

IBSAT Reading Comprehension

Sample Paper – 4

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.

Why do shoppers reach for the same brand of coffee year after year, even when a cheaper and chemically identical rival sits beside it on the shelf? Marketers once explained such habits by quality and price alone, but psychology tells a subtler story. Brand loyalty, researchers argue, is rarely a cool calculation; it is an emotional attachment that behaves much like a personal relationship. A familiar logo triggers a small sense of safety, sparing the buyer the effort of deliberating afresh each time. Repeated satisfying experiences build trust, and trust, once established, is defended: consumers unconsciously screen out information that contradicts their choice and magnify evidence that flatters it. This tendency, sometimes called confirmation bias, means a loyal customer may genuinely taste a difference that instruments cannot detect. Identity plays its part too. The brands people carry become badges that signal who they are, or who they wish to be,



and abandoning one can feel like a small betrayal of the self. Companies cultivate this bond deliberately, through consistent design, memorable stories, and rewards that make leaving costly. Yet loyalty is not unbreakable. A single serious lapse – a safety scandal, a broken promise – can rupture the relationship more violently than years of mediocre service, precisely because it feels like a breach of trust rather than a simple disappointment. And a younger generation, raised to compare options instantly and to prize novelty, appears less willing to commit than its parents were. The result is a paradox for marketers: the same emotional machinery that makes loyalty so durable also makes its collapse sudden and hard to reverse. Understanding the mind of the loyal customer, then, is as much about managing fragility as about building attachment.

- Q1.** Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage?
- (A) Brand loyalty is primarily an emotional attachment that is both remarkably durable and, once broken, difficult to restore.
 - (B) Consumers always choose the cheapest product available on the shelf.
 - (C) Brand loyalty rests entirely on measurable differences in product quality.
 - (D) Younger consumers are incapable of forming any brand attachments at all.
- Q2.** According to the passage, confirmation bias leads a loyal customer to:
- (A) switch brands whenever a cheaper option appears.
 - (B) screen out contradicting information and magnify evidence that flatters the choice.
 - (C) rely only on laboratory instruments to judge taste.
 - (D) distrust every brand on the market equally.
- Q3.** It can be inferred that a serious safety scandal damages a brand more than years of mediocre service because:
- (A) scandals are always reported more widely in the media.
 - (B) mediocre service costs the company more money over time.
 - (C) a scandal is felt as a breach of trust rather than a mere disappointment.



(D) loyal customers never notice ordinary lapses in service.

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

- (A) official awards granted for achievement.
- (B) markers that signal a person’s identity.
- (C) security passes required to enter a place.
- (D) discounts offered to repeat buyers.

Q5. The author’s attitude toward brand loyalty is best described as:

- (A) analytical and even-handed.
- (B) openly contemptuous.
- (C) nostalgic and mournful.
- (D) alarmed and fearful.

Q6. The author compares brand loyalty to “a personal relationship” primarily in order to:

- (A) prove that brands are legally equivalent to people.
- (B) illustrate that loyalty is emotional and can be betrayed, not merely rational.
- (C) argue that consumers should permanently commit to a single brand.
- (D) criticise companies for manipulating their customers.

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.

The deep ocean is the largest habitat on Earth and the least known. Below a few hundred metres sunlight vanishes entirely, and with it the warmth and energy that shape life at the surface. What remains is a realm of crushing pressure, near-freezing cold, and perpetual darkness, stretching downward for kilometres. For a long time scientists assumed such a place must be nearly empty, a barren desert of mud. The reality, revealed only as technology improved, proved stranger and richer. Around volcanic vents on the sea floor, where superheated mineral-laden water gushes from the crust, entire



communities thrive without a single ray of sunlight. Their food chains rest not on photosynthesis but on bacteria that draw energy from chemicals in the vent fluid, a process called chemosynthesis. Giant tube worms, ghostly crabs, and clustered mussels crowd these oases in defiance of everything the surface world takes for granted. Reaching them is enormously difficult. The pressure at such depths would crumple an ordinary submarine like paper, so vehicles must be engineered from thick alloys and tested to extremes. Communication is another obstacle: radio waves do not travel through water, so operators rely on slow acoustic signals or a physical tether. Every dive is costly, brief, and risky, which is why more people have walked on the Moon than have visited the deepest ocean trench. Yet the rewards justify the effort. The deep sea may hold clues to how life first arose, novel compounds for medicine, and a record of the planet's climate written in its sediments. As mining companies eye the mineral riches of the sea floor, researchers race to understand these fragile ecosystems before they are disturbed. What lies below remains, for now, a frontier as forbidding as it is alluring.

