

VARC CAT 2025 Slot 1 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :120 Minutes	Maximum Marks :204	Total Questions :68
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The total duration of the test is **120 Minutes**, with **40 minutes** allotted per section.
2. The question paper is divided into **three sections**:
 - **Section 1:** Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VARC) – 24 questions
 - **Section 2:** Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning (DILR) – 22 questions
 - **Section 3:** Quantitative Aptitude (QA) – 22 questions
3. Each correct answer carries **+3 marks**.
4. For multiple-choice questions (MCQs), **–1 mark** will be deducted for each wrong answer.
5. There is **no negative marking** for Type-in-the-Answer (TITA) questions.

1. Five jumbled sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5), related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence out and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.

1. Developments both technological and sociocultural have afforded us far greater freedom over death than we had in the past, and while we are still adapting ourselves to that freedom, we now appreciate the moral importance of this freedom.
2. But I believe that a type of freedom we can call freedom over death – that is, a freedom in which we shape the timing and circumstances of how we die – should be central to this conversation.
3. Legalising assisted dying is but a further step in realising this freedom over death.
4. Many people endorse, through their opinions or their choices, our freedom over death encompassing a right to medical assistance in hastening our deaths.
5. Freedom is a notoriously complex and contested philosophical notion, and I won't pretend to settle any of the big controversies it raises.

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the coherent paragraph.

The coherent paragraph is formed by the sequence:

$$5 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3.$$

Sentence 5 introduces the broad philosophical idea of freedom and sets the context.

Sentence 2 uses the transition word “But,” narrowing the discussion specifically to “freedom over death,” a term formally defined here for the first time.

Sentence 4 logically expands on this definition by describing how people interpret or endorse this specific freedom.

Sentence 3 concludes by showing the institutional/legal step—legalising assisted dying—that would help realise this freedom.

Quick Tip

To find the odd sentence in para-jumbles, look for breaks in: - Concept introduction order - Logical progression - Thematic consistency A sentence that introduces a concept too early or disrupts flow is usually the odd one out.

2. Comprehension: The passage below is accompanied by four questions. Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.

Often the well intentioned music lover or the traditionally-minded professional composer asks two basic questions when faced with the electronic music phenomena: (1) . . . is this type of artistic creation music at all? and, (2) given that the product is accepted as music of a new type or order, is not such music “inhuman”? . . . As Lejaren Hiller points out in his book *Experimental Music* (co-author Leonard M. Isaacson), two questions which often arise when music is discussed are: (a) the substance of musical communication and its symbolic and semantic significance, if any, and (b) the particular processes, both mental and technical, which are involved in creating and responding to musical composition. The ever-present popular concept of music as a direct, open, emotional expression and as a subjective form of communication from the composer, is, of course still that of the nineteenth century, when composers themselves spoke of music in those terms . . . But since the third decade of our century many composers have preferred more objective definitions of music, epitomized in Stravinsky’s description of it as “a form of speculation in terms of sound and time”. An acceptance of this more characteristic twentieth- century view of the art of musical composition will of course immediately bring the layman closer to an understanding of, and sympathetic response to, electronic music, even if the forms, sounds and approaches it uses will still be of a foreign nature to him.

A communication problem however will still remain. The principal barrier that electronic music presents at large, in relation to the communication process, is that composers in this medium are employing a new language of forms . . . where terms like ‘densities’, ‘indefinite pitch relations’, ‘dynamic serialization’, ‘permutation’, etc., are substitutes (or remote equivalents) for the traditional concepts of harmony, melody, rhythm, etc. . . . When the new structural procedures of electronic music are at last fully understood by the listener the barriers between him and the work he faces will be removed. . . .

The medium of electronic music has of course tempted many kinds of composers to try their hand at it . . . But the serious-minded composer approaches the world of electronic music with a more sophisticated and profound concept of creation. Although he knows that he can

reproduce and employ melodic, rhythmic patterns and timbres of a traditional nature, he feels that it is in the exploration of *sui generis* languages and forms that the aesthetic magic of the new medium lies. And, conscientiously, he plunges into this search.

The second objection usually levelled against electronic music is much more innocent in nature. When people speak—sometimes very vehemently—of the ‘inhuman’ quality of this music they seem to forget that the composer is the one who fires the machines, collects the sounds, manipulates them, pushes the buttons, programs the computer, filters the sounds, establishes pitches and scales, splices tape, thinks of forms, and rounds up the over-all structure of the piece, as well as every detail of it.

Q.2 The goal of the author over the course of this passage is to:

- (1) differentiate the modern composer from the nineteenth century composer.
- (2) differentiate between electronic music and other forms of music.
- (3) defend the “serious-minded composer” from Lejaren Hill and Stravinsky.
- (4) defend electronic music from certain common charges.

Correct Answer: (4) defend electronic music from certain common charges.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the main concerns discussed in the passage.

At the beginning, the author lists two common doubts about electronic music: whether it is music at all, and whether it is “inhuman”. These are clearly “charges” or objections raised against electronic music.

Step 2: Observe how the author responds to these doubts.

The author explains that:

- electronic music uses a new language and new forms, which creates a communication gap, and
- despite the machines involved, the human composer is still the one making all the creative decisions (collecting sounds, programming, choosing forms, etc.).

Both points are meant to show that electronic music is understandable as music and is not inhuman.

Step 3: Match this with the options.

- Option (1) mentions the difference between modern and nineteenth-century composers. This is referred to, but only as a supporting point, not the main goal.
- Option (2) speaks of differentiating between electronic and other music. The author does compare them, but again only to answer the objections.
- Option (3) is incorrect, because Lejaren Hiller and Stravinsky are cited as references, not as attackers.
- Option (4) correctly captures the overall purpose: the author aims to defend electronic music against the charges that it is not real music and that it is inhuman.

