

# IBSAT Reading Comprehension

## Sample Paper – 6

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.*

The romantic image of the startup celebrates the lone founder whose brilliant idea conquers the market, yet the statistics tell a soberer story: most new ventures do not survive their first few years. When founders are asked afterwards what went wrong, they tend to blame bad luck, a hostile economy, or a competitor's deeper pockets. Careful studies of failed companies, however, point again and again to a more uncomfortable cause. The commonest reason a startup dies is not that its technology was poor but that it built something almost nobody wanted. Enchanted by an elegant solution, founders often neglect to ask whether a real problem exists, and they mistake their own enthusiasm for evidence of demand. A second, related trap is running out of cash before the business finds a repeatable way to earn it. Money buys time to learn, and a team that spends lavishly on offices and hiring before proving that customers will pay simply shortens the



runway on which that learning must happen. Weak teams compound the danger, because a group that cannot argue honestly or change course quickly will cling to a failing plan long after the market has spoken. What unites these causes is a failure to confront reality early and cheaply. The ventures that endure are rarely those with the boldest vision; they are the ones that test their assumptions in small, survivable experiments, listen to what customers do rather than what they say, and abandon cherished ideas when the evidence turns against them. Failure, in this light, is less a verdict on ambition than on the willingness to be proved wrong before the money runs out.

- Q1.** Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage?
- (A) Startups fail mainly because their competitors command far more money.
  - (B) Most startups fail not from bad luck or weak technology but from a failure to test their assumptions against reality early and cheaply.
  - (C) The lone, brilliant founder is the surest guarantee of a startup's success.
  - (D) Overspending on office space is the single cause of every startup's collapse.
- Q2.** It can be inferred that the author would most likely regard a founder who insists on a full product launch before checking whether customers want it as:
- (A) following the safest available path to success.
  - (B) certain to attract patient investors.
  - (C) displaying the honest self-criticism the author praises.
  - (D) ignoring the early, inexpensive testing the author recommends.
- Q3.** According to the passage, the most common reason a startup dies is that:
- (A) it built something that almost nobody wanted.
  - (B) its underlying technology was poorly engineered.
  - (C) its founders were unusually unlucky.
  - (D) a rival simply had deeper pockets.



- Q4.** As used in the passage, the word “runway” most nearly means:
- (A) a paved strip on which aircraft take off.
  - (B) the boldness of a company’s founding vision.
  - (C) the span of time a company can operate before its cash is exhausted.
  - (D) the number of customers a product has already attracted.
- Q5.** The author’s attitude toward the romantic image of the lone founder is best described as:
- (A) wholly admiring and celebratory.
  - (B) skeptical and quietly corrective.
  - (C) bitterly contemptuous and mocking.
  - (D) entirely indifferent and detached.
- Q6.** Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the passage?
- (A) The Genius of the Lone Founder.
  - (B) How to Raise Venture Capital Quickly.
  - (C) The Triumph of Elegant Technology.
  - (D) Why Startups Really Fail: Facing Reality Before the Cash Runs Out.

## 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.*

In the winter of 2006, beekeepers across North America opened their hives to find them eerily empty. The worker bees had simply vanished, leaving behind a living queen, untouched stores of honey, and a few young bees, but almost no adult foragers and, strangely, no pile of dead insects to explain the loss. The phenomenon was named colony collapse disorder, and its most puzzling feature was precisely this absence of bodies: the workers seemed to have flown out and never returned. Because honeybees pollinate a large share of the crops that people eat, the news provoked alarm well beyond the world of beekeeping. Scientists searching for a single culprit were disappointed. No one virus, parasite, or poison could account for every case. Instead, the evidence pointed to a



combination of stresses acting together. A parasitic mite that weakens bees and spreads disease had already travelled worldwide. A class of insecticides was shown, in some studies, to impair the bees' ability to navigate home. Modern commercial beekeeping added its own pressures, trucking hives thousands of miles to pollinate one crop after another and feeding the bees sugar syrup in place of varied natural forage. Each factor alone a colony might survive; together they could overwhelm it. This picture, though less satisfying than a single villain, carries a sober lesson. Colony collapse is best understood not as one disease but as a symptom of an environment that asks too much of an insect people have long taken for granted. The remedy, if there is one, will not be a single cure but a patient effort to lighten many burdens at once.