- Q7.** Which statement best states the central idea of the passage?
- (A) The deep ocean, once thought barren, harbours surprising life and remains a difficult but valuable frontier.
 - (B) Volcanic vents are the only feature of the ocean worth studying.
 - (C) Deep-sea exploration is pointless because it is far too expensive.
 - (D) Radio waves are the main tool used to explore the deep sea.
- Q8.** According to the passage, the food chains around volcanic vents depend on:
- (A) sunlight filtering down from the surface.
 - (B) photosynthesis carried out by giant tube worms.
 - (C) bacteria that draw energy from chemicals in the vent fluid.
 - (D) dead matter drifting down from coastal waters.
- Q9.** The statement that more people have walked on the Moon than have visited the deepest trench is used mainly to suggest that:
- (A) space travel is far cheaper than deep-sea travel.
 - (B) astronauts are better trained than oceanographers.



- (C) the Moon is physically closer to us than the ocean floor.
- (D) the deep ocean is extraordinarily hard and rare to reach.

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

- (A) barren stretches of featureless mud.
- (B) pockets of abundant life amid harsh surroundings.
- (C) underground sources of fresh drinking water.
- (D) dangerous whirlpools on the sea floor.

Q11. The author mentions mining companies primarily in order to:

- (A) praise the economic benefits of sea-floor mining.
- (B) explain how underwater communication works.
- (C) argue that mining is impossible at such depths.
- (D) convey the urgency of studying these ecosystems before they are disturbed.

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

- (A) The Dangers of Ocean Mining.
- (B) Why Radio Waves Fail Underwater.
- (C) The Deep Sea: A Forbidding and Alluring Frontier.
- (D) The Life Cycle of the Giant Tube Worm.

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 phrase “Silk Road” conjures a single paved highway winding from China to the Mediterranean, but the reality was messier and more remarkable. There was no one road. Instead there was a shifting web of caravan tracks, mountain passes, and desert crossings, along which goods, people, and ideas moved in relays over many centuries. Few merchants travelled the entire distance. A bolt of silk might pass through a dozen hands, each trader carrying it a stage further and taking a share of the rising price, so



that by the time it reached Rome its origin was half legend. Silk gave the network its romantic name, yet it was only one commodity among many. Spices, glass, paper, horses, and precious metals all flowed along the routes, and the traffic ran in both directions. More consequential than any cargo, however, was the movement of the intangible. Religions travelled with the caravans: Buddhism spread from India into China along these very paths, carried by monks and merchants alike. Technologies migrated too, and so did diseases, for the same connections that enriched cities could also carry contagion between them. Oasis towns grew wealthy as waystations, offering water, lodging, and marketplaces, and their rulers prospered by taxing the passing trade rather than by producing anything themselves. When sea routes later became cheaper and safer, the overland network slowly declined, and much of it faded into the sand. Yet its legacy endured in languages, cuisines, faiths, and art forms that had been carried far from their birthplaces. The Silk Road is best understood not as a road at all, but as one of history's earliest and most durable experiments in connecting distant worlds.

- Q13.** Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Silk was the only good ever traded along the Silk Road.
 - (B) The Silk Road was not a single road but a vast, centuries-long network that exchanged goods, ideas, and even diseases.
 - (C) Merchants routinely travelled the full distance from China to Rome.
 - (D) Sea routes were always more important than overland trade.
- Q14.** According to the passage, the rulers of oasis towns grew wealthy mainly by:
- (A) manufacturing silk within their own towns.
 - (B) producing spices for export.
 - (C) conquering neighbouring kingdoms by force.
 - (D) taxing the trade that passed through their towns.
- Q15.** It can be inferred that silk's origin was "half legend" by the time it reached Rome because:
- (A) it had passed through so many intermediaries that its true source was obscured.
 - (B) Romans deliberately invented false stories about China.



- (C) silk was actually manufactured in Rome rather than China.
- (D) no written records of the trade were ever kept.