Hence, the best answer is **Option (4)**.

Quick Tip

For “main goal” or “purpose” questions in reading comprehension, focus on:

- the opening problem or question raised,
- the author’s repeated emphasis or defence, and
- how the passage concludes.

These usually reveal what the author is *really* trying to do.

3. What relation does the “communication problem” mentioned in paragraph 2 have to the questions that the author recounts at the beginning of the passage?

- (1) Unfamiliar forms and terms might get in the way of our seeing electronic music as music, but this can be overcome.
- (2) Its unfamiliar “language of forms” and novel terms mean that we cannot see electronic music as music since it does not employ traditional musical concepts.
- (3) None; they are unrelated to one another and form parts of different discussions.
- (4) The communication problem is what allows us to see electronic music as music because music must be difficult to understand.

Correct Answer: (1)

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the initial questions mentioned in paragraph 1.

The author reports two common doubts about electronic music:

- Is electronic music really music?
- Is it “inhuman”?

Step 2: Understand the “communication problem” in paragraph 2.

The author explains that electronic music uses new structures and a “new language of forms” — terms like “densities,” “dynamic serialization,” “permutation,” etc. These unfamiliar concepts make it harder for the listener to understand the music at first.

Step 3: Connect the communication problem with the initial questions.

Because electronic music uses unfamiliar terminology and structures, a listener might initially feel that it is not “music” in the traditional sense. However, the author clearly states that *once the listener understands these new structural procedures, the barriers will be removed*. This means the communication problem is temporary and can be overcome.

Step 4: Match with the options.

- **Option (1)** correctly states that unfamiliar forms and terms can hinder our ability to recognize electronic music as music, but that this obstacle is removable.

- Option (2) incorrectly claims that the new language makes understanding impossible. The author says the opposite.
- Option (3) is incorrect because the communication problem directly relates to the question “is this music at all?”
- Option (4) is incorrect because the author never claims that difficulty is necessary for something to be considered music.

Thus, the best answer is **Option (1)**.

Quick Tip

When relating ideas across paragraphs, look for:

- repeated themes,
- restated concerns,
- explanatory links that address earlier questions.

This helps identify how later sections resolve earlier doubts.

4. The mention of Stravinsky’s description of music in the first paragraph does all the following EXCEPT:

- (1) help us determine which sounds are musical and which are not.
- (2) respond to and expand upon earlier understandings of music.
- (3) complicate our notion of what is communicated through music.
- (4) allow us to classify electronic music as music.

Correct Answer: (1)

Solution:

Step 1: Identify why Stravinsky is introduced.

Stravinsky is cited as an example of a twentieth-century composer who favored an *objective* definition of music:

“a form of speculation in terms of sound and time.”

This contrasts with the nineteenth-century emotional, subjective definition of music.

Step 2: Determine the role this shift plays in the passage.

The author uses Stravinsky’s viewpoint to:

- show that definitions of music have evolved over time (supporting option 2),
- help readers adjust to a more modern framework for understanding electronic music (supporting option 4),
- shift the idea of music away from emotional communication to something more structural and speculative, thereby complicating what “communication” in music means (supporting option 3).

Step 3: Identify what Stravinsky’s definition does *not* do.

Stravinsky’s definition does not help us *determine which specific sounds are musical and which are not*. It redefines the concept of music, but does not offer criteria for labeling sounds as music or non-music.

Thus, option (1) is the statement that Stravinsky’s description does *not* achieve.

Quick Tip

For “EXCEPT” questions, verify three options that the passage clearly supports. The remaining option—unsupported or contradicted—is the correct answer.

5. From the context in which it is placed, the phrase “sui generis” in paragraph 3 suggests which one of the following?

- (1) Particular
- (2) Generic
- (3) Unaesthetic
- (4) Indescribable

Correct Answer: (1) Particular

Solution:

Step 1: Examine the phrase in context.

In paragraph 3, the author says that the serious-minded composer believes that the “aesthetic magic” of electronic music lies in exploring *sui generis* languages and forms.

Step 2: Understand the contextual meaning.

The context makes it clear that the composer is not simply using familiar musical structures but is deliberately creating or discovering forms that are:

- new,
- unique,
- original,
- distinctive to electronic music.

Step 3: Evaluate the options.

- (1) **Particular** — fits well because *sui generis* means “of its own kind,” “unique,” or “particular to itself.”
- (2) **Generic** — opposite of the intended meaning.
- (3) **Unaesthetic** — the passage describes the forms as aesthetically magical, not unaesthetic.
- (4) **Indescribable** — the passage never suggests they cannot be described; only that they are unique.

Thus, the meaning conveyed is best represented by **Option (1)**.

Quick Tip

To understand unfamiliar phrases, always rely on the *surrounding explanation*. Words like *sui generis* typically signal uniqueness, not vagueness or generality.

6. The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4) given below, when properly sequenced, would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the four sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer.

1. It can in fact be integrated into any function (education, medical treatment, production, punishment); it can increase the effect of this function, by being linked closely with it; it can constitute a mixed mechanism in which relations of power (and of knowledge) may be precisely adjusted, in the smallest detail, to the processes that are to be supervised; it can establish a direct proportion between 'surplus power' and 'surplus production'.
2. It's a case of 'it's easy once you've thought of it' in the political sphere.
3. The panoptic mechanism is not simply a hinge, a point of exchange between a mechanism of power and a function; it is a way of making power relations function in a function, and of making a function function through these power relations.
4. In short, it arranges things in such a way that the exercise of power is not added on from the outside, like a rigid, heavy constraint, to the functions it invests, but is so subtly present in them as to increase their efficiency by itself increasing its own points of contact.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the introductory sentence.

