

IBSAT Reading Comprehension

Sample Paper – 7

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.

Every time a shopper taps a loyalty card, streams a film, or lingers over a product photograph, a quiet transaction takes place alongside the visible one. Data brokers and platforms record the click, the pause, and the purchase, then stitch these fragments into profiles detailed enough to predict what a person will want before the person knows it. Firms defend this harvesting as the price of convenience: recommendations feel personal, services stay free, and friction disappears from daily life. Critics counter that the bargain is rigged, because the individual who supposedly consents rarely reads the sprawling terms, cannot inspect the resulting dossier, and has no realistic way to withdraw once the information has been copied and resold.

The imbalance is not merely technical but structural. A single consumer negotiating with a global platform holds almost no leverage, and the harm from any one disclosure seems



trivial, so few people object. Yet in aggregate these small surrenders hand corporations an intimate map of populations, one that can be used to set prices individually, to nudge political opinion, or to deny opportunities on the basis of inferences the subject never sees. Regulators have responded with consent forms and the right to be forgotten, but such tools place the burden of vigilance back on the very individuals least equipped to bear it.

A more promising approach treats privacy not as a personal preference to be waived but as a collective good to be protected by default, much as clean air is. Under this view, the law would limit what firms may collect at all, regardless of what a distracted user clicks. Whether legislatures will impose such limits, against the resistance of an industry built on surveillance, remains the defining question of the digital economy.

- Q1.** The passage is primarily concerned with
- (A) explaining how recommendation algorithms are technically constructed.
 - (B) celebrating the convenience that data collection brings to consumers.
 - (C) arguing that consumer data privacy is a structural problem needing collective, default protection rather than individual consent.
 - (D) describing the origins and history of loyalty-card programmes.
- Q2.** According to the passage, firms justify their collection of consumer data on the grounds that it
- (A) keeps services free, makes recommendations personal, and removes friction from daily life.
 - (B) has been explicitly demanded by consumers who want more surveillance.
 - (C) is legally required of them by regulators.
 - (D) eliminates the need for any consent forms.
- Q3.** It can be inferred that the author regards the “right to be forgotten” and consent forms as
- (A) fully adequate solutions to the privacy problem.
 - (B) technical innovations that firms strongly oppose.
 - (C) tools that successfully strip corporations of their leverage.



(D) inadequate, because they shift the burden of vigilance onto the individuals least able to bear it.

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

- (A) a binding legal contract.
- (B) a detailed compiled file of information about a person.
- (C) a temporary storage cache that is soon erased.
- (D) a public advertisement.

Q5. The author’s attitude toward the current consent-based regulatory approach is best described as

- (A) skeptical.
- (B) enthusiastic.
- (C) indifferent.
- (D) triumphant.

Q6. The primary function of the final paragraph is to

- (A) summarise the technical methods used by data brokers.
- (B) concede that meaningful regulation is impossible.
- (C) propose an alternative framework treating privacy as a collective good and note the obstacle to enacting it.
- (D) praise the surveillance industry for its efficiency.

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.

Farmers have long been drawn, against apparent good sense, to the slopes of active volcanoes. The paradox dissolves once the chemistry of volcanic ash is understood. When a volcano erupts, it flings out pulverised rock rich in minerals that ordinary weathering would take millennia to release. As this ash settles and breaks down, it seeds the ground with phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, and a suite of trace elements that crops crave. The result is a soil, often called andisol, that is unusually generous to the plants rooted



in it.

Fertility, however, is not the whole story. Andisols also possess a light, porous structure that holds water without becoming waterlogged, so roots continue to breathe even after heavy rain. Their mineral surfaces bind loosely to nutrients, releasing them gradually rather than letting them wash away in the first storm. These physical virtues explain why regions blanketed by ancient ash, from the terraced rice fields of Java to the coffee highlands of Central America, support dense populations on comparatively small plots. The gift is not without its price. The very eruptions that enrich the land can also bury it under lava or choke it with poisonous gas, and the interval between disasters may span generations, long enough for memory to fade and settlement to creep back toward the crater. Moreover, fresh ash is not immediately fertile; it must weather for years or even decades before its locked minerals become available to roots. What looks like recklessness, then, is often a considered wager: communities accept a rare, catastrophic risk in exchange for a steady, generous yield. That the wager has been made again and again, across every inhabited continent with volcanoes, suggests how compelling the reward can be.

