

# IBSAT Reading Comprehension

## Sample Paper – 8

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.*

Organizations rarely fail to change because they lack a plan; they fail because they underestimate how much the plan depends on the people expected to carry it out. Executives often treat transformation as a technical problem, a matter of redrawing structures, installing new systems, and announcing fresh targets. Yet the harder work lies in persuading employees to abandon routines that once made them successful. Habits that delivered results under the old model become quiet forms of resistance under the new one, not because workers are obstinate, but because familiar practices feel safe when the future looks uncertain.

The most durable change programmes therefore begin by acknowledging loss. Before people can embrace a new way of working, they need to grieve the competence they are being asked to surrender. Leaders who skip this step, rushing to celebrate the des-



mination, often find enthusiasm curdling into cynicism. Communication helps, but only when it is two-way; a memo that explains the vision without inviting response tends to deepen suspicion rather than dissolve it.

Momentum matters too. Small, visible wins early in the process convince sceptics that the effort is more than rhetoric, and they give supporters something concrete to defend. Equally important is consistency at the top: when senior managers preach flexibility while clinging to old privileges, the contradiction is noticed instantly and imitated widely. Change, in the end, is less an event than a negotiation conducted over months, in which trust is the currency and patience the discipline. The companies that manage it well are not those with the boldest strategy but those that treat their people as participants rather than obstacles.

- Q1.** Which of the following best captures the central argument of the passage?
- (A) Organizational change fails mainly because executives lack a detailed strategic plan.
  - (B) The success of organizational change depends less on strategy than on how leaders manage the people affected by it.
  - (C) Employees resist change because they are naturally obstinate and averse to new systems.
  - (D) Redrawing structures and installing new systems is the most reliable route to transformation.
- Q2.** According to the passage, why do familiar habits become a form of resistance?
- (A) Because employees consciously wish to sabotage the new model.
  - (B) Because such habits are inefficient by nature.
  - (C) Because familiar practices feel safe when the future is uncertain.
  - (D) Because leaders reward workers for maintaining old routines.
- Q3.** The passage suggests that acknowledging loss is important because
- (A) people must come to terms with surrendering old competence before adopting new ways.



- (B) grieving usefully slows the change process to a crawl.
- (C) employees expect financial compensation for lost roles.
- (D) it allows leaders to postpone difficult decisions indefinitely.

**Q4.** In the passage, the word “curdling” most nearly means

- (A) strengthening
- (B) clarifying
- (C) expanding
- (D) souring

**Q5.** Why does the author mention senior managers who “preach flexibility while clinging to old privileges”?

- (A) To praise leaders who protect their traditional entitlements.
- (B) To argue that flexibility is impossible for senior staff.
- (C) To illustrate how inconsistency at the top undermines change.
- (D) To show that privileges motivate employees to change.

**Q6.** Which statement best reflects the author’s view of successful change programmes?

- (A) They treat employees as participants rather than obstacles.
- (B) They rely on the boldest possible strategy.
- (C) They avoid two-way communication to maintain control.
- (D) They celebrate the destination before addressing loss.

### 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 Arctic is warming faster than any other region on Earth, and the reason lies in a self-reinforcing cycle that scientists call a feedback loop. Sea ice is bright and reflective, bouncing most of the sunlight that strikes it back into space. Open ocean water, by contrast, is dark and absorbs that energy. As the climate warms and ice melts, more dark



water is exposed, which absorbs more heat, which melts still more ice. This mechanism, known as the ice-albedo feedback, helps explain why Arctic temperatures have risen at roughly three to four times the global average.

The consequences reach far beyond the polar region. Diminished ice alters the temperature difference between the Arctic and the mid-latitudes, and some researchers argue that this weakens the jet stream, the fast river of air that steers weather systems. A more sluggish, meandering jet stream can lock weather patterns in place, prolonging heat-waves, cold snaps, and floods thousands of kilometres away. The Arctic, in this sense, is not a remote curiosity but a lever on the climate of entire continents.

Feedback loops are troubling precisely because they can accelerate change beyond the pace of the original trigger. A modest initial warming sets in motion processes that amplify it, and the system may pass thresholds that are difficult to reverse. Melting permafrost, for instance, releases methane and carbon dioxide long stored in frozen soil, adding further warming to the cycle. Understanding these loops is essential, for they mean that emissions today commit the planet to changes that will continue to unfold for generations, regardless of later efforts to slow them.