Sentence **3** clearly introduces and defines the central concept: *the panoptic mechanism*. It explains what it is and how it operates. This must be the opening.

Step 2: Find the elaboration.

Sentence **1** expands directly on sentence 3 by giving concrete details about how the panoptic mechanism integrates into various functions (education, production, punishment, etc.). Thus, **1** logically follows **3**.

Step 3: Identify the concluding summary.

Sentence **4** begins with "In short," signalling a summary of what has just been described. It synthesizes the ideas in 1 and 3, explaining the subtlety with which power operates.

Step 4: Place the standalone evaluative remark.

Sentence **2** ("It's a case of 'it's easy once you've thought of it'...") is a reflective commentary. It fits naturally as a concluding observation *after* the explanation and summary.

Thus, the correct logical sequence is:

3	1	4	2
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Quick Tip

For para-jumbles, look for:

- the *definition or introduction* of the central idea (usually first),
- *examples or elaborations* (middle),
- *summary markers* like “in short” (near the end),
- reflective comments or opinions (often last).

7. The given sentence is missing in the paragraph below. Decide where it best fits among the options 1, 2, 3, or 4 indicated in the paragraph.

Sentence: “Everything is old-world, traditional techniques from Mexico,” Ava emphasizes.

Paragraph: The sisters embrace the ways their great-grandfather built and repaired instruments.

⁽¹⁾. WhencraftingaMexicanguitarrónusedinmariachimusic,theyusetacotewoodforthetopoftheinstrument.Oncethewoodiscut,theycarvetheneckandh

- (1) Option 1
- (2) Option 4
- (3) Option 2
- (4) Option 3

Correct Answer: (1) Option 1

Solution:

Step 1: Understand what the missing sentence expresses.

The sentence is a direct quote summarizing the sisters’ philosophy: their craftsmanship relies entirely on old-world, traditional Mexican techniques. This is a general description of their approach, not a detail about tools, customers, or business demand.

Step 2: Look for the most logical placement.

The first sentence of the paragraph says: “*The sisters embrace the ways their great-grandfather built and repaired instruments.*” The missing sentence perfectly elaborates on this idea by explaining *what* ways — old-world, traditional Mexican techniques.

Thus, placing the sentence at **(1)** creates a smooth connection between the statement and Ava’s emphasis.

Step 3: Check why the other positions do not fit.

- Position **(2)** comes after a detailed description of carving and tools; inserting a broad philosophy sentence here disrupts the flow from method → belief about tone.
- Position **(3)** is about long waitlists; a statement about traditional techniques does not logically link demand to celebrity clients.
- Position **(4)** precedes a shift to the sisters’ early involvement; again, the quote is unrelated.

Therefore, the best placement is **Option 1**.

Quick Tip

When placing a missing sentence, check whether it provides:

- a general statement → fits early,
- an example or detail → fits after specifics,
- a conclusion → fits near the end.

Match its function to the surrounding lines for smooth coherence.

8. The given sentence is missing in the paragraph below. Decide where it best fits among the options 1, 2, 3, or 4 indicated in the paragraph.

Sentence: Historically, silver has been, and still is, an important element in the business of 'show' visible in private houses, churches, government and diplomacy.

Paragraph:

⁽¹⁾ Timothy Schroder put it succinctly in suggesting that electric light and eating in the kitchen eroded this need. As he explained to the author, 'Silver,

- (1) Option 4
- (2) Option 1
- (3) Option 3
- (4) Option 2

Correct Answer: (3) Option 3

Solution:

Step 1: Examine the meaning of the missing sentence.

The sentence describes silver as historically important for *display* and public "show." This is a general introductory remark about the cultural and social function of silver.

Step 2: Identify where such an introductory sentence would fit.

The very next sentence (after blank 1) says that *electric lighting and kitchen dining eroded this need*. The phrase "this need" refers to the need described in the missing sentence — the need for silver as a symbol of display.

Therefore, the missing sentence must precede this "erosion" explanation, meaning it belongs at Blank (1).

Step 3: Check why other placements don't work.

- Blank (2) follows a detailed point about how silver looks under different lighting; an introductory historical statement would break the flow.
- Blank (3) follows a discussion of the silver market and collectors—again unrelated to historical "show."
- Blank (4) follows information about American museums; inserting the sentence there makes no logical sense.

Thus, the correct position is (1).

Step 4: Map this to the answer choices.

The list of answer choices indicates that:

Option 1 (position 1) \longrightarrow Answer choice (3)

So, the correct answer is (3) Option 1.

Quick Tip

When inserting a sentence, check for pronouns like “this need,” “such,” or “these,” which often refer back to the missing statement. This helps identify the correct position quickly.

9. All of the following inferences are supported by the passage EXCEPT that:

- (1) examples like runs on banks and toilet paper scrambles illustrate how contagion can amplify local choices into system-wide cascades that surprise participants and lead to patterns they did not intend to create.
- (2) learning can change the rules that actors face. So, a rare shock can alter payoffs and raise the odds of subsequent large disturbances within the same system, which supports the idea of second-order tail events.
- (3) heavy-tailed events make extreme outcomes more frequent and larger than bell curve expectations. This complicates forecasting and risk management in collective settings shaped by contagion and copying behaviour.
- (4) the text attributes the COVID-19 pandemic rebound in financial markets solely to displaced sports bettors and treats their entry as the overriding cause of the rapid recovery across assets and time horizons.