- Q7.** The central point of the passage is that
- (A) volcanic eruptions are, on balance, far more destructive than beneficial.
 - (B) the fertility and physical structure of volcanic soils explain why people farm near dangerous volcanoes.
 - (C) andisols are found only in Java and Central America.
 - (D) fresh volcanic ash becomes fertile the moment it settles.
- Q8.** According to the passage, which minerals does volcanic ash supply to the soil?
- (A) Only nitrogen and carbon.
 - (B) Sodium and chlorine.
 - (C) Iron and aluminium exclusively.
 - (D) Phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, and a suite of trace elements.
- Q9.** It can be inferred that a farmer who spreads fresh ash on a field and expects an immediate bumper harvest would most likely be



- (A) disappointed, because the ash must weather for years before its minerals become available.
- (B) rewarded instantly with much higher yields.
- (C) permanently protected from all future eruptions.
- (D) forced to abandon andisols altogether.

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

- (A) a specialised farming tool.
- (B) a government subsidy.
- (C) a calculated bet that accepts risk in exchange for reward.
- (D) a religious ritual of thanksgiving.

Q11. The author’s overall attitude toward farmers who settle near volcanoes is best described as

- (A) contemptuous of their foolishness.
- (B) understanding of their choice as a considered wager.
- (C) wholly indifferent to their fate.
- (D) alarmed and openly hostile.

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

- (A) The Chemistry of Growing Coffee.
- (B) How Scientists Predict Volcanic Eruptions.
- (C) The Everyday Dangers of Living in Java.
- (D) A Considered Wager: Why Fertile Soils Draw Farmers to Volcanoes.

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 campaign to abolish the transatlantic slave trade, which culminated in the British act of 1807, is often remembered as a straightforward triumph of conscience over greed. The reality was tangled. Abolitionists did marshal a moral argument of unusual force, insisting that no economic benefit could excuse the systematic torment of human beings, and they backed it with harrowing testimony gathered from sailors, surgeons, and the enslaved themselves. Yet moral revulsion alone had coexisted with the trade for two centuries; something more was needed to move a Parliament stocked with men who profited from it.

Several currents converged. A popular movement, novel in its methods, flooded legislators with petitions, organised consumer boycotts of slave-grown sugar, and circulated a now-famous diagram of a packed slave ship that made abstract suffering vivid. At the same time, economic arguments once thought unanswerable began to weaken, as some observers contended that free labour might prove more productive than coerced labour, and as the sugar colonies lost their commercial primacy. Revolts in the Caribbean, meanwhile, reminded planters and politicians alike that the enslaved were not passive, and that the system was expensive to police.

To credit any single cause is to misread the moment. The 1807 act neither freed a single enslaved person already in bondage nor ended slavery itself, which persisted in the British colonies for another generation. What it did was outlaw the commerce in captured people, a first breach in a structure that had seemed permanent. The lesson historians draw is sobering: even a monstrous institution rarely falls to argument alone. It yields when principle, pressure, self-interest, and the resistance of its victims happen to pull in the same direction at once.

Q13. The passage is chiefly concerned with

- (A) showing that the abolition of the slave trade resulted from several converging causes rather than conscience alone.
- (B) proving that economics was the sole reason for abolition.
- (C) describing the daily conditions aboard slave ships.
- (D) arguing that the 1807 act immediately ended slavery.

Q14. According to the passage, the 1807 act

- (A) freed every enslaved person in the British colonies.
- (B) ended slavery throughout the empire at a single stroke.
- (C) outlawed the commerce in captured people but did not free those already enslaved.



(D) had no discernible effect of any kind.

Q15. Which title best captures the passage’s argument?

- (A) The Moral Genius of the Abolitionists.
- (B) Many Currents: Why the Slave Trade Was Abolished.
- (C) Slavery in the British Colonies After 1807.
- (D) The Economics of Caribbean Sugar.

Q16. It can be inferred that the author would most likely agree that

- (A) moral arguments, though necessary, were insufficient on their own to end the trade.
- (B) conscience alone was fully responsible for abolition.
- (C) economic self-interest played no part whatsoever.
- (D) the Caribbean revolts were irrelevant to the outcome.

Q17. The author’s tone in describing the “lesson historians draw” is best characterized as

- (A) celebratory and triumphant.
- (B) mocking and dismissive.
- (C) nostalgic and sentimental.
- (D) sober and cautionary.