- Q7.** Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage?
- (A) Colony collapse disorder was caused entirely by a single new virus.
  - (B) Honeybees are of little importance to the human food supply.
  - (C) Colony collapse most likely resulted from several stresses acting together rather than from any single cause.
  - (D) Commercial beekeeping has no measurable effect on the health of bees.
- Q8.** According to the passage, the most puzzling feature of colony collapse disorder was:
- (A) the absence of dead bees to explain the workers' disappearance.
  - (B) the sudden death of the queen in every affected hive.
  - (C) the theft of the colony's stores of honey.
  - (D) a rapid increase in the number of adult foragers.
- Q9.** It can be inferred from the passage that the search for a single cause of colony collapse was:
- (A) the method that finally solved the mystery.
  - (B) unnecessary, because the cause had been obvious from the start.
  - (C) the approach the author most strongly recommends to others.
  - (D) unlikely to succeed, since several factors contributed at once.



- Q10.** As used in the passage, the word “forage” most nearly means:
- (A) a long seasonal migration.
  - (B) food gathered from the natural environment.
  - (C) a species of parasitic mite.
  - (D) a method of transporting hives by truck.
- Q11.** The author mentions trucking hives thousands of miles primarily in order to:
- (A) illustrate an additional stress that modern commercial beekeeping places on bees.
  - (B) praise the efficiency of the industrial pollination business.
  - (C) prove that parasitic mites are the only real threat to bees.
  - (D) argue that bees should never be moved from their original location.
- Q12.** The author’s tone in the final paragraph is best described as:
- (A) cheerfully optimistic.
  - (B) mockingly dismissive.
  - (C) soberly reflective and cautionary.
  - (D) angrily accusatory.

### 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 the seventeenth century, the surest route to knowledge was thought to lead backward, toward the authority of ancient texts and the pronouncements of the church. To settle a question about the natural world, a scholar consulted Aristotle or scripture rather than nature itself. The thinkers of the Enlightenment challenged this habit at its root. They proposed that truth about the physical world should be won not by citing authorities but by observing, measuring, and testing – and that any claim, however venerable, must yield to evidence. This was the seed of the scientific method. Its power lay in a simple discipline: form a clear hypothesis, devise an experiment that could prove it false, and accept the verdict of the result. What made the approach revolutionary was



its willingness to be wrong in public. A theory earned respect not because a great name endorsed it but because it survived repeated attempts to break it. Knowledge, on this view, became provisional and self-correcting, always open to revision by the next careful observation. The consequences reached far beyond laboratories. If nature could be questioned, so could inherited beliefs about government, religion, and the ordering of society, and the same appetite for reasoned scrutiny began to reshape politics and law. Yet the Enlightenment's confidence had its limits. Reason could establish how the world worked, but it could not by itself decide how people ought to live, and later critics would argue that a faith in progress, untempered by humility, carried dangers of its own. Still, the central bequest endured: the idea that claims about the world should answer to evidence, and that no authority stands above the test of experience.

- Q13.** The passage is primarily concerned with:
- (A) proving that Aristotle was always wrong about the natural world.
  - (B) describing the internal administrative structure of the church.
  - (C) listing the individual experiments of a single famous scientist.
  - (D) how Enlightenment thinkers shifted the basis of knowledge from authority to observation and testing.
- Q14.** According to the passage, before the seventeenth century a scholar settling a question about nature would typically:
- (A) perform a carefully controlled experiment.
  - (B) consult ancient authorities or scripture rather than nature itself.
  - (C) measure and record data with precision.
  - (D) publish a hypothesis that could be proved false.
- Q15.** It can be inferred that a theory the author would respect is one that:
- (A) has withstood repeated attempts to prove it false.
  - (B) is endorsed by a famous and ancient authority.
  - (C) can never be tested by any possible experiment.
  - (D) is accepted simply because it has never been questioned.
- Q16.** As used in the passage, the word “provisional” most nearly means:



- (A) proven beyond any possible doubt.
- (B) deliberately hidden from public view.
- (C) open to revision in the light of new evidence.
- (D) guaranteed by the endorsement of a great name.

**Q17.** The author discusses government, religion, and the ordering of society primarily in order to:

- (A) argue that science ought to avoid all political questions.
- (B) show that the habit of reasoned scrutiny spread beyond science into politics and law.
- (C) prove that the Enlightenment ultimately failed completely.
- (D) explain the internal procedural rules of a laboratory experiment.