Correct Answer: (4)

Solution:

Step 1: Understand what the passage **actually says about each option.**

Option (1): Supported. The passage explicitly uses runs on banks and toilet paper buying to illustrate contagion-driven cascades that produce extreme, unintended system-wide behaviour. Hence, this inference is supported.

Option (2): Supported. The passage discusses **nonstationarity** — how a first-order tail event changes the rules of the system, altering perceived costs and raising the probability of a second-order tail event. This matches the inference stated.

Option (3): Supported. The passage stresses that heavy-tailed distributions produce **more frequent and larger** extreme outcomes than normal distributions, especially in contagion-driven systems. This is directly stated and therefore supported.

Option (4): Not supported (EXCEPT). The passage gives the example that former sports bettors **might have contributed** to market inefficiencies and movements during the COVID-19 rebound. It does not claim:

- that they were the **sole** cause, nor

- that their entry was the **overriding** cause of market recovery.

The authors clearly treat this factor as **one potential contributor**, not the decisive explanation. Thus, Option (4) states something the passage does **not** support and is therefore the correct answer to an EXCEPT question.

Quick Tip

For EXCEPT questions, identify three options clearly grounded in the text. The remaining choice will either overstate, distort, or add claims the passage never makes.

10. Which one of the options below best summarises the passage?

- (1) The passage explains how social outcomes generally follow normal distributions. So, extreme events are negligible, and policy should stabilise averages rather than learn from large shocks in fast-changing collective settings.
- (2) The passage explains how noise can create order, then shows why complex systems with contagion are vulnerable to heavy-tailed cascades. It also explains why early shocks change rules through nonstationarity with a market illustration during the COVID-19 disruption.
- (3) The passage explains how speculative entrants always produce inefficiency after health shocks. Therefore, long-term investors invariably profit when new participants push prices away from fundamentals under pandemic conditions and comparable crises.
- (4) The passage explains how nonstationarity works in evolutionary biology and rejects applications in markets or public health because adaptation is exclusive to parasite-host systems and cannot arise in technology-mediated social dynamics.

Correct Answer: (2)

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the major themes of the passage. The passage covers three core ideas:

- Noise (randomness) in complex systems can surprisingly create **orderly** collective behaviour.
- Complex systems with contagion dynamics are prone to **heavy-tailed** cascades and extreme events.
- **Nonstationarity** explains how early shocks change the rules of the system, illustrated with stock-market behaviour during COVID-19.

A correct summary must incorporate **all three** ideas.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

Option (1): Incorrect. This contradicts the passage. The passage explicitly argues that complex systems **do not** follow normal distributions and that extreme events are **important**, not negligible.

Option (2): Correct. This option accurately reflects:

- the surprising emergence of order from noise,

- the vulnerability of contagion-driven systems to heavy-tailed events,
- the idea of nonstationarity and how early shocks change rules,
- the COVID-19 market example used in the passage.

It is the only option that captures the full scope of the passage.

Option (3): Incorrect. This overstates the passage. The text says speculative entrants *might have* contributed to market movements; it emphatically does *not* say that speculative entrants always cause inefficiency or that long-term investors always profit.

Option (4): Incorrect. This misrepresents the passage entirely. The passage *does not* reject applying nonstationarity to markets or public health; in fact, it *explicitly applies* it to those contexts. The parasite–host example is merely an analogy.

Thus, the best summary is Option (2).

Quick Tip

A good summary option captures all major themes without exaggerating or omitting key ideas. Reject choices that distort or overgeneralise examples used briefly in the passage.

11. Which one of the following observations would most strengthen the passage’s claim that a first-order tail event raises the probability of further tail events in complex systems?

- (1) In epidemic networks, initial super-spreading episodes are isolated spikes after which outbreak sizes match the baseline distribution from independent contact models across comparable cities with no rise in the frequency or size of later extreme clusters.
- (2) River discharge records show water levels fit a normal distribution with thin tails that match laboratory data, regardless of storms or floods.
- (3) After a major equity crash, researchers find dense clusters of large daily moves for several weeks, with extreme days occurring far more often than in normal circumstances for assets with customarily low volatility profiles.
- (4) Following large earthquakes, regional seismic activity returns to baseline within hours with no aftershock sequence once data are adjusted for reporting effects, which suggests independence across events rather than any elevation in subsequent tail probabilities.

Correct Answer: (3)

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the passage’s claim. The passage states that:

- A first-order tail event (a large, rare shock)
- raises the probability of second-order tail events,
- meaning that after the initial shock, extreme events become more frequent.

Thus, we must choose the option showing clusters of extreme events after an initial extreme event.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

Option (1): Weakens the claim. Says tail events remain isolated with no increase afterward — the opposite of what we want.

Option (2): Irrelevant. Describes a normal distribution with thin tails; nothing about successive extreme events.

Option (3): Strongly supports the claim. After a major stock market crash, there are:

- dense clusters of large daily moves,
- extreme events appearing far more often,
- a sustained period of elevated tail risk.

This directly confirms that a first-order tail event increases the probability of further tail events.

Option (4): Weakens the claim. Says seismic activity returns to baseline with no after-shocks — contradicting the idea of second-order tail events.

Thus the best answer is Option (3).

Quick Tip

To strengthen a claim about second-order tail events, look for evidence that extreme events cluster — that one big shock increases the likelihood of more shocks.

12. The passage suggests that contact-tracing apps could inadvertently raise risky interactions by altering local behaviour. Which one of the assumptions below is most necessary for that suggestion to hold?