Q18. The primary purpose of the final paragraph is to

- (A) list the names of the leading abolitionists.
- (B) argue that the trade never really came to an end.
- (C) qualify the achievement and draw a general lesson about how entrenched institutions fall.
- (D) describe the geography of the sugar colonies.

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, rewriting the code of life was a clumsy affair. Scientists could insert foreign genes more or less at random and hope the change landed somewhere useful. CRISPR changed the terms of the work. Borrowed from a defence mechanism that bacteria use against invading viruses, the system pairs a guide molecule, which recognises a chosen stretch of DNA, with a protein that cuts the strand at precisely that point. The cell's own repair machinery then knits the break, and the editor can steer that repair to disable a faulty gene or paste in a corrected one. What once demanded years and a well-funded laboratory can now be attempted in weeks at modest cost. The promise is genuine. Diseases traceable to a single mutation, such as sickle-cell anaemia, are obvious early targets, and trials have already restored function in patients who had exhausted other options. Crops might be tuned to withstand drought; insects that carry malaria might be altered so that they no longer spread it. Yet the same precision that makes CRISPR useful makes it unsettling. An edit made to a patient's blood cells affects only that patient, but an edit made to an embryo would be inherited by every future descendant, permanently altering the human lineage without their consent. The tool cannot always distinguish its intended target from a similar sequence elsewhere, so unintended cuts remain a hazard. And a technology cheap enough to democratise research is also cheap enough to misuse. The scientific community has called for caution, particularly regarding heritable edits, but calls for restraint are not the same as enforceable limits. CRISPR has handed humanity a pen powerful enough to edit itself; the harder question is what, if anything, we should write.

Q19. The passage is primarily about

- (A) the history of bacterial immune systems.
- (B) how CRISPR makes gene editing precise, and the promise and perils that follow.
- (C) the treatment of sickle-cell anaemia in particular.
- (D) why gene editing should be banned entirely.

Q20. According to the passage, how does the CRISPR system make a cut in DNA?

- (A) It inserts foreign genes at random and hopes for a useful result.
- (B) It heats the strand until it snaps apart.
- (C) It relies solely on the cell's repair machinery to break the strand.



(D) A guide molecule recognises a chosen stretch of DNA and a protein cuts the strand at that point.

Q21. It can be inferred that the author considers edits made to a human embryo more troubling than edits to a patient's blood cells because

(A) embryo edits would be inherited by every future descendant without their consent.

(B) blood cells cannot be edited at all.

(C) embryo edits are known to be entirely harmless.

(D) blood-cell edits affect every future descendant.

Q22. As used in the passage, the word "democratise" most nearly means

(A) to put a decision to a public vote.

(B) to keep strictly secret.

(C) to make widely and cheaply accessible.

(D) to outlaw and suppress.

Q23. It can be inferred from the passage that unintended cuts occur because

(A) CRISPR is too slow to work properly.

(B) the tool cannot always distinguish its intended target from a similar sequence elsewhere.

(C) the cell possesses no repair machinery.

(D) the system functions only inside bacteria.

Q24. Which title best captures the passage?

(A) Bacteria and the Viruses That Attack Them.

(B) A Guaranteed Cure for Sickle-Cell Anaemia.

(C) The End of Laboratory Research.

(D) A Powerful Pen: The Promise and Peril of CRISPR.



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 microfinance first drew the world’s attention, it arrived wrapped in a stirring promise: lend tiny sums to the poor, especially to women shut out of ordinary banks, and watch enterprise lift whole villages out of poverty. The mechanism was ingenious. Because a borrower with no collateral cannot pledge property, lenders organised clients into small groups whose members guaranteed one another’s loans. Peer pressure replaced the paperwork of a bank, repayment rates climbed impressively, and the model spread across continents within a single generation.

The early rhetoric, however, outran the evidence. Careful studies conducted years later found that access to small loans did modestly help some households smooth their spending and cope with emergencies, but rarely produced the dramatic escapes from poverty that the founding story described. Many borrowers used the money not to launch businesses but to cover school fees, medicine, or a lean season, which is prudent yet undramatic. A minority took on several loans at once and slid into a spiral of debt, chased by the very repayment discipline that made the sector look healthy.