**Q7.** Which title best captures the passage?

- (A) The History of Arctic Exploration
- (B) Why Ocean Water Is Darker Than Ice
- (C) The Failure of Global Climate Agreements
- (D) Self-Reinforcing Cycles and the Warming Arctic

**Q8.** According to the passage, why does open ocean water contribute to warming?

- (A) It reflects most sunlight back into space.
- (B) It is dark and absorbs the sun's energy.
- (C) It freezes more quickly than ice melts.
- (D) It releases methane from the seabed.

**Q9.** In the passage, the word “sluggish” most nearly means

- (A) slow-moving
- (B) transparent
- (C) powerful



(D) unpredictable

**Q10.** It can be inferred from the passage that the ice-albedo feedback is dangerous chiefly because

- (A) it only affects the polar region.
- (B) it reflects sunlight too efficiently.
- (C) it causes warming to amplify itself once begun.
- (D) it can be easily reversed with modest effort.

**Q11.** The author mentions melting permafrost in order to

- (A) suggest the Arctic is recovering.
- (B) give another example of a warming feedback.
- (C) explain why the jet stream weakens.
- (D) argue that methane cools the atmosphere.

**Q12.** Which statement best reflects the passage's concluding point?

- (A) Later efforts can quickly undo the warming already triggered.
- (B) The Arctic has little effect on distant continents.
- (C) Feedback loops slow change to a manageable pace.
- (D) Present emissions commit the planet to changes lasting generations.

### 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 novel, so familiar today that it seems a natural form, was in fact a comparatively late invention. Ancient and medieval readers had epics, romances, and moral tales, but these dealt in heroes, allegories, and marvels rather than in the ordinary textures of private life. What distinguished the novel, as it emerged in Europe during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, was its attention to individuals moving through a recognizable, everyday world, their choices shaped by money, marriage, and social ambition rather than by fate or the gods.

Several conditions made this shift possible. The spread of printing lowered the cost



of books, while rising literacy, especially among the urban middle classes, created a readership hungry for stories about people like themselves. A growing sense of the individual as a distinct psychological being encouraged writers to explore inner motive and moral doubt. The result was a literature less concerned with what ought to happen than with what plausibly might, told in prose that mimicked the rhythms of actual speech and observation.

Critics have long debated where to locate the form's true beginning, and no single answer satisfies everyone. Some point to Cervantes, whose wandering knight gently mocks the older romances he cannot stop imitating; others to the English writers who anchored their tales in dates, addresses, and household accounts, lending fiction the appearance of fact. What matters is not the crowning of a founder but the recognition that the novel answered a new appetite. It offered readers a mirror in which the private, uncertain, and unheroic business of ordinary living could, for the first time, be taken seriously as a subject worthy of art.

- Q13.** Which best expresses the central idea of the passage?
- (A) The novel was a relatively recent form that arose to depict ordinary individual life.
  - (B) The novel is a natural literary form that has always existed.
  - (C) Cervantes single-handedly invented the modern novel.
  - (D) Epics and romances were artistically superior to early novels.
- Q14.** According to the passage, epics and medieval tales differed from novels in that they
- (A) focused on money, marriage, and social ambition.
  - (B) were written in plain, speech-like prose.
  - (C) dealt in heroes, allegories, and marvels rather than everyday life.
  - (D) were aimed at the urban middle classes.
- Q15.** Which of the following is cited as a condition that made the novel possible?
- (A) A sharp decline in urban literacy.
  - (B) The spread of printing and rising middle-class literacy.



- (C) A renewed literary interest in gods and fate.
- (D) The disappearance of the printing press.

**Q16.** In the passage, the word “anchored” most nearly means

- (A) concealed
- (B) exaggerated
- (C) mocked
- (D) grounded

**Q17.** The author refers to Cervantes’s “wandering knight” primarily to

- (A) prove Cervantes founded the novel beyond dispute.
- (B) argue that romances were more realistic than novels.
- (C) illustrate one candidate for the novel’s origin who parodies older romance.
- (D) show that novels rejected all forms of humour.