- (1) Most users uninstall apps within a week, which leaves only highly exposed individuals participating. This neutralises any systematic bias in routing decisions and prevents any predictable change in aggregate contact patterns.
- (2) Individuals base movement choices partly on observed infections and on the behaviour of others. So, local responses interact, which turns many small adjustments into large scale patterns that can frustrate the intended aim of risk reduction.
- (3) App alerts always include precise location to within one metre and deliver real time updates for all users, which ensures that the data feed is perfectly accurate regardless of privacy settings, power limits, or network conditions.
- (4) Urban networks have uniform traffic conditions at all hours, which allows perfectly predictable routing independent of personal choices, social signals, or crowd reactions and, therefore, makes interdependence negligible in city movement decisions.

Correct Answer: (2)

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the passage's claim. The passage argues that contact-tracing apps, though designed to help individuals avoid risk, could inadvertently create collective patterns that increase risky interactions. This can only happen if:

- individual behavioural changes interact, and
- small local adjustments cascade into large-scale patterns.

This is the hallmark of a complex system with interdependent behaviour.

Step 2: Identify the assumption required for this mechanism to work.

Option (2) states exactly this assumption:

Individuals change behaviour based on infection data and the behaviour of others, and these interactions s

Without this interdependence, individual actions would stay local and no large-scale unintended pattern could emerge — which the passage says **can** happen.

Thus, (2) is the necessary assumption.

Why the others are wrong:

- **Option (1):** Talks about uninstalling; irrelevant to behavioural cascades.
- **Option (3):** Assumes perfect accuracy of apps; the passage never requires this.
- **Option (4):** Assumes uniform traffic and no interdependence — this contradicts the very idea needed for the unintended collective pattern.

Therefore, the assumption most necessary for the passage’s argument is Option (2).

Quick Tip

For “necessary assumption” questions, look for the option without which the argument collapses. Here, the claim relies on interdependent behaviour—small local decisions must scale into collective patterns.

13. The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4) given below, when properly sequenced, would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer.

1. But man, woman or otherwise, there is no denying that the quality of our life and character will be significantly shaped by the way we handle our anger.
2. Once the taboos have been broken, women usually experience letting their fists fly as intensely liberating.
3. Though this might seem a stereotype, women—unlike men, who are frequently applauded for unbridled aggression—are often socialized to keep a lid on their ire.
4. Many of them are so at odds with their aggressive feelings that, as a coach, I often have to stop them from pulling their punches and encourage them to extend their arms so their blows might actually reach their fleshy target.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the opening sentence. Sentence **3** clearly introduces the topic: the stereotype that women suppress anger because of social conditioning. This sets the context for the rest of the paragraph.

Step 2: Find the logical continuation. Sentence 4 expands on sentence 3 by offering an example from the author’s coaching experience, showing how women struggle with their aggressive impulses. Thus, $3 \rightarrow 4$ is a natural progression.

Step 3: Observe what happens when inhibition is removed. Sentence 2 describes what happens *after* women overcome the taboos mentioned earlier — they find expressing aggression liberating. This follows from 4, which focuses on their initial discomfort. So the sequence becomes $3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 2$.

Step 4: End with a general conclusion. Sentence 1 broadens the discussion beyond women, offering a universal statement about anger and character. This functions as the concluding remark.

Thus, the full sequence is:

3	4	2	1
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Quick Tip

In para-jumbles, look for:

- the sentence that introduces the main topic (usually first),
- examples or elaborations (middle),
- broad generalisations or moral conclusions (usually last).

14. The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

Zombie cells may contribute to age-related chronic inflammation: this finding could help scientists understand more about the aging process and why the immune system becomes less effective as we get older. Zombie or “senescent” cells are damaged cells that can no longer divide and grow like normal cells. Scientists think that these cells can contribute to chronic health problems when they accumulate in the body. In younger people, the immune system is more effective at clearing senescent cells from the body through a process called apoptosis, but as we age this process becomes less efficient. As a result, there is an accumulation of senescent cells in different organs in the body, either through increased production or reduced clearance by the immune system. The zombie cells continue to use energy though they do not divide, and often secrete chemicals that cause inflammation, which if persistent for longer periods of time can damage healthy cells leading to chronic diseases.

(1) Senescent “zombie” cells are inactive or malfunctioning cells that can be found throughout the body. (2) A younger person’s immune system is healthy and is able to clear the damaged cells, but as people age, the zombie cells resist apoptosis, and start accumulating in the body. (3) Aging leads to less effective apoptosis, and therefore zombie cells start to accumulate in the body, causing inflammation, which accelerates aging and leads to chronic diseases. (4) Dead cells accelerate chronic inflammation weakening the immune system and lead to aging.

Correct Answer: (3)

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the main ideas of the passage. The passage explains:

- What senescent (“zombie”) cells are — damaged, non-dividing cells.
- Young immune systems clear these cells, but aging reduces this ability.
- As a result, zombie cells accumulate.
- These accumulated cells release inflammatory chemicals.
- Chronic inflammation contributes to age-related diseases.

A good summary must integrate **all** of these points: aging → reduced apoptosis → accumulation → inflammation → chronic disease.

Step 2: Evaluate the options.

Option (1): Too general. It merely defines zombie cells; it does not capture the mechanism or implications.

Option (2): Partially correct but incomplete. It mentions aging and accumulation but omits inflammation and chronic disease, which are central to the passage.

Option (3): Correct. This option captures:

- aging reduces apoptosis,
- accumulation of zombie cells,
- inflammation,
- chronic disease progression.

It reflects the full causal chain described in the passage.

Option (4): Incorrect. Zombie cells are not dead cells. The passage also does not say inflammation causes aging; rather, zombie cells contribute to chronic disease.

Thus, the best summary is **Option (3)**.