Q16. As used in the passage, “the intangible” most nearly refers to:

- (A) heavy cargo such as metals and horses.
- (B) the taxes collected by oasis rulers.
- (C) non-material things such as ideas, religions, and knowledge.
- (D) the physical roads and mountain passes themselves.

Q17. The author notes that “the same connections that enriched cities could also carry contagion” mainly to:

- (A) prove that trade was always ultimately harmful.
- (B) show that the network’s benefits and dangers sprang from the same source.
- (C) explain how oasis towns collected their taxes.
- (D) argue that sea routes were the cause of epidemics.

Q18. Which title best fits the passage as a whole?

- (A) The Silk Road: A Network That Linked Distant Worlds.
- (B) The Manufacture of Silk in Ancient China.
- (C) How Rome Conquered the Eastern Trade.
- (D) The Decline of Sea Travel in the Middle Ages.

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 machine learning system does not think; it finds patterns in the data it is fed and repeats them. This is its great strength and its hidden danger. When the data reflect the world faithfully, the patterns can be genuinely useful, spotting tumours in scans or fraud in transactions faster than any human. But when the data carry the imprint of past unfairness, the system absorbs that unfairness and presents it back with an air of



mathematical authority. A hiring algorithm trained on a company's previous decisions, for instance, will learn whatever preferences – spoken or not – guided those decisions. If the firm once favoured a narrow group of applicants, the model may quietly continue to do so, all the while appearing neutral because it references no explicit rule. The problem is compounded by opacity. Many of these systems are so complex that even their designers cannot fully explain why a particular input produced a particular output, which makes bias hard to detect and harder to challenge. Nor is stripping out obvious markers such as race or gender a reliable cure, because the model can reconstruct them from correlated clues like postal codes or shopping habits. Researchers now insist that fairness cannot be an afterthought bolted on once a system is built; it must be examined from the choice of training data onward. Some advocate regular audits, others demand that consequential decisions always leave room for human review. What unites these responses is a rejection of the comforting myth that because a machine has no motives, its judgements must be objective. A system can be blind to intention and still be unjust. Recognising that a mirror can distort as well as reflect is the first step toward building tools that serve everyone rather than quietly entrenching the inequities of the past.

- Q19.** Which statement best captures the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Machine learning systems are always objective because they have no motives.
 - (B) Machine learning is useless for medical or financial tasks.
 - (C) Because they learn from data, machine learning systems can absorb and reproduce past unfairness while appearing neutral.
 - (D) Removing race and gender from the data completely eliminates bias.
- Q20.** According to the passage, removing obvious markers such as race or gender is not a reliable cure because:
- (A) the model can reconstruct them from correlated clues like postal codes.
 - (B) such markers are legally required in every dataset.
 - (C) the system then refuses to make any decision at all.
 - (D) designers always secretly add the markers back later.
- Q21.** It can be inferred that the “opacity” of these systems is a problem chiefly because:



- (A) it makes the systems run noticeably more slowly.
- (B) it increases the cost of collecting training data.
- (C) it prevents the systems from finding any patterns.
- (D) it makes bias difficult to detect and to challenge.

Q22. As used in the passage, the word “opacity” most nearly means:

- (A) transparency and complete clarity.
- (B) difficulty in seeing how the system reaches its conclusions.
- (C) the speed at which data is processed.
- (D) the physical size of the computing hardware.

Q23. The author’s attitude toward the claim that machines are inherently objective is:

- (A) wholly supportive.
- (B) indifferent and detached.
- (C) sceptical and critical.
- (D) uncertain and confused.

Q24. The image of “a mirror that can distort as well as reflect” is used mainly to convey that:

- (A) a system can faithfully echo its data and still produce unjust results.
- (B) machine learning systems literally contain mirrors.
- (C) bias can never be reduced by any method whatsoever.
- (D) designers deliberately intend their systems to be unfair.

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.

