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# Passage 1: Creativity

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**Answer the question based on the passage given below:**

Creativity is at once our most precious resource and our most inexhaustible one. As anyone who has ever spent any time with children knows, every single human being is born creative; every human being is innately endowed with the ability to combine and recombine data, perceptions, materials and ideas, and devise new ways of thinking and doing. What fosters creativity? More than anything else: the presence of other creative people. The big myth is that creativity is the province of great individual geniuses. In fact creativity is a social process. Our biggest creative breakthroughs come when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people.

Cities are the true fonts of creativity. With their diverse populations, dense social networks, and public spaces where people can meet spontaneously and serendipitously, they spark and catalyse new ideas. With their infrastructure for finance, organization and trade, they allow those ideas to be swiftly actualized.

As for what stanches creativity, that's easy, if ironic. It's the very institutions that we build to manage, exploit and perpetuate the fruits of creativity — our big bureaucracies, and sad to say, too many of our schools. Creativity is disruptive; schools and organizations are regimented, standardized and stultifying.

The education expert Sir Ken Robinson points to a 1968 study reporting on a group of 1,600 children who were tested over time for their ability to think in out-of-the-box ways. When the children were between 3 and 5 years old, 98 percent achieved positive scores. When they were 8 to 10, only 32 percent passed the same test, and only 10 percent at 13 to 15. When 280,000 25-year-olds took the test, just 2 percent passed. By the time we are adults, our creativity has been wrung out of us.

I once asked the great urbanist Jane Jacobs what makes some places more creative than others. She said, essentially, that the question was an easy one. All cities, she said, were filled with creative people; that's our default state as people. But some cities had more than their shares of leaders, people and institutions that blocked out that creativity. She called them "squelchers."

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Creativity (or the lack of it) follows the same general contours of the great socio-economic divide — our rising inequality — that plagues us. According to my own estimates, roughly a third of us across the United States, and perhaps as much as half of us in our most creative cities — are able to do work which engages our creative faculties to some extent, whether as artists, musicians, writers, techies, innovators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, journalists or educators — those of us who work with our minds. That leaves a group that I term "the other 66 percent," who toil in low-wage rote and rotten jobs — if they have jobs at all — in which their creativity is subjugated, ignored or wasted.

Creativity itself is not in danger. It's flourishing is all around us — in science and technology, arts and culture, in our rapidly revitalizing cities. But we still have a long way to go if we want to build a truly creative society that supports and rewards the creativity of each and every one of us.

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CAT 2017 Question Paper

# Passage 1: Questions

Q1. In the author's view, cities promote human creativity for all the following reasons EXCEPT that they

- A. contain spaces that enable people to meet and share new ideas.
- B. expose people to different and novel ideas, because they are home to varied groups of people.
- C. provide the financial and institutional networks that enable ideas to become reality.
- D. provide access to cultural activities that promote new and creative ways of thinking.

Q2. The author uses 'ironic' in the third paragraph to point out that

- A. people need social contact rather than isolation to nurture their creativity.
- B. institutions created to promote creativity eventually stifle it
- C. the larger the creative population in a city, the more likely it is to be stifled.
- D. large bureaucracies and institutions are the inevitable outcome of successful cities

Q3. The central idea of this passage is that

[Click to go back to the passage](#)

- A. social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity.
- B. creativity and ideas are gradually declining in all societies.
- C. the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio-economic trends.
- D. more people should work in jobs that engage their creative faculties.

Q4. Jane Jacobs believed that cities that are more creative

- A. have to struggle to retain their creativity
- B. have to 'squellch' unproductive people and promote creative ones
- C. have leaders and institutions that do not block creativity.
- D. typically do not start off as creative hubs

Q5. The 1968 study is used here to show that

[Click to see the correct answer](#)

- A. as they get older, children usually learn to be more creative.
- B. schooling today does not encourage creative thinking in children.
- C. the more children learn, the less creative they become.
- D. technology today prevents children from being creative.

Q6. The author's conclusions about the most 'creative cities' in the US (paragraph 6) are based on his assumption that

- A. people who work with their hands are not doing creative work.
- B. more than half the population works in non-creative jobs.
- C. only artists, musicians, writers, and so on should be valued in a society.
- D. most cities ignore or waste the creativity of low-wage workers.

[Click here to see the detailed explanation](#)

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Q6

# Passage 2: Subnivium

**Answer the question based on the passage given below:**

During the frigid season, it's often necessary to nestle under a blanket to try to stay warm. The temperature difference between the blanket and the air outside is so palpable that we often have trouble leaving our warm refuge. Many plants and animals similarly hunker down, relying on snow cover for safety from winter's harsh conditions. The small area between the snowpack and the ground, called the subnivium might be the most important ecosystem that you have never heard of.

The subnivium is so well-insulated and stable that its temperature holds steady at around 32 degree Fahrenheit (0 degree Celsius). Although that might still sound cold, a constant temperature of 32 degree Fahrenheit can often be 30 to 40 degrees warmer than the air temperature during the peak of winter. Because of this large temperature difference, a wide variety of species depend on the subnivium for winter protection.

For many organisms living in temperate and Arctic regions, the difference between being under the snow or outside it is a matter of life and death. Consequently, disruptions to the subnivium brought about by climate change will affect everything from population dynamics to nutrient cycling through the ecosystem.

The formation and stability of the subnivium requires more than a few flurries. Winter ecologists have suggested that eight inches of snow is necessary to develop a stable layer of insulation. Depth is not the only factor, however. More accurately, the stability of the subnivium depends on the interaction between snow depth and snow density. Imagine being under a stack of blankets that are all flattened and pressed together. When compressed, the blankets essentially form one compacted layer. In contrast, when they are lightly placed on top of one another, their insulative capacity increases because the air pockets between them trap heat. Greater depths of low-density snow are therefore better at insulating the ground.

