

Q11. The author’s overall tone in the final paragraph is best described as:

- (A) resigned and thoroughly defeated.
- (B) urgent but not despairing.
- (C) lighthearted and casual.
- (D) coldly neutral and uninterested.

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

- (A) “A Race Against Evolving Bacteria”
- (B) “The Discovery of Penicillin”
- (C) “The Business of Modern Pharmaceuticals”
- (D) “A Technical Guide to How Plasmids Work”

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.

Before Johannes Gutenberg adapted the wine press to printing in the 1450s, a book was a luxury copied by hand over months, chained to the desks of monasteries and universities. A single volume could cost as much as a small farm, and literacy remained the privilege of clergy and aristocrats. Movable type changed the arithmetic of knowledge. A printer could now strike hundreds of identical copies in the time a scribe needed for one, and the price of a book collapsed within a generation. The consequences reached far beyond convenience. As texts multiplied, so did the in-



centive to learn to read, and vernacular languages – the everyday tongues of ordinary people rather than scholarly Latin – found their way into print. Pamphlets, almanacs, and cheap devotional books put words into hands that had never held them. Ideas that once travelled at the speed of a walking messenger now spread across a continent in weeks, and no authority could easily recall them once they were loose.

Historians caution against treating the press as a lone cause. Rising towns, growing commerce, and expanding schools had already created a hunger for the written word; the press fed that hunger rather than inventing it. Yet the feedback was powerful. Cheaper books encouraged literacy, and a more literate public demanded still more books, driving prices lower and presses faster. Within two centuries a technology devised to reproduce scripture had helped erode the very monopoly on knowledge that the scribal world depended upon. The lesson, some argue, is that a tool matters less for what it was designed to do than for the social currents it happens to amplify.

Q13. The central idea of the passage is that:

- (A) Gutenberg single-handedly created the modern system of education.
- (B) books had always been affordable throughout the medieval world.
- (C) the printing press sharply lowered the cost of books and, working with existing social forces, helped spread literacy.
- (D) Latin was inherently superior to the vernacular languages of ordinary people.

Q14. It can be inferred from the passage that, before the printing press, new ideas spread slowly mainly because:

- (A) ordinary people had no interest whatsoever in reading.
- (B) vernacular languages had not yet come into existence.
- (C) monasteries had banned the ownership of all books.
- (D) texts had to be copied by hand and carried by messengers.

Q15. According to the passage, which of the following did the printing press help bring into print?

- (A) Vernacular languages, the everyday tongues of ordinary people.
- (B) Only religious scripture written in scholarly Latin.



- (C) Hand-copied manuscripts produced by monastic scribes.
- (D) Catalogues of the books chained inside university libraries.

Q16. As used in the passage, the word “monopoly” most nearly means:

- (A) a cheaply printed pamphlet.
- (B) exclusive control over something.
- (C) a particular kind of school.
- (D) a widely shared public resource.

Q17. The author mentions “rising towns, growing commerce, and expanding schools” primarily in order to:

- (A) prove that the printing press had no real effect at all.
- (B) argue that cities directly caused the invention of movable type.
- (C) list the various products sold by the earliest printers.
- (D) qualify the claim that the press alone caused the spread of literacy.

Q18. Which title best fits the passage?

- (A) “The Life and Times of Johannes Gutenberg”
- (B) “Why the Latin Language Went Into Decline”
- (C) “How Cheaper Books Helped Unlock Literacy”
- (D) “The Economics of Medieval Farming”

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.

For most of the twentieth century, renewable energy carried a reputation for being clean but costly, a virtuous indulgence that only wealthy nations could afford. That reputation is now badly out of date. The price of electricity from solar panels has fallen by roughly ninety percent since 2010, and onshore wind has followed a similar path. In much of the world, building a new solar or wind farm is now cheaper than running an existing coal plant, a reversal that few forecasters saw coming.