A generation ago, most work came in a familiar shape: a single employer, a fixed salary, a desk or a station, and the expectation that one might stay for years. The so-called



gig economy has loosened that shape. Powered by smartphone applications that match tasks to willing hands in seconds, it lets people drive strangers, deliver meals, edit documents, or design logos for whoever is buying at that moment. Its champions describe a liberation. Workers, they say, can choose their own hours, be their own bosses, and stitch together income from many sources rather than depending on one. For a parent juggling childcare or a student between terms, that flexibility can be genuinely valuable. Yet the same arrangement wears a second face. Because gig workers are usually classified as independent contractors rather than employees, they fall outside the protections that generations fought to secure: no guaranteed minimum wage, no paid sick leave, no pension, no cushion if the platform suddenly changes its rules or deactivates their account. The freedom to work any hour can shade into the necessity of working every hour merely to make ends meet. Control, moreover, is not as even as it appears. The platform sets the prices, rates the workers, and steers them through opaque algorithms, so the “independent” contractor is in practice closely managed by software. Governments have begun to respond, some courts ruling that certain gig workers must be treated as employees, other lawmakers crafting new categories that sit between the old ones. What is at stake is larger than any single app. It is the question of what obligations a society owes to those who work for it, when the familiar bond between employer and employee has been quietly dissolved. The answer will shape the working lives of millions.

- Q25.** Which of the following best expresses the central idea of the passage?
- (A) The gig economy has completely replaced all traditional forms of employment.
 - (B) The gig economy offers real flexibility but also strips away worker protections, raising unresolved questions about society’s obligations.
 - (C) Gig workers enjoy every protection that traditional employees have.
 - (D) Smartphone applications are harmful and ought to be banned.
- Q26.** According to the passage, gig workers usually lack protections such as a minimum wage and paid sick leave because they are:
- (A) employed by several firms at once.
 - (B) paid entirely in cash.
 - (C) legally barred from joining unions.
 - (D) classified as independent contractors rather than employees.



- Q27.** The statement that “the freedom to work any hour can shade into the necessity of working every hour” implies that:
- (A) flexibility can become a trap when earnings are too low to live on.
 - (B) gig workers are legally required to work continuously.
 - (C) platforms forbid their workers from taking any breaks.
 - (D) traditional employees never work long hours.
- Q28.** As used in the passage, the word “cushion” most nearly means:
- (A) a soft seat used while driving.
 - (B) a bonus paid for high customer ratings.
 - (C) a financial safeguard against sudden loss.
 - (D) a written employment contract.
- Q29.** The author’s overall treatment of the gig economy is best described as:
- (A) one-sidedly celebratory.
 - (B) balanced, weighing benefits against costs.
 - (C) entirely dismissive.
 - (D) detached and uninterested.
- Q30.** Which title best captures the passage as a whole?
- (A) How Smartphone Apps Were Invented.
 - (B) The End of All Traditional Employment.
 - (C) Why Flexibility Always Harms Workers.
 - (D) The Gig Economy: Flexibility, Fragility, and Unanswered Questions.



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

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

Passage support: The passage frames loyalty as an emotional attachment “much like a personal relationship.” It then shows this bond is durable yet can “collapse sudden and hard to reverse.” The closing line calls understanding loyalty “as much about managing fragility as about building attachment.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The passage explicitly rejects price-alone explanations.
- Option C: It argues loyalty is emotional, not based on measurable quality.
- Option D: It says the young are “less willing to commit,” not incapable.

Final Answer: Loyalty is a durable but fragile emotional attachment ⇒ **A**

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

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Detail retrieval: Locate the exact sentence that defines the named term and read what it says.

Passage support: The passage says consumers “screen out information that contradicts their choice and magnify evidence that flatters it.” It labels this “confirmation bias” in the very next sentence. So the loyal customer filters and inflates evidence to protect the existing choice.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Switching over price is the opposite of the biased loyalty described.
- Option C: The passage says instruments cannot detect the difference the customer “tastes.”
- Option D: Bias defends one brand; it does not create universal distrust.

Final Answer: Screen out contradicting evidence, magnify flattering evidence ⇒

B

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



Q3.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Find the reason the passage supplies for why the comparison holds, without adding outside facts.

Passage support: The passage says a scandal “can rupture the relationship more violently.” It gives the reason directly: “because it feels like a breach of trust rather than a simple disappointment.” Trust, once broken, is the emotional core that collapses.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Media coverage is never mentioned as the cause.
- Option B: The passage does not compare the monetary cost of the two.
- Option D: It says loyal customers do notice a serious lapse.

Final Answer: A scandal is felt as a breach of trust ⇒

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

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Replace the word with each option and keep the one that preserves the sentence’s meaning.

Passage support: The sentence says brands “become badges that signal who they are, or who they wish to be.” Here a badge is something that publicly marks a person’s identity. It is used figuratively, not as an award or a pass.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: An award for achievement misses the identity-signalling sense.
- Option C: A security pass is a literal, unrelated meaning.
- Option D: A discount for buyers has nothing to do with signalling identity.