**Q18.** The author's attitude toward the Enlightenment is best described as:

- (A) entirely hostile and dismissive.
- (B) uncritically worshipful.
- (C) bored and indifferent.
- (D) appreciative yet mindful of its limits.

### 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.*

Every time we send money, sign a contract, or record who owns what, we rely on a trusted middleman – a bank, a government registry, a notary – to keep an honest ledger and prevent the same asset from being spent twice. Blockchain technology was proposed as a way to achieve that trust without any single trusted party. The idea is deceptively simple. Instead of one master copy of the ledger held by an authority, thousands of identical copies are distributed across a network of computers. New transactions are gathered into “blocks,” and each block is mathematically linked to the one before it, so that altering an old record would require redoing all the work that followed and outpacing the entire honest network at once – a feat designed to be prohibitively expensive. Agreement about which version of the ledger is true emerges not from an official decree but from a shared procedure that the participants follow. In this way, trust is



placed in a transparent set of rules rather than in a particular institution. Enthusiasts saw in this a foundation for money, property records, and contracts that no government or company could quietly rewrite. Yet the technology's promise has often outrun its performance. Public blockchains can be slow and consume enormous amounts of energy, the anonymity they offer can shelter fraud, and the claim that "code is law" offers little comfort when a flaw in the code is exploited. The lasting contribution of blockchain may prove to be less a particular product than a provocative question: how much of the trust we now vest in institutions could instead be built into rules that anyone is free to inspect.

- Q19.** The central idea of the passage is that blockchain:
- (A) seeks to establish trust through transparent shared rules rather than through a single trusted middleman.
  - (B) has already replaced all banks and government registries.
  - (C) is valuable chiefly because it consumes a great deal of energy.
  - (D) was designed mainly to make every transaction completely anonymous.
- Q20.** According to the passage, altering an old record on a blockchain would require:
- (A) obtaining formal permission from a government registry.
  - (B) persuading a single notary to sign the change.
  - (C) redoing all the following work and outrunning the entire honest network.
  - (D) deleting every copy of the ledger at once by official decree.
- Q21.** As used in the passage, the word "ledger" most nearly means:
- (A) a network of connected computers.
  - (B) a record of transactions and ownership.
  - (C) a trusted government official.
  - (D) a difficult mathematical puzzle.
- Q22.** It can be inferred that the author regards the slogan "code is law" as:



- (A) the strongest argument in blockchain's favour.
- (B) a proven guarantee against every form of fraud.
- (C) entirely irrelevant to how blockchains actually operate.
- (D) an unconvincing comfort when the code itself contains exploitable flaws.

**Q23.** The author's overall attitude toward blockchain is best described as:

- (A) completely dismissive of any possible value.
- (B) uncritically enthusiastic about its prospects.
- (C) intrigued by the idea yet measured about its limits.
- (D) hostile and openly alarmed.

**Q24.** The author raises the question in the final sentence primarily in order to:

- (A) suggest that blockchain's lasting importance may lie in the question it raises about where trust should reside.
- (B) prove that established institutions can never again be trusted.
- (C) recommend that readers invest in a particular cryptocurrency.
- (D) conclude that blockchain technology has already failed entirely.

### 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.*

When offices emptied almost overnight, many managers expected productivity to collapse. For a great many jobs, it did not; work carried on, and some measures even improved. Yet the sudden shift to remote work revealed that the office had never been merely a place to perform tasks. It was also where colleagues absorbed unwritten rules, built the loose ties that carry useful information, and learned by watching others do the job. Remote work, whatever its conveniences, strains these quieter functions. The chance encounter by the coffee machine, the overheard problem that a passer-by happens to know how to solve, the newcomer who learns the ropes by proximity – all of these become harder to replicate through scheduled video calls. Enthusiasts answer that the losses are outweighed by the gains: workers reclaim hours once lost to commuting, gain autonomy over their days, and can be hired from anywhere, widening the pool of



talent. Skeptics counter that something subtler erodes when a workforce rarely meets. Trust among near-strangers is easier to sustain when it can be renewed in person, and a culture transmitted only through screens may grow thin. The most thoughtful verdict is not that remote work is simply good or bad but that it forces a choice once made by default. An organisation must now decide, deliberately, what its gatherings are for – which kinds of work truly need a shared room and which do not. The office is unlikely to vanish, but its purpose is being rewritten. It may survive less as the place where work is done than as the place where a community is periodically renewed.