The economics turn on a peculiar feature of renewables: their fuel is free. A gas or coal plant must keep buying fuel for as long as it runs, so its costs rise and fall with volatile commodity markets. A solar array, by contrast, front-loads almost all of its expense into construction; once built, the sunlight costs nothing. This makes the long-run price of renewable power unusually predictable, a quality that lenders and governments prize. Yet cheapness at the point of generation is not the whole story. The sun sets and the wind drops, so a grid leaning heavily on renewables must invest in storage, in long-distance transmission, and in backup capacity for windless nights. These “integration costs” are real and often overlooked by enthusiasts who quote only the headline figure. Still, batteries are themselves falling in price at a striking rate, and grid operators are learning to manage variability with tools that did not exist a decade ago. The direction of travel is clear enough. What was once the expensive choice has become, in country after country, simply the sensible one – a transformation driven less by idealism than by arithmetic.

- Q19.** Which statement best expresses the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Renewable energy has shifted from being expensive to being, in many places, the cheapest option, though integration costs remain.
 - (B) Electricity from solar panels is now entirely free everywhere in the world.
 - (C) Coal plants are more reliable than renewables and should therefore be preferred.
 - (D) Only the wealthiest nations can realistically afford renewable energy.
- Q20.** It can be inferred that the cost of electricity from a coal plant is less predictable than that from a solar farm because:
- (A) coal plants are, on average, considerably older facilities.
 - (B) coal plants must keep purchasing fuel whose price fluctuates.
 - (C) solar farms never require any maintenance once installed.
 - (D) governments subsidise coal far more heavily than solar.
- Q21.** According to the passage, which of the following is described as an “integration cost”?
- (A) The manufacturing price of the solar panels themselves.



- (B) The ninety percent fall in the cost of solar electricity.
- (C) Investment in storage, long-distance transmission, and backup capacity.
- (D) The free sunlight that fuels a solar array after construction.

Q22. As used in the passage, the word “front-loads” most nearly means:

- (A) postpones payment until the very end.
- (B) spreads the expense evenly over time.
- (C) eliminates the expense entirely.
- (D) concentrates the expense at the beginning.

Q23. The author’s attitude toward the future of renewable energy is best described as:

- (A) optimistic but clear-eyed about the remaining challenges.
- (B) deeply pessimistic about its prospects.
- (C) entirely neutral and emotionally detached.
- (D) nostalgic for older fossil-fuel technologies.

Q24. The author most likely mentions “enthusiasts who quote only the headline figure” in order to:

- (A) praise renewable-energy advocates for their honesty.
- (B) argue that renewables are, on balance, too expensive.
- (C) caution that the simple cost comparison leaves out real integration costs.
- (D) prove that coal remains cheaper than any renewable source.

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.



Ask a modern audience what happiness is, and most will describe a feeling: a warm rush of pleasure, the absence of pain, a good mood sustained as long as possible. The ancient Greek philosophers would have found this answer thin. For Aristotle, the goal of life was not pleasure but eudaimonia, a word usually translated as “flourishing” rather than “happiness.” A flourishing life, he argued, was one lived well over its whole span, in accordance with reason and virtue – and it could not be judged from a single cheerful afternoon any more than a lone swallow makes a summer.

This distinction still divides philosophers. Hedonists hold that pleasure and the avoidance of suffering are the only things that ultimately matter, and that a life feels good precisely to the degree that it contains more of the former than the latter. Their critics counter that a person hooked to a machine delivering endless pleasant sensations, while accomplishing nothing and loving no one, would be pitied rather than envied. Something beyond mere sensation, they insist, belongs to a life we would actually call good: purpose, relationships, achievement, the exercise of one’s capacities.

The Stoics pushed in yet another direction, locating the good life not in external circumstances at all but in the disciplined management of one’s own judgements and desires. Fortune could strip away wealth, health, and reputation, they held, but never one’s character. What unites these quarrelling schools is a shared refusal to take happiness for granted as a simple emotional state. Each insists that living well is an achievement, something cultivated through habit and thought, rather than a mood that merely happens to us. The question they bequeathed remains stubbornly open.

Q25. The passage is mainly about:

- (A) the specific reasons Aristotle personally disliked pleasure.
- (B) differing philosophical accounts of what a genuinely good life consists of.
- (C) a general history of ancient Greek civilisation.
- (D) practical techniques for achieving a permanent good mood.

Q26. The example of “a person hooked to a machine delivering endless pleasant sensations” is used to suggest that:

- (A) pleasure alone may not be sufficient for a life we would call good.
- (B) machines will soon replace human sources of happiness.
- (C) the hedonist position is obviously and completely correct.
- (D) personal relationships are ultimately unimportant.