**Q18.** Which statement best reflects the author’s conclusion about the novel’s origins?

- (A) Identifying a single founder matters less than recognizing the new appetite the novel served.
- (B) The novel’s true founder can be identified with certainty.
- (C) The novel failed to take ordinary life seriously.
- (D) Readers of the period preferred heroic tales to realistic ones.

### 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.*

The transition to electric vehicles is often described as inevitable, yet inevitability is a poor guide to timing. Whether drivers switch quickly or slowly depends on a tangle of factors that engineering alone cannot resolve. Battery costs have fallen dramatically over the past decade, narrowing the price gap with petrol cars, and in several markets



electric models are already cheaper to run. Still, the sticker price at purchase weighs more heavily on buyers than the savings spread across years of ownership, and this psychological bias slows adoption even where the long-term economics are favourable. Infrastructure poses a second obstacle. A driver with a garage and a home charger experiences an electric car as effortless, plugging in overnight as one might a phone. A driver who relies on street parking or long motorway journeys confronts a patchier reality, where charging points may be scarce, occupied, or broken. Until public networks feel as dependable as filling stations, so-called range anxiety will linger, whatever the actual capacity of the battery.

Policy shapes the pace as well. Subsidies, tax breaks, and rules that phase out combustion engines can pull demand forward, while their abrupt removal can stall a market overnight. Yet governments face a delicate balance: support that is too generous drains public budgets and rewards buyers who would have switched anyway, while support withdrawn too soon leaves the transition half-finished. The adoption of electric vehicles, then, is not a simple technological upgrade but a social process, negotiated among manufacturers, governments, and millions of individual households. Its speed will be decided less by what is possible than by what people find convenient, affordable, and trustworthy.

**Q19.** Which best captures the main point of the passage?

- (A) Electric vehicles will never replace petrol cars.
- (B) The pace of electric-vehicle adoption depends on economic, infrastructural, and policy factors, not engineering alone.
- (C) Battery technology is the only barrier to electric-vehicle adoption.
- (D) Government subsidies are always harmful to electric-vehicle markets.

**Q20.** According to the passage, why does the purchase price slow adoption even when running costs are low?

- (A) Because electric cars are more expensive to run over time.
- (B) Because battery prices have not fallen at all.
- (C) Because governments tax electric cars heavily at purchase.
- (D) Because buyers weigh the upfront price more heavily than savings spread over years.



- Q21.** In the passage, the word “patchier” most nearly means
- (A) less consistent
  - (B) more colourful
  - (C) more expensive
  - (D) more advanced
- Q22.** It can be inferred that “range anxiety” will persist until
- (A) all cars are fitted with much larger batteries.
  - (B) petrol becomes prohibitively expensive.
  - (C) public charging networks feel as reliable as filling stations.
  - (D) governments ban the installation of home chargers.
- Q23.** The passage suggests that overly generous subsidies are problematic because they
- (A) always fail to increase demand.
  - (B) strain public budgets and reward buyers who would have switched anyway.
  - (C) make electric cars technically inferior.
  - (D) accelerate adoption far too slowly.
- Q24.** Which statement best reflects the author’s concluding attitude toward electric-vehicle adoption?
- (A) It is a purely technological upgrade decided by engineers.
  - (B) It is inevitable and will happen at a predictable speed.
  - (C) It depends only on falling battery costs.
  - (D) It is a social process whose speed hinges on convenience, affordability, and trust.

### 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.*



In an age of abundant information, the truly scarce resource is human attention, and a vast industry has grown up to capture it. Platforms that appear to offer their services for free are in fact financed by advertising, which means their real product is not the content we consume but the hours we spend looking at it. Every design choice, from the endless scroll to the notification that lights up a phone, is tuned to keep us engaged a little longer, because each additional minute can be measured, packaged, and sold.

This arrangement is not sinister by intent so much as relentless by logic. Companies compete for the same limited pool of attention, and any firm that hesitates to exploit a persuasive technique risks losing ground to a rival that will not. The result is an escalating contest in which the most compelling stimulus wins, whether or not it serves the user's deeper interests. Outrage, novelty, and interruption tend to prevail, because they reliably provoke a response, while quieter and more demanding material struggles to compete.