- Q25.** The central idea of the passage is that remote work:
- (A) has proven that offices serve no useful purpose whatsoever.
  - (B) compels organisations to decide deliberately what in-person gatherings and offices are actually for.
  - (C) always reduces productivity across every kind of job.
  - (D) is universally superior to office-based work.
- Q26.** According to the passage, when offices emptied almost overnight, many managers expected:
- (A) that the pool of available talent would immediately widen.
  - (B) that trust among near-strangers would deepen.
  - (C) that hours lost to commuting would be reclaimed.
  - (D) that productivity would collapse.
- Q27.** It can be inferred that the author views the “chance encounter by the coffee machine” as:
- (A) an example of a valuable informal exchange that remote work makes harder to reproduce.
  - (B) a waste of time that offices ought to eliminate.
  - (C) the single most important measure of productivity.
  - (D) clear proof that remote work has no real drawbacks.
- Q28.** As used in the passage, the word “erodes” most nearly means:



- (A) suddenly appears.
- (B) grows noticeably stronger.
- (C) gradually wears away.
- (D) is carefully measured.

**Q29.** The author's attitude toward remote work is best described as:

- (A) enthusiastically one-sided in its favour.
- (B) balanced, weighing its gains against its losses.
- (C) bitterly opposed to any change at all.
- (D) wholly uninterested in the outcome.

**Q30.** Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the passage?

- (A) The End of Work as We Know It.
- (B) How to Eliminate the Office Forever.
- (C) Why Commuting Improves Productivity.
- (D) Rewriting the Purpose of the Office.



**Detailed Solutions**

Q1.

**Solution**

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

**Passage support:** The passage says the common reasons for failure share “a failure to confront reality early and cheaply.” It adds that the ventures that endure “test their assumptions in small, survivable experiments” and “abandon cherished ideas when the evidence turns against them.” That is exactly the claim in option B.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: A richer competitor is named as an excuse founders give, not the true cause.
- Option C: The passage treats the lone-founder image as a romantic myth, not a guarantee.
- Option D: Overspending is only one trap among several, not the single cause.

**Final Answer:** Failure comes from not testing assumptions early ⇒ **B**

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

Q2.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Match the described behaviour to the practice the author endorses or warns against.

**Passage support:** The author praises founders who “test their assumptions in small, survivable experiments” before committing. A full launch with no prior check is the opposite of this cheap early testing. So the author would view such a founder as ignoring the recommended approach.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage treats such a leap as risky, not the safest path.
- Option B: Nothing links skipping testing to attracting investors.
- Option C: Refusing to check demand is the opposite of self-criticism.

**Final Answer:** Such a founder ignores early, cheap testing ⇒ **D**



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

Q3.

### Solution

**Concept — Detail:** Locate the exact sentence that states the fact and read it literally.

**Passage support:** The passage states plainly that the commonest reason a startup dies “is not that its technology was poor but that it built something almost nobody wanted.” That directly names the most common cause.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: Poor technology is explicitly ruled out as the main cause.
- Option C: Bad luck is an excuse founders offer, not the studied cause.
- Option D: A deeper-pocketed rival is likewise cited only as a blame-shifting excuse.

**Final Answer:** It built something almost nobody wanted ⇒

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

Q4.

### Solution

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Replace the word with each option and keep the one the surrounding sentence supports.

**Passage support:** The word appears in “shortens the runway on which that learning must happen,” right after “Money buys time to learn.” Here “runway” is a metaphor for the time the cash allows. So it means the span of time before the money runs out.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The literal airstrip meaning does not fit a discussion of money and time.
- Option B: Vision is a separate idea, not what runway measures.
- Option D: Customer count is unrelated to the time cash buys.

**Final Answer:** Runway means the time before cash is exhausted ⇒

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



Q5.

**Solution**

**Concept — Tone / attitude:** Weigh the author’s word choices about the idea in question.

**Passage support:** The author calls the lone-founder image “romantic” and immediately contrasts it with “the statistics” that “tell a soberer story.” The tone corrects the myth without ridicule. That is skeptical and quietly corrective.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The author is plainly not admiring of the myth.
- Option C: The correction is measured, not contemptuous or mocking.
- Option D: The author engages the image directly, so is not indifferent.

**Final Answer:** Skeptical and quietly corrective ⇒

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

Q6.