- Q27.** According to the passage, the Stoics located the good life in:
- (A) the steady accumulation of wealth and reputation.
 - (B) the single-minded pursuit of pleasant sensation.
 - (C) the enjoyment of one especially cheerful afternoon.
 - (D) the disciplined management of one's own judgements and desires.
- Q28.** The author's tone toward the competing philosophical schools is best described as:
- (A) mocking and openly dismissive.
 - (B) bored and visibly impatient.
 - (C) respectful and even-handed.
 - (D) alarmed and anxious.
- Q29.** The author includes the remark that a flourishing life "could not be judged from a single cheerful afternoon" primarily in order to:
- (A) prove that pleasant afternoons are rare.
 - (B) emphasise that flourishing must be assessed over a whole life rather than a single moment.
 - (C) argue that Aristotle's reasoning was mistaken.
 - (D) describe the mild climate of ancient Greece.
- Q30.** Which of the following is the best title for the passage?
- (A) "The Life of Aristotle"
 - (B) "Why Pleasure Is Always Bad"
 - (C) "A Practical Guide to Staying Cheerful"
 - (D) "Competing Visions of the Good Life"



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: The right answer must cover the whole passage, not one detail, and must not overstate.

Passage support: The passage traces a move from cost-only supply chains to resilience. It stresses that resilience is not free. The last paragraph asks whether the shift will last, leaving permanence open.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: A pandemic is only one of several shocks listed; it is not called the single greatest threat.
- Option B: The passage says reshoring costs money and forfeits discounts, so it is not always cheaper.
- Option D: Shareholders being ignored is never claimed; the lean model is said to have rewarded them.

Final Answer: The shift from efficiency to resilience, with costs and uncertain permanence ⇒

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

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Find the condition the text ties to the lean model's success, then match it.

Passage support: The passage says the lean model “rewarded shareholders handsomely while the world stayed predictable.” Success is thus linked to a stable, predictable environment. When shocks broke that stability, the model failed.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The lean model actually sourced from wherever was cheapest, often far away, not close by.
- Option C: Lean chains trimmed inventory “to the bone,” the opposite of large buffers.
- Option D: Governments guaranteeing routes is never mentioned as the basis of success.



Final Answer: It worked while conditions stayed stable and predictable ⇒ **A**

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

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Read the purpose the passage attaches to the named strategy.

Passage support: The text says a “China plus one” strategy “spreads risk across several countries.” The point of spreading risk is to reduce dependence on any one source. So a disruption in one country hurts less.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Plus one” means adding countries, not eliminating China entirely.
- Option B: Cutting labour cost is not given as the motive; resilience is.
- Option C: Duplicating suppliers forfeits volume discounts, so it cannot be about raising them.

Final Answer: To spread risk so one country’s disruption does less damage ⇒ **D**

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

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Detail (NOT question): Three options appear in the text; the odd one out is the answer.

Passage support: The passage lists three costs of resilience. Redundancy “ties up capital,” buffer inventory “incurs storage costs,” and duplicated suppliers “forfeit the discount that volume once secured.” Higher wages for reshored workers is not among them.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Capital tied up by redundancy is explicitly listed.
- Option C: Storage cost of buffer inventory is explicitly listed.
- Option D: Loss of the volume discount is explicitly listed.

Final Answer: Higher reshored wages are never mentioned ⇒ **B**

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



Q5.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Substitute each choice and keep the one that fits the sentence.

Passage support: The shocks “exposed how brittle the system had become.” A single missing part could idle a whole line, showing a system that breaks easily. So “brittle” means fragile.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: “Inexpensive” describes cost, not the tendency to break under stress.
- Option C: “Rigidly efficient” is a strength, not the weakness the sentence describes.
- Option D: “Slow-moving” misses the sense of sudden breakage the examples convey.

Final Answer: Brittle means easily broken or fragile ⇒ **A**

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

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: Locate the author’s own evaluative words about the topic.

Passage support: The author calls permanence “the harder question.” History is said to show firms drifting back to thrift once calm returns. This doubt, without outright rejection, signals cautious skepticism.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The author is not confident; the whole final paragraph raises doubt.
- Option C: The author does not dismiss resilience; some analysts are said to support it.
- Option D: Weighing the question carefully is the opposite of indifference.