Critics warn that the costs are subtle but real. When attention is continually fragmented, the capacity for sustained thought, deep reading, and patient conversation may erode. Some argue that the remedy lies with individuals, who can reclaim their focus through discipline and better habits. Others insist that the imbalance of power is too great, and that only changes in how these systems are designed or regulated will make a difference. What both sides share is a conviction that attention is not a trivial commodity but the very medium in which we think, and that how we spend it shapes the kind of people we become.

**Q25.** Which best states the central argument of the passage?

- (A) In an information-rich age, human attention has become a scarce resource that an industry is built to capture.
- (B) Free platforms genuinely provide their services without any commercial motive.
- (C) Advertising has no influence on how platforms are designed.
- (D) Human attention is an unlimited and essentially trivial resource.

**Q26.** According to the passage, what is the “real product” of free platforms?

- (A) The content that users consume.
- (B) The subscription fees users pay.
- (C) The time and attention users spend looking.
- (D) The devices that users own.



- Q27.** The passage implies that persuasive design techniques spread across companies because
- (A) regulators require every firm to use them.
  - (B) any firm that refuses to use them risks losing ground to rivals.
  - (C) users explicitly request more notifications.
  - (D) they reduce a platform’s advertising revenue.
- Q28.** Why, according to the passage, do outrage and novelty tend to prevail?
- (A) Because they reliably provoke a response and thus win the contest for attention.
  - (B) Because they serve the user’s deeper interests.
  - (C) Because quieter material has been formally banned.
  - (D) Because advertisers actively dislike them.
- Q29.** In the passage, the word “erode” most nearly means
- (A) strengthen
  - (B) accelerate
  - (C) illuminate
  - (D) wear away
- Q30.** Which statement best reflects what both sides of the debate share, according to the author?
- (A) They believe attention is a trivial commodity.
  - (B) They agree that regulation alone can solve the problem.
  - (C) They hold that attention is the medium in which we think and shapes who we become.
  - (D) They deny that fragmented attention has any real cost.



**Detailed Solutions**

Q1.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** Find the single claim that the whole passage exists to support, not one supporting detail.

**Passage support:** The opening line says firms fail “not because they lack a plan” but because they underestimate their people. The closing line says the best firms are “not those with the boldest strategy but those that treat their people as participants.” The people-over-plan thread runs through every paragraph.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage explicitly says failure is not caused by lacking a plan.
- Option C: The text denies workers are obstinate; it says habits feel safe.
- Option D: Redrawing structures is called the “technical” part, not the reliable route.

**Final Answer:** People matter more than strategy ⇒ **B**

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

Q2.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail retrieval:** Match the question to the exact clause that gives the stated reason.

**Passage support:** The first paragraph states habits become resistance “not because workers are obstinate, but because familiar practices feel safe when the future looks uncertain.” This directly names uncertainty and safety as the cause.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage denies conscious sabotage.
- Option B: Inefficiency of the habits is never claimed; they once “delivered results.”
- Option D: No reward for old routines is mentioned.

**Final Answer:** Familiar practices feel safe under uncertainty ⇒ **C**

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q2](#)



Q3.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Draw the conclusion the text logically implies without overstating it.

**Passage support:** The second paragraph says people “need to grieve the competence they are being asked to surrender” before they can embrace new ways. Acknowledging loss is thus a precondition for adoption.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: Slowing the process is not presented as the benefit.
- Option C: Financial compensation is never mentioned.
- Option D: Postponing decisions contradicts the aim of moving people forward.

**Final Answer:** Loss must be processed before renewal ⇒

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

Q4.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Read the surrounding phrase and choose the meaning that fits the sentence’s direction.

**Passage support:** The phrase is “enthusiasm curdling into cynicism.” Enthusiasm turning into cynicism is a spoiling, a turn for the worse, exactly like milk curdling.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Strengthening is the opposite of the decline described.
- Option B: Clarifying has no link to the negative shift.
- Option C: Expanding does not capture the turn to cynicism.

**Final Answer:** Curdling means souring ⇒

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q4](#)



Q5.