Quick Tip

When selecting summaries, choose the option that captures the full causal sequence presented in the passage without adding new claims or omitting key steps.

15. The last paragraph of the passage refers to “middle-class, white, professional men”. Which one of the following qualities best describes the connection among them?

- (1) The borders of criminal responsibility.
- (2) The opinions of family and neighbours.
- (3) Eccentricity and aggression.
- (4) Empathy and imagination.

Correct Answer: None of the options correctly describe the connection; however, the closest is (1).

Solution:

Step 1: Identify what the paragraph says binds these men together.

The passage states clearly that physicians and lawyers were connected through:

“Class, race, and gender bound these middle-class, white, professional men together, as did family ties, patriotism, Protestantism, business ventures, the alumni networks of elite schools and universities, and structures of political patronage.”

Thus, they are bound together by **shared social identity and social networks**.

Step 2: Evaluate the given answer options.

- **Option (1):** “The borders of criminal responsibility” — The passage says they were *divided* by contests over these borders, not united by them.
- **Option (2):** “The opinions of family and neighbours” — This refers to the earlier method of judging sanity, not what binds these men.
- **Option (3):** “Eccentricity and aggression” — These are traits some alienists labelled as insanity, not something shared by these professionals.
- **Option (4):** “Empathy and imagination” — These were traits needed for jurors to infer mental states, not what linked physicians and lawyers.

Step 3: Conclusion.

None of the choices accurately capture the qualities binding these men together.

If forced to choose, option (1) is the least incorrect because it refers to a key theme in the paragraph, although it actually reflects what *divided* them rather than what connected them.

Quick Tip

When no option matches the passage perfectly, choose the one least contradicted by the text — but make sure you can justify why the others are clearly incorrect.

16. According to the passage, who or what was an “alienist”?

- (1) Professionals who pushed the boundaries of their fields till they became unrecognisable in the nineteenth century.
- (2) Physicians who specialised in the study of madness and the care of the insane in the nineteenth century.
- (3) Physicians and lawyers who were responsible for the condition of immigrants or ‘aliens’ in the nineteenth century.
- (4) Physicians and lawyers who were responsible for examining accounts of extraterrestrials or ‘aliens’ in the nineteenth century.

Correct Answer: (2)

Solution:

Step 1: Locate the definition in the passage. The passage unambiguously states:

“Physicians who specialized in the study of madness and the care of the insane held themselves out as experts in the new field of mental science. *Often called alienists or mad doctors, they were the predecessors of modern psychiatrists, neurologists, and psychologists.*”

Step 2: Match this with the options.

- **Option (2)** precisely matches the passage: alienists were physicians specialising in treating and studying insanity.
- **Option (1)** misrepresents the idea: alienists expanded definitions of insanity, but this does not define the term.
- **Option (3)** incorrectly treats “alienist” as related to immigrants; the passage never implies this.
- **Option (4)** refers to extraterrestrials and is irrelevant.

Thus, the correct answer is clearly **Option (2)**.

Quick Tip

For definition-based questions, rely on explicit statements from the passage; avoid options that infer or distort beyond what the text says.

17. Study the following sets of concepts and identify the set that is conceptually closest to the concerns and arguments of the passage.

- (1) Empathy, Prosecution, Knowledge, Business.
- (2) Judgement, Belief, Accounts, Patronage.
- (3) Assessment, Empathy, Prosecution, Patriotism.
- (4) Judgement, Insanity, Punishment, Responsibility.

Correct Answer: (4)

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the core themes of the passage. The passage discusses:

- how courts judge *mental states* (judgement),
- the rise of *alienists* diagnosing *insanity*,
- the legal concept of *criminal responsibility*,
- the relationship between mental soundness and *liability to punishment*.

Thus, the central conceptual cluster involves judgement → insanity → punishment → responsibility.

Step 2: Check each option against these themes.

Option (1): Contains “empathy” and “prosecution,” but “knowledge” and “business” are irrelevant. Not the closest conceptual match.

Option (2): Mentions “patronage,” “belief,” and “accounts,” some of which appear in the text but not as central conceptual pillars.

Option (3): Includes “patriotism” and “prosecution,” but these are peripheral references, not core concerns.

Option (4): Contains all key ideas:

- Judgement — how courts infer mental state.
- Insanity — central to the rise of alienists.
- Punishment — tied to the legal definition of responsibility.
- Responsibility — the legal concept determining liability.

This set captures the *heart of the passage*.

Thus, the conceptually closest set is Option (4).

Quick Tip

When matching conceptual sets to a passage, look for the ideas that appear repeatedly and form the backbone of the argument—not merely incidental references.

18. “Conversely, when a defendant struck officials as unlike themselves, whether by dint of disease, gender, confession, or race, the precariousness of judgments about mental state was exposed.” Which one of the following best describes the use of the word “confession” in this sentence?

- (1) Referring to the practice of ‘confession’ in some faiths, here it is a metaphor for the religion of the defendant.
- (2) Referring to the gender, race or disease claimed as a defence by the defendant, here it is a synonym for ‘professing’ a gender, race, or disease.
- (3) Referring to the defendant’s confession of his or her crime as false, because ‘dint’ is an archaic form of ‘didn’t’ or ‘did not’.
- (4) The defendants struck out at the officials and then confessed to the act.

Correct Answer: (1)

Solution:

Step 1: Interpret “confession” in historical/legal context. In nineteenth-century English usage, “confession” commonly meant *religious denomination* or *faith tradition* (e.g., Catholic confession, Protestant confession). Thus, “confession” here refers to religion, not the act of confessing a crime.

Step 2: Evaluate the options.