Final Answer: Cautiously skeptical about whether the shift will endure ⇒ **B**

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



Q7.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: The best answer names the passage's full scope, not a sub-topic.

Passage support: The passage explains how resistance evolves. It then lists the human behaviours that speed it up. It closes with measures that could slow it, so all three threads belong.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Fleming appears only in the opening line, not as the subject.
- Option B: Company profitability is one contributing detail, not the theme.
- Option C: Plasmids are one mechanism mentioned in passing, not the whole focus.

Final Answer: How resistance develops, worsens, and might be slowed ⇒

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

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Combine two stated facts to reach the unstated conclusion.

Passage support: Antibiotics “cannot touch” viral infections, so they do nothing to the virus. Yet they still expose the body's bacteria to the drug. Sub-lethal doses “select for resistance,” which is the real harm.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: It is bacteria, not viruses, that become resistant to antibiotics.
- Option B: Patient dislike of pills is never raised.
- Option D: Expense is not the harm the passage identifies here.

Final Answer: It bathes bacteria in sub-lethal doses that select for resistance ⇒

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



Q9.

Solution

Concept — Detail retrieval: Match the answer word-for-word to the mechanism named in the text.

Passage support: Bacteria “swap resistance genes directly with one another, even across species.” This happens “through loops of DNA called plasmids.” Plasmids are therefore the cross-species vehicle.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Mutation creates resistance within a cell but is not the sharing mechanism.
- Option C: Growth hormones are not mentioned; farmers use sub-lethal antibiotic doses.
- Option D: Diagnostic tests are a proposed solution, not a way genes spread.

Final Answer: Through plasmids, loops of DNA passed between cells ⇒

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

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Use the neighbouring words to fix the intended sense.

Passage support: “Stricter stewardship of existing drugs” is listed among ways to slow resistance. It sits beside careful, protective measures like limits on use. So it means responsible, careful management.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Ownership does not capture the sense of using drugs wisely.
- Option B: Rapid disposal contradicts conserving the drugs’ usefulness.
- Option C: Marketing is unrelated to protecting the drugs’ effectiveness.

Final Answer: Careful and responsible management ⇒

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



Q11.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: Balance the passage’s warning against its note of possibility.

Passage support: The author says the situation “is not hopeless” and lists workable measures. Yet resistance “cannot be ignored” because evolution does not pause. This mix is urgent but still hopeful, not despairing.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Not hopeless” rules out a resigned, defeated tone.
- Option C: The gravity of the threat makes a lighthearted reading wrong.
- Option D: The clear call to act is not coldly neutral.

Final Answer: Urgent but not despairing ⇒

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

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Best title: The title should capture the central tension, not a minor detail.

Passage support: The passage frames bacteria as adapting relentlessly. It ends by asking whether human systems can adapt faster. A racing-against-evolution title captures that whole contest.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Penicillin’s discovery is only the opening hook.
- Option C: Pharmaceutical business is one supporting point, not the theme.
- Option D: Plasmids are a single mechanism, too narrow for a title.

Final Answer: “A Race Against Evolving Bacteria” ⇒

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



Q13.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Choose the option that blends the press's effect with the existing social forces.

Passage support: The press “changed the arithmetic of knowledge” and made books cheap. Cheaper books encouraged literacy in a feedback loop. But historians stress existing forces too, so the press worked with them.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The text warns against treating the press as a lone cause, so “single-handedly” is wrong.
- Option B: Books were a luxury costing “as much as a small farm,” not always affordable.
- Option D: The passage never claims Latin was superior to the vernacular.

Final Answer: Cheaper books plus social forces spread literacy ⇒

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

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Infer the pre-press bottleneck from how the passage contrasts before and after.

Passage support: Before printing, a book was “copied by hand over months.” Ideas then “travelled at the speed of a walking messenger.” Both point to slow, manual copying and transport as the cause.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage shows a real hunger for reading, not a lack of interest.
- Option B: Vernacular languages already existed; they simply reached print later.
- Option C: Monasteries kept books, they did not ban them.

Final Answer: Because texts were hand-copied and carried by messengers ⇒

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



Q15.