**Solution**

**Concept — Best title:** A good title captures the whole argument, not one narrow part.

**Passage support:** The passage explains why startups fail and concludes that survival depends on the “willingness to be proved wrong before the money runs out.” A title about facing reality before the cash runs out matches that arc.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The lone-founder genius is the myth the passage undercuts.
- Option B: Fundraising technique is not the subject of the passage.
- Option C: The passage argues elegant technology alone does not save a startup.

**Final Answer:** Why Startups Really Fail: Facing Reality Before the Cash Runs Out ⇒

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



Q7.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** Find the summarising claim the whole passage develops.

**Passage support:** The passage says no single culprit could explain every case and that “the evidence pointed to a combination of stresses acting together.” It concludes collapse is “a symptom of an environment that asks too much” of the bee. That is the multiple-stress thesis of option C.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: A single virus is exactly what the passage rules out.
- Option B: The passage stresses that bees pollinate crops people eat.
- Option D: Commercial beekeeping is named as one of the added pressures.

**Final Answer:** Several stresses acting together ⇒

[Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail:** Return to the sentence that names the “most puzzling feature.”

**Passage support:** The passage says the most puzzling feature was “precisely this absence of bodies: the workers seemed to have flown out and never returned.” Earlier it notes there was “no pile of dead insects to explain the loss.” So the puzzle was the missing dead bees.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: The queen was left “living,” not dead.
- Option C: The honey stores were “untouched,” not stolen.
- Option D: The foragers vanished; their numbers did not increase.

**Final Answer:** The absence of dead bodies to explain the loss ⇒

[Go Back to Q8](#)



Q9.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Draw the conclusion the evidence in the passage points toward.

**Passage support:** The passage says scientists “searching for a single culprit were disappointed” because no one factor explained every case. Since several factors acted together, a hunt for one cause was bound to fall short. That yields option D.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The single-cause search failed rather than solved the mystery.
- Option B: The cause was not obvious; it puzzled researchers.
- Option C: The author favours addressing many burdens, not chasing one cause.

**Final Answer:** Unlikely to succeed, as several factors contributed ⇒ **D**

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

Q10.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Use the contrast in the sentence to fix the meaning.

**Passage support:** The phrase reads “feeding the bees sugar syrup in place of varied natural forage.” Syrup is being contrasted with the natural food bees would otherwise gather. So “forage” means food gathered from the environment.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: A migration is movement, not food.
- Option C: A mite is a parasite, not something bees eat.
- Option D: Trucking is a transport method, unrelated to the word.

**Final Answer:** Food gathered from the natural environment ⇒ **B**

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



Q11.

**Solution**

**Concept — Author's purpose:** Ask what job the detail does within the paragraph's argument.

**Passage support:** The trucking example appears under "Modern commercial beekeeping added its own pressures." It is offered as one of the burdens that, combined with others, can overwhelm a colony. So its purpose is to illustrate an added stress.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: The tone is critical of the pressure, not praising of efficiency.
- Option C: The passage rejects the idea of a single cause such as mites.
- Option D: The author never argues bees must never be moved at all.

**Final Answer:** To illustrate an added stress from commercial beekeeping ⇒ **A**

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

Q12.

**Solution**

**Concept — Tone:** Judge the mood of the closing lines by their diction.

**Passage support:** The final paragraph speaks of a "sober lesson" and an insect "people have long taken for granted." It calls for "a patient effort to lighten many burdens at once." This is a thoughtful, cautionary, sober tone.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage is concerned, not cheerful or optimistic.
- Option B: Nothing here is mocking or dismissive.
- Option D: The tone is reflective, not angry or accusatory.

**Final Answer:** Soberly reflective and cautionary ⇒ **C**

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



Q13.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** Identify the overall subject the passage traces from start to finish.

**Passage support:** The passage contrasts the old reliance on “the authority of ancient texts” with the Enlightenment view that truth “should be won not by citing authorities but by observing, measuring, and testing.” The whole piece charts that shift in the basis of knowledge. That is option D.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Proving Aristotle always wrong is not the passage’s claim.
- Option B: The church’s structure is never described.
- Option C: No single scientist’s experiments are listed.

**Final Answer:** The shift from authority to observation and testing ⇒ **D**

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

Q14.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail:** Read the opening sentences literally to see how scholars once worked.

**Passage support:** The passage states that to settle a question “a scholar consulted Aristotle or scripture rather than nature itself.” That is precisely option B.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Controlled experiment is the later, Enlightenment method.
- Option C: Careful measurement belongs to the new approach, not the old.
- Option D: Falsifiable hypotheses are the seed the Enlightenment planted afterward.