- **Option (1)** correctly states that “confession” refers metaphorically to the religious affiliation of the defendant.
- **Option (2)** incorrectly generalises “confession” to gender, race, or disease; this misreads the syntax of the sentence.

- **Option (3)** completely misinterprets both “confession” and “dint”—“dint” means *because of* or *by means of*, not “didn’t.”
- **Option (4)** proposes a meaning unrelated to the sentence structure or historical usage.

Thus, the correct interpretation is clearly Option (1).

Quick Tip

In older English, *confession* often referred to religious denomination. Always consider historical usage when interpreting words in historical passages.

19. Five jumbled sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5), related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence out and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.

1. The Bayeux tapestry was, therefore, an obvious way to tell people about the downfall of the English and the rise of the Normans.
2. So if we take expert in Anglo-Saxon culture Gale Owen-Crocker’s idea that the tapestry was originally hung in a square with certain scenes facing each other, people would have stood in the centre.
3. Art historian Linda Neagley has argued that pre-Renaissance people interacted with art visually, kinaesthetically (sensory perception through bodily movement) and physically.
4. That would make it an 11th-century immersive space with scenes corresponding and echoing each other, drawing the viewer’s attention, playing on their senses and understanding of the story they thought they knew.
5. The Bayeux tapestry would have been hung at eye level to enable this.

Solution:

Step 1: Find a coherent sequence among four sentences.

Sentence **3** gives a general claim: how pre-Renaissance people interacted with art (visually, kinaesthetically, physically).

Sentence **5** applies this idea specifically to the Bayeux tapestry: it would have been hung at eye level “to enable this” — i.e., the kind of embodied interaction mentioned in 3. So we get: **3 → 5**.

Sentence **2** then introduces Owen-Crocker’s idea about the tapestry being hung in a square with viewers in the centre — further specifying how people would interact with it spatially.

Sentence **4** draws the conclusion from 2: “That would make it an 11th-century immersive space...”, clearly referring back to the arrangement described in 2.

Thus, a coherent paragraph is:

$$3 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4$$

Step 2: Identify the odd one out.

Sentence **1** talks about the Bayeux tapestry as a way to tell people about the downfall of the English and rise of the Normans — its narrative/political function. This does not connect to the rest of the sentences, which focus on how people physically and sensorially interacted with the tapestry as an immersive space.

Therefore, the odd sentence out is:

1

Quick Tip

For “odd sentence out” questions, first build the strongest possible mini-paragraph with four sentences; the one that doesn’t fit that structure—by topic or logical flow—is your answer.

20. Which one of the options below best summarises the passage?

- (1) The passage claims that evaluating the effect of income inequality on economic growth without considering both short- and long- term consequences is misguided.
- (2) The passage confines its discussion to financing gaps and corporate control while under-cutting cross-country evidence and overlooking the significance of concerns regarding human capital accumulation, fertility rates, and income redistribution under democratisation.
- (3) The passage argues that income inequality accelerates economic growth while also emphasising the significance of concerns regarding human capital accumulation, fertility rates, and political instability.
- (4) The passage outlines investment, incentive, and governance channels through which income inequality may support economic growth and reports short-term gains while noting long-term drawbacks.

Correct Answer: (4)

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the main structure of the passage. The passage presents:

- **Three mechanisms through which inequality may promote growth:** investment indivisibilities, incentives/moral hazard, governance and ownership concentration.
- **Empirical findings:** short-run positive relationship between inequality and growth; long-run negative relationship.
- **Counter-arguments:** inequality harms growth via human-capital effects, fertility, political instability, and pressures for redistribution.

Thus, the passage is not taking a side; it outlines channels supporting growth, but also discusses long-term disadvantages and negative correlations.

Step 2: Evaluate the options.

Option (1): Too narrow. The passage does mention timeframes, but it also discusses mechanisms and counterarguments extensively.

Option (2): Incorrect. The passage does *not* confine itself to financing gaps and governance; it explicitly includes incentives, political stability, redistribution, fertility, and human capital.

Option (3): Incorrect. The passage does not argue that inequality accelerates growth overall — it shows both positive mechanisms and significant negative effects.

Option (4): Correct. It accurately captures:

- the three positive channels (investment, incentives, governance),
- the reporting of short-term gains,
- and the acknowledgment of long-term drawbacks and negative correlations.

Therefore, **Option (4)** best summarises the passage.

Quick Tip

A good summary must reflect the *full balance* of a passage—both the supporting mechanisms and the limitations or counterarguments.

21. The passage refers to "democratization". Choose the one option below that comes closest to the opposite of this process.

- (1) After the emergency decree, the regime shifted toward authoritarianism as suffrage narrowed and opposition parties were deregistered.
- (2) Corporate donations were capped and parties received public funding which was portrayed as establishing an oligarchy.
- (3) Municipalities adopted participatory budgeting and recall elections which a press release called totalitarianism.
- (4) The coalition imposed term limits and strengthened judicial review in order to further entrench autocratic rule.

Correct Answer: (1)

Solution:

Step 1: What is democratization in the passage? The passage explains democratization as a process that:

- widens suffrage,
- increases political participation,
- empowers low- and middle-income voters.

So the *opposite* of democratization would involve:

- restricting suffrage,
- reducing political participation,
- suppressing opposition.

Step 2: Evaluate the options.

Option (1): Describes a shift toward authoritarianism: suffrage narrowed, opposition parties were deregistered. This is the clearest opposite of democratization.

Option (2): Capping donations and providing public funding is not the opposite of democratization; it is a campaign finance reform.

Option (3): Participatory budgeting and recall elections actually *increase* democratic participation, even if mislabeled as totalitarianism.