**Solution**

**Concept — Author’s purpose:** Ask what job the example does inside the argument.

**Passage support:** The managers who “preach flexibility while clinging to old privileges” are given as a case where “the contradiction is noticed instantly and imitated widely.” The example shows how inconsistency at the top damages change.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The author criticises, not praises, such leaders.
- Option B: The point is not that flexibility is impossible for them.
- Option D: Privileges are shown to undermine, not motivate, change.

**Final Answer:** It illustrates damaging inconsistency at the top ⇒

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

Q6.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference / tone:** Select the view the author endorses in the closing lines.

**Passage support:** The final sentence says the firms that manage change well “treat their people as participants rather than obstacles.” This is the author’s stated ideal.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: The author says the best firms are not those with the boldest strategy.
- Option C: Two-way communication is praised, not avoided.
- Option D: Celebrating before addressing loss is criticised as a mistake.

**Final Answer:** Treat people as participants ⇒

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



Q7.

**Solution**

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

**Passage support:** The passage explains a “self-reinforcing cycle” that makes the Arctic warm faster than anywhere else. Both the mechanism and its wide consequences are about self-amplifying warming in the Arctic.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Exploration history is never discussed.
- Option B: The ice-versus-water contrast is only one detail.
- Option C: Climate agreements are not mentioned at all.

**Final Answer:** Self-reinforcing cycles and the warming Arctic ⇒ **D**

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

Q8.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail retrieval:** Locate the sentence that states the physical reason directly.

**Passage support:** The passage says open ocean water “is dark and absorbs that energy,” in contrast to bright reflective ice. Absorbed energy is what drives the extra warming.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Reflecting sunlight describes ice, not open water.
- Option C: Faster freezing is not stated and reverses the process.
- Option D: Methane from the seabed is not attributed to open water here.

**Final Answer:** Dark water absorbs the sun’s energy ⇒ **B**

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q8](#)



Q9.

**Solution**

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

**Passage support:** The phrase is “a more sluggish, meandering jet stream” that “can lock weather patterns in place.” A jet stream that locks patterns is slow-moving.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: Transparent has nothing to do with speed of air.
- Option C: Powerful is the opposite of a weakened jet stream.
- Option D: Unpredictable does not match “meandering” and slow.

**Final Answer:** Sluggish means slow-moving ⇒

[Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Combine the mechanism with the warning about feedback loops.

**Passage support:** The loop melts ice, exposes dark water, absorbs heat, and “melts still more ice.” The passage adds that a modest warming “sets in motion processes that amplify it.” So the danger is self-amplification once the cycle starts.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage says consequences reach far beyond the pole.
- Option B: Reflecting sunlight is not the danger; absorbing it is.
- Option D: The text says thresholds are “difficult to reverse.”

**Final Answer:** Warming amplifies itself once begun ⇒

[Go Back to Q10](#)



Q11.

**Solution**

**Concept — Function of a detail:** Ask why the writer inserts the permafrost example.

**Passage support:** Permafrost is introduced with “for instance,” right after the claim that feedback loops amplify warming. Melting permafrost “releases methane and carbon dioxide,” “adding further warming to the cycle,” so it is a second illustration of a warming feedback.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: It signals more warming, not recovery.
- Option C: It is unrelated to the jet-stream explanation.
- Option D: The gases add warming; they do not cool.

**Final Answer:** Another example of a warming feedback ⇒ **B**

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

Q12.

**Solution**

**Concept — Conclusion / inference:** Identify the takeaway of the final sentence.

**Passage support:** The passage ends by saying “emissions today commit the planet to changes that will continue to unfold for generations, regardless of later efforts to slow them.” That is the concluding point.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The text says later efforts cannot quickly undo the change.
- Option B: The Arctic is called “a lever on the climate of entire continents.”
- Option C: Feedback loops accelerate change; they do not slow it.

**Final Answer:** Emissions commit the planet for generations ⇒ **D**

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



Q13.

**Solution**

**Concept — Central idea:** Capture the thesis that unites all three paragraphs.

**Passage support:** The passage opens by calling the novel “a comparatively late invention” and defines it by “attention to individuals moving through a recognizable, everyday world.” The recent-form-for-ordinary-life idea threads throughout.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: The passage explicitly denies the novel always existed.
- Option C: Cervantes is only one debated candidate, not the sole inventor.
- Option D: No claim of artistic superiority for epics is made.