Final Answer: A marker that signals identity ⇒

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



Q5.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: Weigh whether the author praises, attacks, or examines the subject from both sides.

Passage support: The author presents the benefits of loyalty and the risks of its sudden collapse. Both companies' cultivation of loyalty and the paradox of fragility are described calmly. No praise or condemnation is offered, only analysis.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: There is no contempt; the tone is measured.
- Option C: Nothing is mourned or looked back on with longing.
- Option D: The author is not alarmed; the discussion is composed.

Final Answer: An even-handed, analytical stance ⇒ **A**

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

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Author's purpose: Ask what work a particular comparison does within the argument.

Passage support: The “personal relationship” image introduces the idea that loyalty is emotional. It sets up trust that can be “defended” and later suffer a “breach.” The comparison exists to show loyalty can be betrayed, not merely calculated.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: No legal equivalence between brands and people is claimed.
- Option C: The passage does not advise consumers to commit for life.
- Option D: Companies are described, not condemned for manipulation.

Final Answer: To show loyalty is emotional and can be betrayed ⇒ **B**

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



Q7.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Choose the option broad enough to cover the whole passage without overstating.

Passage support: The passage overturns the assumption that the deep sea is “a barren desert of mud.” It reveals thriving vent communities, then stresses how hard the region is to reach. It closes calling it a frontier “as forbidding as it is alluring,” worth the effort.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Vents are one striking example, not the sole worthy feature.
- Option C: The passage says the rewards “justify the effort,” not that it is pointless.
- Option D: Radio waves are noted only as an obstacle, not the main tool.

Final Answer: A surprising, difficult, valuable frontier ⇒

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

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Detail retrieval: Match the question to the sentence describing how vent life is fed.

Passage support: The passage states the food chains rest “not on photosynthesis but on bacteria.” Those bacteria “draw energy from chemicals in the vent fluid.” This process is named chemosynthesis.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Sunlight vanishes entirely at these depths.
- Option B: Tube worms do not perform photosynthesis; the passage denies this.
- Option D: Drifting coastal matter is never mentioned as the vent food source.

Final Answer: Bacteria drawing energy from vent chemicals ⇒

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



Q9.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Determine what point the surprising comparison is meant to drive home.

Passage support: The Moon comparison follows the claim that every dive is “costly, brief, and risky.” The passage is stressing how rarely humans reach the deepest trench. The comparison dramatises the extreme difficulty of access.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage never states space travel is cheaper.
- Option B: Relative training of astronauts is not discussed.
- Option C: Physical distance to the Moon is not the point being made.

Final Answer: The deep ocean is extraordinarily hard to reach ⇒ **D**

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

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Read the surrounding image and pick the meaning that fits the harsh setting.

Passage support: The word describes where “giant tube worms, ghostly crabs, and clustered mussels crowd.” These are islands of life in an otherwise empty, hostile deep. So “oases” means rich pockets of life amid harshness.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Barren mud is the opposite of what the word describes.
- Option C: Fresh drinking water is irrelevant on the sea floor.
- Option D: Whirlpools are dangers, not thriving communities.

Final Answer: Pockets of abundant life amid harsh surroundings ⇒ **B**

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



Q11.

Solution

Concept — Author’s purpose: Ask why a specific actor is introduced near the end of the passage.

Passage support: The passage says mining companies “eye the mineral riches of the sea floor.” In the same sentence, “researchers race to understand these fragile ecosystems before they are disturbed.” The mention exists to create a sense of urgency about studying the reefs first.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not praise mining’s benefits.
- Option B: Communication is discussed elsewhere, not here.
- Option C: It never claims mining is impossible at depth.

Final Answer: To convey urgency of study before disturbance ⇒ D

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

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Best title: A good title covers the whole passage, not just one paragraph.

Passage support: The passage covers strange life, extreme difficulty, and rich promise. Its final phrase calls the deep sea a frontier “as forbidding as it is alluring.” Option C echoes exactly this dual character.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Mining dangers are a minor closing point.
- Option B: Radio-wave failure is one narrow detail.
- Option D: Tube-worm biology is a single example, not the theme.