Option (4): While it mentions “entrenching autocratic rule,” term limits and stronger judicial review normally *reduce* concentration of power, making the description contradictory and unclear.

Thus, Option (1) best represents the opposite of democratization.

Quick Tip

Always match the “opposite process” to the definition provided in the passage, not to misleading labels used in the answer options.

22. The primary function of the three-part case for a positive income inequality–economic growth link in the first half of the passage is to show that:

- (1) inequality boosts growth in every period and type of economy, regardless of finance or governance conditions.
- (2) mature stock markets make wealth concentration unnecessary, yet they might still be harmful to investment.
- (3) inequality can aid short-term growth in settings with high sunk costs, incentive alignment, and concentrated ownership.
- (4) dispersed ownership speeds corporate decision-making and removes free rider problems.

Correct Answer: (3)

Solution:

Step 1: Identify what the three-part case in the first half of the passage argues.

The passage presents three channels through which inequality might support economic growth:

1. **Investment indivisibilities:** high sunk costs require concentrated wealth.
2. **Incentives and moral hazard:** inequality motivates effort, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
3. **Corporate governance:** concentrated ownership improves monitoring and decision-making.

Step 2: Understand why these are mentioned. These mechanisms are used to show *why* inequality might have a positive effect, especially in the short run, which is consistent with the empirical findings the passage reports (short-run positive, long-run negative).

Step 3: Evaluate the options.

- **Option (1):** Incorrect. The passage explicitly states that positive effects may be short-term and do not hold universally or in the long run.
- **Option (2):** Incorrect. This reverses the argument — the passage says concentrated ownership can be beneficial, not unnecessary.

- **Option (3):** Correct. It accurately captures that inequality may aid short-term growth in contexts where:
 - high sunk costs,
 - incentive needs,
 - and concentrated ownership

create advantages for uneven income distribution.

- **Option (4):** Incorrect. The passage says dispersed ownership creates free-rider problems and slows decisions, not the opposite.

Thus, the correct answer is Option (3).

Quick Tip

When a passage lists mechanisms, ask: “What overarching claim are these mechanisms designed to support?” Here, the mechanisms support **conditional** and **short-term** benefits of inequality.

23. According to the incentive or moral hazard argument, which one of the designs below is most consistent with the claim that some inequality can raise growth?

- (1) Pay rewards on verifiable performance for highly productive workers.
- (2) Rents protected by market power that enlarge top incomes without linking pay to results.
- (3) Wages are determined by tenure rather than output to ensure equity.
- (4) A regime that concentrates stock ownership in relation to corporate governance.

Correct Answer: (1)

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the moral hazard / incentive argument from the passage. The passage explains that:

“Because economic performance is determined by the unobservable level of effort that agents make, paying compensations without taking into account performance will fail to elicit optimum effort. Thus, certain income inequalities contribute to growth by enhancing worker motivation and by rewarding innovators and entrepreneurs.”

So, inequality linked to performance-based rewards can raise growth by incentivising effort and innovation.

Step 2: Evaluate the options.

- **Option (1): Correct.** Paying rewards based on verifiable performance aligns incentives with effort, exactly matching the moral hazard argument.
- **Option (2): Incorrect.** Market-power-based rents increase incomes without linking them to performance — the passage explicitly states this **fails** to elicit optimal effort.

- **Option (3): Incorrect.** Tenure-based wages ignore performance; this contradicts the incentive argument.
- **Option (4): Incorrect.** Concentrated ownership relates to the *corporate governance* argument, not the incentive/moral hazard argument.

Thus, the option most consistent with the incentive argument is Option (1).

Quick Tip

For incentive-based arguments, look for designs where pay follows performance, not tenure, power, or unrelated advantages.

24. The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

- (1) Artists in a globalised world must navigate between drawing inspiration from diverse cultures respectfully and cultural appropriation that involves borrowing without proper acknowledgement which has broader societal impacts including perpetuating power imbalances.
- (2) In today's world of creativity, artists have to decide between respectfully acknowledging works that are inspired by diverse cultures and appropriating elements without respect for their contexts.
- (3) In a globalised world, artists must draw from diverse cultural influences to create works that appeal to all, and this results in instances of both inspiration and cultural appropriation.
- (4) Artists must navigate the thin line between inspiration and cultural appropriation, where respectful inspiration fosters cultural understanding whereas appropriation involves borrowing without acknowledgement leading to commodification and reinforcement of stereotypes.

Correct Answer: (1)

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the key elements of the passage. The passage discusses:

- Artists drawing inspiration from diverse cultures in a globalised world.
- The thin boundary between respectful inspiration and harmful cultural appropriation.
- The negative consequences of appropriation: commodification, stereotypes, erasure of context.
- A broader point: appropriation perpetuates societal power imbalances.

A good summary must capture all of these aspects.

Step 2: Evaluate the options.

Option (1): Best answer. It includes:

- globalisation and diverse inspiration,
- the need for respectful navigation,
- the definition of appropriation (borrowing without acknowledgement),

- broader societal impacts including power imbalances.

This captures the *full essence* of the passage.

Option (2): Too narrow—omits key consequences such as stereotyping, commodification, societal impact, and power imbalance.

Option (3): Misrepresents the passage—the passage does NOT say artists *must* draw from diverse cultures, nor that the goal is to “appeal to all.”

Option (4): Good but incomplete—it covers respectful inspiration vs. appropriation but omits the broader societal impact and power imbalances, which the passage emphasizes strongly in the final lines.

Thus, the best summary is Option (1).

Quick Tip

For summary questions, choose the option that includes *all* central themes without adding extra details or omitting key implications.