None of this means the idea failed. It means the idea was oversold. Microfinance turns out to be a useful financial tool for managing the volatility of poverty rather than a machine for abolishing poverty itself, and confusing the two led to inflated expectations and, when they were disappointed, to unfair disillusionment. The sober conclusion is that the poor, like everyone else, benefit from reliable access to credit, savings, and insurance, but that no single instrument dissolves the structural causes of their poverty. Recognising the limits of microfinance is not a rejection of it; it is the condition for using it wisely, and for resisting the next tidy story that promises far more than any tool can deliver.

- Q25.** The central argument of the passage is that microfinance
- (A) has completely failed and ought to be abandoned.
 - (B) reliably lifts whole villages out of poverty, exactly as promised.
 - (C) is a useful tool for managing the volatility of poverty but was oversold as a cure for poverty.
 - (D) should be offered only to men.
- Q26.** According to the passage, how did microfinance lenders address borrowers’ lack of collateral?



- (A) By organising clients into small groups whose members guaranteed one another's loans.
- (B) By demanding property deeds before lending.
- (C) By refusing to lend to women.
- (D) By charging no interest at all.

Q27. It can be inferred from the studies described that the founding promise of microfinance was

- (A) fully borne out by the later evidence.
- (B) irrelevant to the actual borrowers.
- (C) impossible to test in any way.
- (D) overstated, since the loans mainly helped households cope rather than escape poverty.

Q28. As used in the passage, the word “volatility” most nearly means

- (A) explosive chemical reactivity.
- (B) unpredictable ups and downs in circumstances.
- (C) permanent and settled stability.
- (D) deliberate dishonesty.

Q29. The author's attitude toward microfinance is best described as

- (A) wholly dismissive.
- (B) uncritically enthusiastic.
- (C) qualified appreciation tempered by realism.
- (D) angry and accusatory.

Q30. The primary purpose of the final paragraph is to

- (A) argue that recognising the limits of microfinance is the condition for using it wisely.
- (B) call for microfinance to be outlawed.



- (C) prove that the poor have no need of credit.
- (D) describe the founding story of microfinance in detail.



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

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

Passage support: The passage moves from describing invisible data collection, to calling the imbalance “structural,” to proposing that privacy be treated as a collective good protected by default. The closing line names limiting corporate collection as “the defining question of the digital economy.” The argument is thus about the nature of the problem and its solution.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: the technical construction of algorithms is never explained.
- Option B: the passage criticises the bargain rather than celebrating convenience.
- Option D: loyalty cards appear once as an example, not as the subject.

Final Answer: The passage argues privacy is a structural problem needing collective protection ⇒ C

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

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Detail / fact retrieval: locate the exact sentence that states the firms’ justification.

Passage support: The first paragraph states that firms defend harvesting as the price of convenience. It specifies that “recommendations feel personal, services stay free, and friction disappears from daily life.” Option A restates these three points directly.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: the passage never says consumers demanded surveillance; critics argue consent is hollow.
- Option C: firms are not described as legally compelled to collect data.
- Option D: consent forms come from regulators, not as a firm justification.

Final Answer: Free services, personal recommendations, and less friction ⇒ A



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

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Inference: read the author’s evaluation of the named regulatory tools.

Passage support: The passage says regulators responded with consent forms and the right to be forgotten. It immediately adds that such tools “place the burden of vigilance back on the very individuals least equipped to bear it.” That criticism marks them as inadequate.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: calling them adequate contradicts the criticism.
- Option B: they are regulatory, not innovations firms oppose.
- Option C: the passage says the consumer holds “almost no leverage,” so these tools do not strip corporate leverage.

Final Answer: Inadequate because they shift the burden onto individuals ⇒ **D**

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

Q4.

Solution

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

Passage support: The word appears where the consumer “cannot inspect the resulting dossier.” The dossier is the profile stitched from clicks, pauses, and purchases. That is a compiled file of information about a person.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: a contract is a mutual agreement, not a compiled profile.
- Option C: a dossier here is retained and resold, not a soon-erased cache.
- Option D: it is private data, the opposite of a public advertisement.

Final Answer: A detailed compiled file about a person ⇒ **B**

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



Q5.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: weigh the charged words the author uses about the approach.

Passage support: The author says consent tools burden those least able to bear it. The bargain is called “rigged” and consent is described as hollow. This signals doubt, not approval, so the attitude is skeptical.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: enthusiasm would praise the approach, which the author does not.
- Option C: indifference is ruled out by the pointed criticism.
- Option D: triumphant implies celebration of success, which is absent.