**Final Answer:** A recent form depicting ordinary life ⇒

[Go Back to Q13](#)

Q14.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail retrieval:** Find the contrast the passage draws between older forms and novels.

**Passage support:** Epics, romances, and moral tales “dealt in heroes, allegories, and marvels rather than in the ordinary textures of private life.” That is the stated difference.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Money, marriage, and ambition describe the novel, not the older forms.
- Option B: Speech-like prose describes the novel.
- Option D: The middle-class readership belongs to the novel’s rise.

**Final Answer:** Heroes, allegories, and marvels, not everyday life ⇒

[Go Back to Q14](#)



Q15.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail / cause:** Pick the enabling condition the text actually names.

**Passage support:** The second paragraph says “the spread of printing lowered the cost of books, while rising literacy, especially among the urban middle classes,” created a new readership. Both printing and middle-class literacy are named as conditions.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Literacy rose; it did not decline.
- Option C: The novel moved away from gods and fate.
- Option D: Printing spread; the press did not disappear.

**Final Answer:** Printing plus rising middle-class literacy ⇒  B

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

Q16.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Judge the word by what the writers did to their tales.

**Passage support:** English writers “anchored their tales in dates, addresses, and household accounts, lending fiction the appearance of fact.” To anchor a tale in concrete detail is to ground it.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Concealed contradicts giving fiction the look of fact.
- Option B: Exaggerated is not implied by concrete detail.
- Option C: Mocked describes Cervantes, not these writers.

**Final Answer:** Anchored means grounded ⇒  D

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



Q17.

**Solution**

**Concept — Author's purpose:** Determine the role the Cervantes reference plays.

**Passage support:** Cervantes is offered as one side of a debate: some “point to Cervantes, whose wandering knight gently mocks the older romances he cannot stop imitating.” He is a candidate for the origin who parodies romance.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage says no single founder satisfies everyone.
- Option B: It does not claim romances were more realistic.
- Option D: The knight “gently mocks,” so humour is present, not rejected.

**Final Answer:** A debated origin who parodies romance ⇒

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

Q18.

**Solution**

**Concept — Conclusion / tone:** Read the closing sentences for the author's settled view.

**Passage support:** The passage says “what matters is not the crowning of a founder but the recognition that the novel answered a new appetite.” The new appetite, not the founder, is what counts.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: The author says no founder can be fixed with certainty.
- Option C: The novel took ordinary life “seriously as a subject worthy of art.”
- Option D: No preference for heroic tales is asserted.

**Final Answer:** The new appetite matters more than a founder ⇒

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



Q19.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main point:** Choose the statement covering all the forces the passage lists.

**Passage support:** The passage says timing “depends on a tangle of factors that engineering alone cannot resolve,” then treats economics, infrastructure, and policy in turn. The main point is that many non-engineering factors set the pace.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage treats the switch as real, just uncertain in timing.
- Option C: Battery cost is one factor, not the only barrier.
- Option D: Subsidies are shown as a balance, not always harmful.

**Final Answer:** Adoption depends on economics, infrastructure, and policy ⇒ **B**

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

Q20.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail retrieval:** Trace the psychological bias the passage names.

**Passage support:** The passage says “the sticker price at purchase weighs more heavily on buyers than the savings spread across years of ownership.” Upfront cost dominates long-run savings in the buyer’s mind.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The text says electric cars are often cheaper to run.
- Option B: Battery costs “have fallen dramatically.”
- Option C: A heavy purchase tax on electric cars is not stated.

**Final Answer:** Upfront price outweighs long-run savings ⇒ **D**

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



Q21.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Read “patchier” against the reliable-charging contrast.

**Passage support:** The driver without a home charger “confronts a patchier reality, where charging points may be scarce, occupied, or broken.” Scarce, occupied, or broken points describe an unreliable, less consistent experience.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: Colourful has no bearing on charging reliability.
- Option C: Expense is not the point of “patchier” here.
- Option D: Advanced is the opposite of scarce and broken.

**Final Answer:** Patchier means less consistent ⇒ **A**

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

Q22.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Identify the condition the text ties to the fading of range anxiety.