Solution

Concept — Detail retrieval: Point to the exact item the passage says reached print.

Passage support: As texts multiplied, “vernacular languages found their way into print.” These are defined as the everyday tongues of ordinary people. That is precisely option A.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The vernacular, not only Latin scripture, is what newly reached print.
- Option C: Hand-copied manuscripts are the old method the press replaced.
- Option D: Library catalogues of chained books are never mentioned.

Final Answer: Vernacular languages of ordinary people ⇒

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

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Test each meaning against “monopoly on knowledge.”

Passage support: The press “helped erode the very monopoly on knowledge” the scribal world relied on. Earlier, literacy was the “privilege of clergy and aristocrats.” So a monopoly here is exclusive control of knowledge.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: A pamphlet is a printed product, not exclusive control.
- Option C: A school is unrelated to the sense of sole control.
- Option D: A shared resource is the opposite of a monopoly.

Final Answer: Monopoly means exclusive control ⇒

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



Q17.

Solution

Concept — Author’s purpose: Ask why the author drops in this particular list.

Passage support: The list follows the caution against treating the press “as a lone cause.” It names forces that had “already created a hunger for the written word.” The purpose is to qualify the press’s role, not deny it.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage still credits the press with real effects, so “no effect” is wrong.
- Option B: It does not claim cities caused movable type to be invented.
- Option C: These are social forces, not products sold by printers.

Final Answer: To qualify the claim that the press alone spread literacy ⇒ D

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

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Best title: Pick the title matching the passage’s core claim about books and literacy.

Passage support: The core is that cheap printed books helped spread reading. The feedback loop of cheaper books and more readers drives the piece. A “cheaper books unlock literacy” title captures this.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage is about the press’s effects, not Gutenberg’s biography.
- Option B: Latin’s decline is a side effect, not the subject.
- Option D: Medieval farming appears only as a price comparison.

Final Answer: “How Cheaper Books Helped Unlock Literacy” ⇒ C

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



Q19.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: The best answer joins the cost reversal with the caveat about integration.

Passage support: Renewables have gone from costly to often the cheapest option. Solar prices fell about ninety percent since 2010. Yet integration costs remain real, so the answer must include that qualifier.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Only the sunlight is free after construction, not the electricity everywhere.
- Option C: The passage argues new renewables now undercut coal, not the reverse.
- Option D: The claim that only rich nations can afford renewables is called out of date.

Final Answer: From expensive to often cheapest, with integration costs remaining ⇒

[Go Back to Q19](#)

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Trace the cause the passage gives for price volatility.

Passage support: A coal plant “must keep buying fuel for as long as it runs.” Its costs “rise and fall with volatile commodity markets.” A solar array’s fuel is free, so its long-run price is predictable.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Plant age is not given as the reason for unpredictable cost.
- Option C: The passage does not claim solar needs no maintenance.
- Option D: Heavier coal subsidies are not mentioned as the cause.

Final Answer: Because coal must keep buying fuel at fluctuating prices ⇒

[Go Back to Q20](#)



Q21.

Solution

Concept — Detail retrieval: Find the exact items the passage labels “integration costs.”

Passage support: A renewables-heavy grid “must invest in storage, in long-distance transmission, and in backup capacity.” The passage then calls these “integration costs.” Option C names exactly those three.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Panel manufacturing cost is a generation cost, not an integration cost.
- Option B: The ninety percent fall is a price trend, not a cost item.
- Option D: Free sunlight is a benefit, not a cost.

Final Answer: Storage, transmission, and backup capacity ⇒

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

Q22.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Read the sentence’s contrast with ongoing fuel buying.

Passage support: A solar array “front-loads almost all of its expense into construction.” The very next clause says that once built, “the sunlight costs nothing.” So the spending is packed at the start.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Postponing to the end is the reverse of loading it up front.
- Option B: Spreading evenly contradicts concentrating the cost early.
- Option C: The expense is not eliminated, only shifted to construction.

Final Answer: Front-loads means concentrates the expense at the beginning ⇒

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q22](#)



Q23.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: Weigh the author’s hopeful signals against the acknowledged caveats.