Final Answer: The author doubts the consent approach ⇒

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

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Author’s purpose / function: ask what job the final paragraph does within the argument.

Passage support: The last paragraph offers a “more promising approach” that treats privacy as a collective good, like clean air. It then asks whether legislatures will impose such limits against industry resistance. So it proposes an alternative and flags the obstacle to it.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: it does not summarise brokers’ technical methods.
- Option B: it does not concede regulation is impossible; it raises it as an open question.
- Option D: it criticises rather than praises the surveillance industry.

Final Answer: It proposes the collective-good framework and notes the obstacle ⇒

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



Q7.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: find the thread linking chemistry, structure, and human settlement.

Passage support: The passage explains that ash-derived minerals and a porous, water-holding structure make volcanic soils fertile. It uses these virtues to explain why dense populations farm near volcanoes. That link between soil quality and settlement is the central point.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: the passage stresses the reward, not that destruction outweighs benefit.
- Option C: Java and Central America are examples, not the only locations.
- Option D: fresh ash is said to need years to become fertile.

Final Answer: Soil fertility and structure explain farming near volcanoes ⇒ **B**

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

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Detail / fact retrieval: match the option to the explicit list of minerals.

Passage support: The first paragraph says the ash “seeds the ground with phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, and a suite of trace elements.” Option D reproduces this list exactly. The other choices name elements the passage does not mention.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: nitrogen and carbon are not the minerals listed.
- Option B: sodium and chlorine are not mentioned.
- Option C: iron and aluminium are not named, let alone exclusively.

Final Answer: Phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, and trace elements ⇒ **D**

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



Q9.

Solution

Concept — Inference: apply a stated fact to a hypothetical situation.

Passage support: The passage states fresh ash “is not immediately fertile.” It must weather “for years or even decades before its locked minerals become available to roots.” So expecting an instant harvest from fresh ash would lead to disappointment.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: an instant reward contradicts the weathering requirement.
- Option C: spreading ash gives no protection from eruptions.
- Option D: nothing suggests the farmer must abandon andisols.

Final Answer: Disappointed, since ash needs years to weather ⇒

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

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: interpret the metaphor the author uses for the farmers’ decision.

Passage support: The passage calls the choice “a considered wager.” It defines that wager as accepting “a rare, catastrophic risk in exchange for a steady, generous yield.” That is a calculated bet balancing risk against reward.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: a wager here is a decision, not a physical tool.
- Option B: no subsidy is mentioned.
- Option D: the term is economic, not religious.

Final Answer: A calculated bet accepting risk for reward ⇒

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



Q11.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: judge how the author frames the farmers' apparent recklessness.

Passage support: The author says “what looks like recklessness” is “often a considered wager.” This reframing treats the farmers' choice as rational rather than foolish. The attitude is therefore understanding.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: contempt is contradicted by calling the choice considered.
- Option C: the careful explanation rules out indifference.
- Option D: the author is not alarmed or hostile toward the farmers.

Final Answer: Understanding of the choice as a considered wager ⇒ **B**

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

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Best title: pick the title covering both the reward and the risk, the passage's twin themes.

Passage support: The passage explains fertile soils (the reward) and eruption risk, framed as “a considered wager.” Option D captures both the wager and the draw of fertile soil. It fits the whole passage, not just one paragraph.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: coffee is a single example, too narrow for a title.
- Option B: the passage does not discuss predicting eruptions.
- Option C: it highlights danger only and ignores fertility.

Final Answer: A Considered Wager: Why Fertile Soils Draw Farmers to Volcanoes ⇒ **D**

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



Q13.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: the thesis is stated as a correction of a popular belief.

Passage support: The passage rejects the memory of abolition as a simple triumph of conscience, calling the reality “tangled.” It lists converging currents: a popular movement, shifting economics, and Caribbean revolts. It warns that crediting any single cause “is to misread the moment.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: it does not claim economics was the sole cause.
- Option C: shipboard conditions are mentioned only via testimony, not as the theme.
- Option D: the passage says the act did not end slavery.

Final Answer: Abolition came from several converging causes ⇒ **A**

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

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Detail / fact retrieval: find the precise statement of what the 1807 act did and did not do.