**Passage support:** The passage says “until public networks feel as dependable as filling stations, so-called range anxiety will linger, whatever the actual capacity of the battery.” So the anxiety persists until public charging feels as reliable as filling stations.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The text says battery capacity is not the deciding factor.
- Option B: Petrol price is not linked to range anxiety.
- Option D: Banning home chargers is never suggested.

**Final Answer:** Until charging feels as reliable as filling stations ⇒ **C**

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



Q23.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail / reasoning:** Find the drawback the passage attaches to over-generous support.

**Passage support:** The passage says support “that is too generous drains public budgets and rewards buyers who would have switched anyway.” Both costs are stated plainly.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Subsidies can “pull demand forward,” so they do raise demand.
- Option C: Technical inferiority is unrelated to subsidies.
- Option D: Generous support speeds adoption; it does not slow it.

**Final Answer:** They drain budgets and reward switchers anyway ⇒ **B**

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

Q24.

**Solution**

**Concept — Tone / conclusion:** Read the last sentence for the author’s overall stance.

**Passage support:** The passage concludes that adoption is “not a simple technological upgrade but a social process,” whose speed depends on “what people find convenient, affordable, and trustworthy.” That is the author’s closing attitude.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The text says it is not a purely technological upgrade.
- Option B: The opening warns inevitability is a poor guide to timing.
- Option C: Battery cost is one factor among several, not the sole one.

**Final Answer:** A social process resting on convenience, cost, trust ⇒ **D**

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



Q25.

**Solution**

**Concept — Central argument:** State the thesis the whole passage develops.

**Passage support:** The opening sentence says “the truly scarce resource is human attention, and a vast industry has grown up to capture it.” Everything after explains how that capture works.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: Free platforms are financed by advertising, so there is a commercial motive.
- Option C: Advertising shapes “every design choice.”
- Option D: Attention is called scarce and the medium of thought, not trivial.

**Final Answer:** Scarce attention captured by an industry ⇒

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

Q26.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail retrieval:** Quote the exact phrase that defines the “real product.”

**Passage support:** The passage says the real product “is not the content we consume but the hours we spend looking at it.” The product is our time and attention.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Content is explicitly ruled out as the product.
- Option B: The platforms are free, so there are no subscription fees.
- Option D: Devices are never called the product.

**Final Answer:** The time and attention users spend ⇒

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



Q27.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Follow the competitive logic the passage lays out.

**Passage support:** The passage says “any firm that hesitates to exploit a persuasive technique risks losing ground to a rival that will not.” Competition forces every firm to adopt the techniques.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The spread is driven by competition, not regulators.
- Option C: Users are not shown requesting notifications.
- Option D: The techniques raise engagement and revenue, not reduce it.

**Final Answer:** Refusing them risks losing ground to rivals ⇒

[Go Back to Q27](#)

Q28.

**Solution**

**Concept — Detail / inference:** Match the stated reason outrage and novelty win.

**Passage support:** The passage says outrage, novelty, and interruption “tend to prevail, because they reliably provoke a response.” Provoking a response is what wins the contest for attention.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: The text says the winning stimulus may not serve deeper interests.
- Option C: Quieter material “struggles to compete,” but it is not banned.
- Option D: Advertisers benefit from engagement, not dislike it.

**Final Answer:** They reliably provoke a response ⇒

[Go Back to Q28](#)



Q29.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Read “erode” against the loss it describes.

**Passage support:** The passage warns that “the capacity for sustained thought, deep reading, and patient conversation may erode.” A capacity that erodes is one that wears away or diminishes.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Strengthen is the opposite of the decline warned about.
- Option B: Accelerate does not fit a loss of capacity.
- Option C: Illuminate is unrelated to wearing down.

**Final Answer:** Erode means wear away ⇒

[Go Back to Q29](#)

Q30.

**Solution**

**Concept — Conclusion / tone:** Find the common ground the author says both sides share.

**Passage support:** The final sentence says both sides share “a conviction that attention is not a trivial commodity but the very medium in which we think, and that how we spend it shapes the kind of people we become.” That shared conviction is the answer.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Both sides reject the idea that attention is trivial.
- Option B: Regulation is only one side’s proposed remedy.
- Option D: Both sides accept the costs are real.

**Final Answer:** Attention is the medium of thought that shapes us ⇒

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## Answer Key

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