Final Answer: A forbidding and alluring frontier ⇒ C

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



Q13.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Select the statement that captures the passage's central re-framing.

Passage support: The passage opens by denying there was “one road.” It describes a web that carried goods, ideas, faiths, and diseases over centuries. It closes calling the Silk Road an experiment in “connecting distant worlds.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Silk was “only one commodity among many.”
- Option C: The passage says “few merchants travelled the entire distance.”
- Option D: Sea routes are said to have risen only later.

Final Answer: A vast network exchanging goods, ideas, and disease ⇒ **B**

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

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Detail retrieval: Find the sentence stating how oasis rulers became wealthy.

Passage support: The passage says oasis towns “grew wealthy as waystations.” Their rulers “prospered by taxing the passing trade.” This was “rather than by producing anything themselves.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage says they produced nothing themselves.
- Option B: Spice production by these rulers is not mentioned.
- Option C: Conquest is never given as their source of wealth.

Final Answer: By taxing the trade passing through ⇒ **D**

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



Q15.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Use the mechanism the passage describes to explain the “half legend” phrase.

Passage support: A bolt of silk “might pass through a dozen hands.” Each trader carried it “a stage further,” taking a share of the price. After so many intermediaries, the true origin naturally became obscure.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: No deliberate Roman invention of stories is stated.
- Option C: Silk came from China, not Rome.
- Option D: The absence of records is never claimed.

Final Answer: Many intermediaries obscured its true source ⇒

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

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Identify what the passage sets “the intangible” against.

Passage support: The passage contrasts “the intangible” with cargo like silk and metals. It then lists religions, technologies, and knowledge as what moved. So “the intangible” means non-material things that travelled the routes.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Metals and horses are the tangible cargo, the opposite.
- Option B: Taxes are a specific detail, not the meaning of the word.
- Option D: The physical roads are material, not intangible.

Final Answer: Non-material things such as ideas and religions ⇒

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



Q17.

Solution

Concept — Author’s purpose: Ask what larger point a paired benefit-and-harm statement is making.

Passage support: The passage says connections “enriched cities” but “could also carry contagion.” It stresses these were “the same connections.” The point is that benefit and danger flowed from one and the same network.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not claim trade was always harmful.
- Option C: Tax collection is a separate detail.
- Option D: Sea routes are not blamed for epidemics here.

Final Answer: Benefits and dangers sprang from the same source ⇒ **B**

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

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Best title: The best title names the passage’s dominant theme.

Passage support: The passage repeatedly stresses connection across great distances. Its final sentence calls the Silk Road an experiment “in connecting distant worlds.” Option A captures this linking theme directly.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Silk manufacture is barely touched on.
- Option C: No Roman conquest of the trade is described.
- Option D: Sea-travel decline is not the subject.

Final Answer: A network that linked distant worlds ⇒ **A**

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



Q19.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Pick the option that states the passage’s core warning about learned bias.

Passage support: The passage says a system “finds patterns in the data” and “repeats them.” When data “carry the imprint of past unfairness,” the system absorbs it. It then presents that unfairness “with an air of mathematical authority,” seeming neutral.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage rejects the “comforting myth” of automatic objectivity.
- Option B: It grants machine learning genuine usefulness in medicine and fraud.
- Option D: It says removing markers is not a reliable cure.

Final Answer: Systems can reproduce past unfairness while seeming neutral ⇒

C

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

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Detail retrieval: Locate the sentence explaining why deleting markers fails.

Passage support: The passage says stripping out race or gender is not “a reliable cure.” The reason given: the model “can reconstruct them from correlated clues.” It names “postal codes or shopping habits” as such clues.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: No legal requirement to keep markers is stated.
- Option C: The system does not refuse to decide; it proxies the markers.
- Option D: Designers secretly re-adding markers is not claimed.

Final Answer: The model rebuilds markers from correlated clues ⇒ **A**

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



Q21.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Read what consequence the passage ties directly to opacity.

Passage support: The passage says designers “cannot fully explain” the outputs. It states this “makes bias hard to detect and harder to challenge.” So opacity matters because it hides and shields bias.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Speed of running is never linked to opacity.
- Option B: Data-collection cost is not the issue raised.
- Option C: Opacity does not stop pattern-finding; that is the system’s function.

Final Answer: It makes bias hard to detect and challenge ⇒ **D**

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

Q22.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Use the explaining clause right after the word to fix its sense.