Passage support: The author says “the direction of travel is clear enough” and calls renewables the sensible choice. Yet integration costs are called “real and often overlooked.” That balance is optimistic but clear-eyed.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: A positive direction of travel rules out deep pessimism.
- Option C: The favourable verdict is not emotionally neutral.
- Option D: Older technologies are treated as outdated, not longed for.

Final Answer: Optimistic but clear-eyed about remaining challenges ⇒ A

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

Q24.

Solution

Concept — Author’s purpose: Ask what point the mention of “enthusiasts” is meant to make.

Passage support: Enthusiasts “quote only the headline figure” and overlook integration costs. The author raises them right after saying cheapness at generation “is not the whole story.” The purpose is to caution against the oversimplified comparison.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: They are corrected, not praised.
- Option B: The author still holds renewables to be sensible, not too costly.
- Option D: The passage says new renewables often undercut coal, so it is not proving coal cheaper.

Final Answer: To caution that the simple comparison omits integration costs ⇒

C

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



Q25.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: The theme is the range of views compared, not any one school.

Passage support: The passage sets modern feeling-based happiness against the Greek view. It then compares hedonists, their critics, and the Stoics. The unifying subject is competing accounts of the good life.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Aristotle is one voice; the passage does not dwell on his personal dislikes.
- Option C: Greek history in general is not the focus.
- Option D: The passage questions the mood-based view rather than coaching cheerfulness.

Final Answer: Differing philosophical accounts of the good life ⇒ **B**

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

Q26.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Read the point the thought experiment is designed to prove.

Passage support: The machine gives “endless pleasant sensations” but no achievement or love. Such a person “would be pitied rather than envied.” This implies pleasure alone is not enough for a good life.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The example is hypothetical, not a prediction about machines.
- Option C: It is used against hedonism, not to endorse it.
- Option D: It actually elevates relationships and purpose, not dismisses them.

Final Answer: Pleasure alone may not suffice for a good life ⇒ **A**

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



Q27.

Solution

Concept — Detail retrieval: Locate the sentence stating where the Stoics placed the good life.

Passage support: The Stoics located the good life “not in external circumstances at all.” Instead they placed it in “the disciplined management of one’s own judgements and desires.” Fortune could take wealth but never character.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Wealth and reputation are the external things fortune can strip away.
- Option B: The single-minded pursuit of pleasure is the hedonist view, not the Stoic one.
- Option C: A cheerful afternoon is Aristotle’s rejected example, not the Stoic answer.

Final Answer: In the disciplined management of one’s judgements and desires ⇒

D

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

Q28.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: Judge how fairly the author treats each competing school.

Passage support: The author presents Aristotle, hedonists, critics, and Stoics each on their own terms. None is ridiculed; the closing calls the question “stubbornly open.” That even handling signals respect for all sides.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: No school is mocked or dismissed.
- Option B: The careful exposition shows engagement, not boredom.
- Option D: The calm tone is not alarmed or anxious.

Final Answer: Respectful and even-handed ⇒ **C**

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



Q29.

Solution

Concept — Author’s purpose: Ask what idea the remark is meant to reinforce.

Passage support: Aristotle’s flourishing is “lived well over its whole span.” The remark says it cannot be judged from “a single cheerful afternoon.” Its purpose is to stress judging a life as a whole, not by a moment.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The point is about lifespans, not the rarity of pleasant afternoons.
- Option C: The remark supports Aristotle rather than faulting him.
- Option D: The Greek climate is not the concern; the swallow line is a comparison.

Final Answer: To stress that flourishing is assessed over a whole life ⇒ **B**

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

Q30.

Solution

Concept — Best title: The title should name the comparison the whole passage develops.

Passage support: The passage lines up several rival views of what living well means. It refuses to settle the debate, leaving it open. A title about competing visions of the good life fits best.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Aristotle is one figure among several, not the sole subject.
- Option B: The passage does not claim pleasure is always bad.
- Option C: It analyses philosophy rather than offering cheerfulness tips.

Final Answer: “Competing Visions of the Good Life” ⇒ **D**

Answer: (D) [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	A
6	B	7	D	8	C	9	A	10	D
11	B	12	A	13	C	14	D	15	A
16	B	17	D	18	C	19	A	20	B
21	C	22	D	23	A	24	C	25	B
26	A	27	D	28	C	29	B	30	D