**Final Answer:** Consulted ancient authorities or scripture, not nature ⇒ **B**

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



Q15.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Apply the author’s stated standard for respecting a theory.

**Passage support:** The passage says a theory earned respect “not because a great name endorsed it but because it survived repeated attempts to break it.” So a respected theory is one that withstands attempts to prove it false. That gives option A.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: Endorsement by an authority is exactly what the passage rejects.
- Option C: An untestable claim cannot earn scientific respect here.
- Option D: Going unquestioned is the old habit the Enlightenment overturned.

**Final Answer:** One that has survived repeated attempts to prove it false ⇒

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

Q16.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Let the neighbouring words define the term.

**Passage support:** The passage says knowledge became “provisional and self-correcting, always open to revision by the next careful observation.” The phrase “open to revision” unpacks the word directly. So “provisional” means open to revision in light of new evidence.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: “Proven beyond doubt” is the opposite of provisional.
- Option B: The word has nothing to do with being hidden.
- Option D: Endorsement by a great name is the discredited old basis.

**Final Answer:** Open to revision in light of new evidence ⇒

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



Q17.

**Solution**

**Concept — Author’s purpose:** Ask why these topics are introduced at that point in the argument.

**Passage support:** The passage says “the consequences reached far beyond laboratories,” and that questioning nature led to questioning “government, religion, and the ordering of society.” The same appetite for scrutiny “began to reshape politics and law.” So the mention shows the method spreading beyond science.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage shows science reaching into politics, not avoiding it.
- Option C: It never claims the Enlightenment failed completely.
- Option D: These topics are social, not the rules of a lab experiment.

**Final Answer:** To show reasoned scrutiny spreading into politics and law ⇒ **B**

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

Q18.

**Solution**

**Concept — Tone / attitude:** Balance the praise against any reservations the author voices.

**Passage support:** The author calls the scientific method “revolutionary” and praises its self-correcting nature, yet warns that “the Enlightenment’s confidence had its limits” and that reason alone “could not decide how people ought to live.” Praise plus stated limits is an appreciative but qualified attitude.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The author admires much of the Enlightenment, so is not hostile.
- Option B: The noted limits rule out uncritical worship.
- Option C: The engaged argument is not bored or indifferent.

**Final Answer:** Appreciative yet mindful of its limits ⇒ **D**

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



Q19.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** State the core proposal that organises the whole passage.

**Passage support:** The passage says blockchain aims “to achieve that trust without any single trusted party,” placing trust “in a transparent set of rules rather than in a particular institution.” That is the thesis captured by option A.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: The passage says the promise “has often outrun its performance,” not that banks are replaced.
- Option C: Heavy energy use is a drawback, not the source of value.
- Option D: Anonymity is mentioned as a risk, not the main design goal.

**Final Answer:** Trust through transparent shared rules, not a middleman ⇒

[Go Back to Q19](#)

Q20.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail:** Find the sentence that describes tampering with an old record.

**Passage support:** The passage states that altering an old record “would require redoing all the work that followed and outpacing the entire honest network at once.” That matches option C almost word for word.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The whole point is that no central registry is involved.
- Option B: A single notary is the old model blockchain replaces.
- Option D: Agreement comes from a shared procedure, not deletion by decree.

**Final Answer:** Redoing all later work and outrunning the honest network ⇒

[Go Back to Q20](#)



Q21.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Read how the word is first introduced.

**Passage support:** The opening sentence describes a middleman who keeps “an honest ledger and prevent[s] the same asset from being spent twice.” A ledger here is the running record of who owns what and what has been transacted. So it means a record of transactions and ownership.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The network holds copies of the ledger; it is not the ledger itself.
- Option C: An official keeps the ledger but is not the ledger.
- Option D: The mathematical linking secures the ledger; it is not its meaning.

**Final Answer:** A record of transactions and ownership ⇒ **B**

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

Q22.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Read the author’s comment attached to the slogan.

**Passage support:** The passage says the claim that “code is law” “offers little comfort when a flaw in the code is exploited.” This treats the slogan as reassurance that fails once the code is buggy. So the author sees it as an unconvincing comfort.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: It is raised as a weakness, not blockchain’s strongest point.
- Option B: A flaw being exploited shows it is no guarantee against fraud.
- Option C: The slogan is discussed as relevant, not irrelevant.