Passage support: “Opacity” is immediately explained: designers “cannot fully explain why a particular input produced a particular output.” So opacity is the inability to see how the system reaches results. It is the opposite of transparency.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Transparency is the antonym, not the meaning.
- Option C: Processing speed is unrelated to opacity.
- Option D: Physical size of hardware is irrelevant.

Final Answer: Difficulty in seeing how conclusions are reached ⇒ **B**

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



Q23.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: Judge the author’s stance from how the “objectivity” claim is treated.

Passage support: The author calls automatic objectivity “the comforting myth.” The passage insists a system “can be blind to intention and still be unjust.” This is a clearly doubting, critical stance toward the claim.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The author opposes, not supports, the claim.
- Option B: The tone is engaged and argumentative, not indifferent.
- Option D: The author is decided, not confused.

Final Answer: Sceptical and critical ⇒

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

Q24.

Solution

Concept — Author’s purpose: Decode what the closing metaphor is meant to teach.

Passage support: A mirror reflects, but the passage says it can “distort as well as reflect.” This parallels a system that echoes its data yet yields unjust results. The image reinforces that faithful copying of biased data still produces injustice.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The mirror is figurative, not a literal component.
- Option C: The passage offers remedies, so bias is not unfixable.
- Option D: Injustice arises without deliberate intent, per the passage.

Final Answer: A system can echo data and still be unjust ⇒

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



Q25.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Choose the option that captures both faces of the gig economy and its open question.

Passage support: The passage shows champions praising flexibility as “a liberation.” It then reveals “a second face”: lost protections and hidden control. It ends on the unresolved question of society’s “obligations” to such workers.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not claim traditional work is fully replaced.
- Option C: It states gig workers fall “outside” key protections.
- Option D: It never argues apps should be banned.

Final Answer: Flexibility plus lost protection and open questions ⇒ **B**

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

Q26.

Solution

Concept — Detail retrieval: Find the clause that names the workers’ legal status.

Passage support: The passage says gig workers are “usually classified as independent contractors rather than employees.” Because of this, they “fall outside the protections” generations fought for. The list includes minimum wage, sick leave, and pensions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Working for many firms is not the stated legal reason.
- Option B: Cash payment is never mentioned.
- Option C: A bar on joining unions is not claimed.

Final Answer: They are classified as independent contractors ⇒ **D**

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



Q27.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Unpack what the wordplay of “freedom” turning into “necessity” implies.

Passage support: The line contrasts “freedom to work any hour” with “necessity of working every hour.” It adds this is done “merely to make ends meet.” The implication is that low pay turns optional flexibility into forced overwork.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: No legal requirement to work continuously exists in the passage.
- Option C: Platforms forbidding breaks is not stated.
- Option D: The claim about traditional employees is not supported.

Final Answer: Flexibility becomes a trap when pay is too low ⇒ **A**

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

Q28.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Read what danger the “cushion” would protect against.

Passage support: The passage lists “no cushion if the platform suddenly changes its rules or deactivates their account.” A cushion here softens the blow of sudden loss of income. So it means a financial safeguard.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: A literal seat ignores the financial context.
- Option B: A ratings bonus is not what protects against deactivation.
- Option C: A contract is a separate idea, not the meaning of “cushion.”

Final Answer: A financial safeguard against sudden loss ⇒ **C**

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



Q29.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: Check whether the author leans one way or presents both sides.

Passage support: The author first gives the champions' case for flexibility. Then the passage turns to the "second face" of lost protections and control. Presenting both merits and costs marks a balanced treatment.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: It is not one-sidedly celebratory; costs are stressed.
- Option C: It acknowledges genuine value, so it is not wholly dismissive.
- Option D: The engaged closing question shows the author is not uninterested.

Final Answer: Balanced, weighing benefits against costs ⇒ **B**

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

Q30.

Solution

Concept — Best title: The best title should reflect the passage's dual view and open question.

Passage support: The passage weighs flexibility against fragility and lost protection. It ends on unresolved questions about society's obligations. Option D names all three strands: flexibility, fragility, and unanswered questions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: App invention is not the subject.
- Option B: The passage denies that traditional work has fully ended.
- Option C: It does not claim flexibility "always" harms workers.

Final Answer: Flexibility, fragility, and unanswered questions ⇒ **D**

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



Answer Key

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