Passage support: The passage says the act “neither freed a single enslaved person already in bondage nor ended slavery itself.” It says what the act did was “outlaw the commerce in captured people.” Option C matches both halves exactly.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: it freed no one already enslaved.
- Option B: slavery persisted “for another generation.”
- Option D: it did have an effect, a “first breach.”

Final Answer: It outlawed the trade but freed no one already enslaved ⇒ **C**

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



Q15.

Solution

Concept — Best title: choose the title reflecting the multi-cause argument, not one strand.

Passage support: The passage insists “several currents converged” and that no single cause explains abolition. Option B, “Many Currents,” names exactly this convergence. It covers the whole argument rather than one factor.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: it credits the abolitionists’ morality alone, which the passage says was insufficient.
- Option C: post-1807 colonial slavery is a side note, not the focus.
- Option D: sugar economics is only one of several currents.

Final Answer: Many Currents: Why the Slave Trade Was Abolished ⇒

[Go Back to Q15](#)

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Inference: draw the conclusion the author’s reasoning points to without stating outright.

Passage support: The passage grants abolitionists “a moral argument of unusual force.” But it notes moral revulsion “had coexisted with the trade for two centuries,” so “something more was needed.” This implies morality was necessary yet insufficient by itself.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: crediting conscience alone is what the passage rejects.
- Option C: the passage explicitly credits self-interest and economics.
- Option D: Caribbean revolts are listed as a contributing pressure.

Final Answer: Moral arguments were necessary but not sufficient alone ⇒

[Go Back to Q16](#)



Q17.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: read the author's own word for the lesson.

Passage support: The passage calls the lesson historians draw “sobering.” It stresses that even a monstrous institution “rarely falls to argument alone.” This measured warning is sober and cautionary.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: the tone is qualifying, not celebratory.
- Option B: there is no mockery.
- Option C: it looks at a mechanism, not with sentimental nostalgia.

Final Answer: Sober and cautionary ⇒ D

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

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Author's purpose / function: determine what the closing paragraph accomplishes.

Passage support: The final paragraph limits the act's achievement, noting it freed no one and ended no slavery. It then generalises: entrenched institutions yield only when principle, pressure, self-interest, and resistance align. So it qualifies the achievement and draws a broader lesson.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: no abolitionists are named there.
- Option B: it says the trade was outlawed, not that it never ended.
- Option D: no geography of the colonies is described.

Final Answer: It qualifies the act and draws a general lesson ⇒ C

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



Q19.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: capture the passage's arc from mechanism to consequences.

Passage support: The passage explains how CRISPR makes editing precise, then lists its promise (disease, crops, malaria). It then turns to perils: heritable edits, unintended cuts, and misuse. The whole spans precision plus promise and peril.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: bacterial immunity is only the tool's origin, not the subject.
- Option C: sickle-cell is one example among several.
- Option D: the passage urges caution, not an outright ban.

Final Answer: How CRISPR works and its promise and perils ⇒ **B**

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

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Detail / fact retrieval: find the sentence describing the cutting mechanism.

Passage support: The passage says the system “pairs a guide molecule, which recognises a chosen stretch of DNA, with a protein that cuts the strand at precisely that point.” Option D restates this two-part mechanism. The other options describe methods the passage rejects or does not mention.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: random insertion describes the old, pre-CRISPR approach.
- Option B: no heating of the strand is described.
- Option C: the repair machinery knits the break; it does not cut.

Final Answer: A guide molecule targets DNA and a protein cuts it ⇒ **D**

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



Q21.

Solution

Concept — Inference: compare the two cases the author contrasts and see why one worries him more.

Passage support: The passage says a blood-cell edit “affects only that patient.” An embryo edit “would be inherited by every future descendant, permanently altering the human lineage without their consent.” The inheritance without consent is what makes embryo edits more troubling.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: blood cells are explicitly edited in patients.
- Option C: the passage treats embryo edits as troubling, not harmless.
- Option D: it is embryo edits, not blood-cell edits, that reach every descendant.

Final Answer: Embryo edits are inherited by all descendants without consent ⇒

A

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

Q22.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: read the surrounding clause about cost and access.

Passage support: The word appears in “cheap enough to democratise research.” The contrast with cost shows it means making research broadly and affordably available. The next clause warns it is also cheap enough to misuse, confirming wide access.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: no vote is involved here.
- Option B: secrecy is the opposite of the intended meaning.
- Option D: to outlaw contradicts widening access.