**Final Answer:** An unconvincing comfort when the code has flaws ⇒ **D**

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



Q23.

**Solution**

**Concept — Tone / attitude:** Combine the author’s interest in the idea with the drawbacks noted.

**Passage support:** The author finds the idea worth a “provocative question” about trust, yet lists real limits: slowness, energy use, sheltered fraud, and exploitable code. Interest paired with careful reservations is a measured, intrigued stance. That is option C.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The author grants blockchain genuine interest and value.
- Option B: The listed drawbacks rule out uncritical enthusiasm.
- Option D: The tone weighs limits calmly rather than sounding alarmed.

**Final Answer:** Intrigued yet measured about its limits ⇒

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

Q24.

**Solution**

**Concept — Author’s purpose:** Ask what the closing question is meant to leave the reader with.

**Passage support:** The final sentence says blockchain’s lasting contribution “may prove to be less a particular product than a provocative question” about how much institutional trust could be built into inspectable rules. The question is raised to point to that larger significance. That is option A.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: The passage does not declare institutions permanently untrustworthy.
- Option C: It never urges buying any cryptocurrency.
- Option D: The open question is hopeful, not a verdict of total failure.

**Final Answer:** To point to a lasting question about where trust should reside ⇒

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



Q25.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** Extract the conclusion the passage finally settles on.

**Passage support:** The passage says remote work “forces a choice once made by default,” so an organisation “must now decide, deliberately, what its gatherings are for.” The office’s “purpose is being rewritten.” That deliberate choice is option B.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage says the office is “unlikely to vanish,” not useless.
- Option C: Productivity “did not” collapse for many jobs.
- Option D: The author is balanced, not claiming universal superiority.

**Final Answer:** It forces a deliberate choice about what gatherings are for ⇒ **B**

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

Q26.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail:** Read the first sentence, which states the managers’ expectation.

**Passage support:** The passage opens, “When offices emptied almost overnight, many managers expected productivity to collapse.” The very next line notes that for many jobs it did not. So the expectation was a collapse in productivity.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: A wider talent pool is a benefit enthusiasts cite, not the managers’ fear.
- Option B: Deeper trust is discussed as something at risk, not an expectation.
- Option C: Reclaimed commuting hours are a gain, not the feared outcome.

**Final Answer:** That productivity would collapse ⇒ **D**

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



Q27.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** See what role the example plays in the author’s argument.

**Passage support:** The coffee-machine encounter is listed among the quiet functions that “become harder to replicate through scheduled video calls.” It stands for the useful informal exchanges remote work strains. So the author treats it as a valuable exchange that becomes harder.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: The passage values such encounters, not eliminates them.
- Option C: It is one useful function, not the single measure of productivity.
- Option D: The example shows a genuine drawback of remote work.

**Final Answer:** A valuable informal exchange remote work makes harder ⇒ **A**

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

Q28.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Fit the meaning to the idea of something slowly weakening.

**Passage support:** The sentence says “something subtler erodes when a workforce rarely meets,” and adds that a screen-only culture “may grow thin.” Both point to a gradual weakening. So “erodes” means gradually wears away.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: “Suddenly appears” is the opposite of a slow loss.
- Option B: Growing stronger contradicts the sense of loss.
- Option D: Being measured is unrelated to the word’s meaning.

**Final Answer:** Gradually wears away ⇒ **C**

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



Q29.

**Solution**

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

**Passage support:** The passage gives the enthusiasts' gains and the skeptics' losses in turn, then says the "most thoughtful verdict is not that remote work is simply good or bad." Presenting both sides evenly is a balanced attitude. That is option B.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The author gives real weight to the losses too.
- Option C: The author does not oppose all change; the tone is even.
- Option D: The careful weighing shows real interest, not indifference.

**Final Answer:** Balanced, weighing gains against losses ⇒ **B**

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

Q30.

**Solution**

**Concept — Best title:** Choose the title that fits the passage's central claim.

**Passage support:** The passage concludes that the office "is unlikely to vanish, but its purpose is being rewritten," surviving as "the place where a community is periodically renewed." A title about rewriting the office's purpose captures that. That is option D.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage does not foresee the end of work.
- Option B: It expects the office to survive, not be eliminated.
- Option C: It never argues that commuting improves productivity.

**Final Answer:** Rewriting the Purpose of the Office ⇒ **D**

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



## Answer Key

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