Final Answer: To make widely and cheaply accessible ⇒

C

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



Q23.

Solution

Concept — Inference: trace the stated cause behind the hazard of unintended cuts.

Passage support: The passage says the tool “cannot always distinguish its intended target from a similar sequence elsewhere.” It concludes “so unintended cuts remain a hazard.” The imperfect targeting is therefore the reason for those cuts.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: speed is not the cause; CRISPR is described as fast.
- Option C: the cell does have repair machinery.
- Option D: the tool works beyond bacteria, in patients and crops.

Final Answer: It cannot always tell the target from a similar sequence ⇒ **B**

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

Q24.

Solution

Concept — Best title: select the title balancing benefit and danger, echoing the closing image.

Passage support: The passage weighs CRISPR’s promise against its perils and closes with the “pen powerful enough to edit itself” image. Option D pairs “Promise and Peril” with that pen metaphor. It reflects the entire passage.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: bacteria and viruses are only the tool’s backstory.
- Option B: the passage does not guarantee a cure.
- Option C: it does not claim research has ended, but that it is faster and cheaper.

Final Answer: A Powerful Pen: The Promise and Peril of CRISPR ⇒ **D**

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



Q25.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: find the balanced verdict the passage builds toward.

Passage support: The passage says the idea was “oversold,” not that it failed. It calls microfinance “a useful financial tool for managing the volatility of poverty rather than a machine for abolishing poverty itself.” Option C states exactly this balance.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: the passage says “none of this means the idea failed.”
- Option B: it denies the dramatic village-lifting claim.
- Option D: it praises lending to women, not restricting it to men.

Final Answer: A useful tool for volatility, but oversold as a cure ⇒

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

Q26.

Solution

Concept — Detail / fact retrieval: locate the description of the lending mechanism.

Passage support: The passage says that because a borrower with no collateral cannot pledge property, lenders “organised clients into small groups whose members guaranteed one another’s loans.” Peer pressure then replaced bank paperwork. Option A restates this group-guarantee design.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: the whole point is that borrowers had no property deeds to demand.
- Option C: the model specifically targeted women.
- Option D: nothing says loans were interest-free.

Final Answer: Small groups guaranteeing one another’s loans ⇒

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



Q27.

Solution

Concept — Inference: judge the founding promise against what the later studies found.

Passage support: The passage says “the early rhetoric outran the evidence.” Studies found loans “did modestly help” with smoothing spending and emergencies but “rarely produced the dramatic escapes from poverty.” So the founding promise was overstated.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: the evidence did not bear out the promise.
- Option B: loans were relevant; they helped households cope.
- Option C: the promise was in fact tested by careful studies.

Final Answer: Overstated, since loans mainly helped coping, not escape ⇒ **D**

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

Q28.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: read the economic sense of the word as the passage uses it.

Passage support: The phrase is “managing the volatility of poverty.” The passage describes emergencies, lean seasons, and uneven spending that loans help smooth. Volatility here means the unpredictable ups and downs of a poor household’s circumstances.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: the chemical sense of volatility does not fit an economic context.
- Option C: stability is the opposite of volatility.
- Option D: volatility means fluctuation, not dishonesty.

Final Answer: Unpredictable ups and downs in circumstances ⇒ **B**

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



Q29.

Solution

Concept — Tone / attitude: balance the author's praise and criticism of microfinance.

Passage support: The author credits microfinance as a "useful financial tool" yet warns it was "oversold." He insists recognising its limits "is not a rejection of it." This mix of credit and caution is qualified appreciation tempered by realism.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: he explicitly denies dismissing the idea.
- Option B: uncritical enthusiasm is the overselling he criticises.
- Option D: the measured tone is not angry or accusatory.

Final Answer: Qualified appreciation tempered by realism ⇒ **C**

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

Q30.

Solution

Concept — Author's purpose / function: identify the aim of the concluding paragraph.

Passage support: The final paragraph states that recognising the limits of microfinance "is the condition for using it wisely." It urges resisting the next tidy story that promises too much. So its purpose is to argue that acknowledging limits enables wise use.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: it does not call for outlawing microfinance.
- Option C: it says the poor do benefit from credit, savings, and insurance.
- Option D: the founding story was described earlier, not here.

Final Answer: Recognising limits is the condition for using it wisely ⇒ **A**

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