Both depth and density of snow are sensitive to temperature. Scientists are now beginning to explore how climate change will affect the subnivium, as well as the species that depend on it. At first glance, warmer winters seem beneficial for species that have difficulty surviving subzero temperatures; however, as with most ecological phenomena, the consequences are not so straightforward. Research has shown that the snow season (the period when snow is more likely than rain) has become shorter since 1970. When rain falls on snow, it increases the density of the snow and reduces its insulative capacity. Therefore, even though winters are expected to become warmer overall from future climate change, the subnivium will tend to become colder and more variable with less protection from the above-ground temperatures.

The effects of a colder subnivium are complex. For example, shrubs such as crowberry and alpine azalea that grow along the forest floor tend to block the wind and so retain higher depths of snow around them. This captured snow helps to keep soils insulated and in turn increases plant decomposition and nutrient release. In field experiments, researchers removed a portion of the snow cover to investigate the importance of the subnivium's insulation. They found that soil frost in the snow-free area resulted in damage to plant roots and sometimes even the death of the plant.

# Passage 2: Questions

- Q1. The purpose of this passage is to
- A. introduce readers to a relatively unknown ecosystem: the subnivium.
  - B. explain how the subnivium works to provide shelter and food to several species
  - C. outline the effects of climate change on the subnivium.
  - D. draw an analogy between the effect of blankets on humans and of snow cover on species living in the subnivium.
- Q2. All of the following statements are true EXCEPT
- A. Snow depth and Snow density both influence the stability of the subnivium.
  - B. Climate change has some positive effects on the subnivium.
  - C. The subnivium maintains a steady temperature that can be 30 to 40 degrees warmer than the winter air temperature.
  - D. Researchers have established the adverse effects of dwindling snow cover on the subnivium.
- Q3. Based on this extract, the author would support which one of the following actions?
- A. The use of snow machines in winter to ensure snow cover of at least eight inches
  - B. Government action to curb climate change.
  - C. Adding nutrients to the soil in winter
  - D. Planting more shrubs in areas of short snow season.
- Q4. In paragraph 6, the author provides the examples of crowberry and alpine azalea to demonstrate that
- A. Despite frigid temperatures, several species survive in temperate and Arctic regions
  - B. Due to frigid temperatures in the temperate and Arctic regions, plant species that survive tend to be shrubs rather than trees.
  - C. The crowberry and alpine azalea are abundant in temperate and Arctic regions.
  - D. The stability of the subnivium depends on several interrelated factors, including shrubs on the forest floor.
- Q5. Which one of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?
- A. In an ecosystem, altering any one element has a ripple effect on all others.
  - B. Climate change affects temperate and Arctic regions more than equatorial or arid ones.
  - C. A compact layer of wool is warmer than a similarly compact layer of goose down.
  - D. The loss of the subnivium, while tragic, will affect only temperate and Arctic regions.
- Q6. In paragraph 1, the author uses blankets as a device to
- A. evoke the bitter cold of winter in the minds of readers.
  - B. explain how blankets work to keep us warm.
  - C. draw an analogy between blankets and the snow pack.
  - D. alert readers to the fatal effects of excessive exposure to the cold.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Q6

# Passage 3: Electric vehicles

**Answer the question based on the passage given below:**

The end of the age of the internal combustion engine is in sight. There are small signs everywhere: the shift to hybrid vehicles is already under way among manufacturers. Volvo has announced it will make no purely petrol-engined cars after 2019 and Tesla has just started selling its first electric car aimed squarely at the middle classes: the Tesla 3 sells for \$35,000 in the US, and 400,000 people have put down a small, refundable deposit towards one. Several thousand have already taken delivery, and the company hopes to sell half a million more next year. This is a remarkable figure for a machine with a fairly short range and a very limited number of specialised charging stations.

Some of it reflects the remarkable abilities of Elon Musk, the company's founder, as a salesman, engineer, and a man able to get the most out his factory workers and the governments he deals with. Mr Musk is selling a dream that the world wants to believe in. This last may be the most important factor in the story. The private car is a device of immense practical help and economic significance, but at the same time a theatre for myths of unattainable selffulfilment. The one thing you will never see in a car advertisement is traffic, even though that is the element in which drivers spend their lives. Every single driver in a traffic jam is trying to escape from it, yet it is the inevitable consequence of mass car ownership.

The sleek and swift electric car is at one level merely the most contemporary fantasy of autonomy and power. But it might also disrupt our exterior landscapes nearly as much as the fossil fuel-engined car did in the last century. Electrical cars would of course pollute far less than fossil fuel-driven ones; instead of oil reserves, the rarest materials for batteries would make undeserving despots and their dynasties fantastically rich. Petrol stations would disappear. The air in cities would once more be breathable and their streets as quiet as those of Venice. This isn't an unmixed good. Cars that were as silent as bicycles would still be as dangerous as they are now to anyone they hit without audible warning.

The dream goes further than that. The electric cars of the future will be so thoroughly equipped with sensors and reaction mechanisms that they will never hit anyone. Just as brakes don't let you skid today, the steering wheel of tomorrow will swerve you away from danger before you have even noticed it.

This is where the fantasy of autonomy comes full circle. The logical outcome of cars which need no driver is that they will become cars which need no owner either. Instead, they will work as taxis do, summoned at will but only for the journeys we actually need. This the future towards which Uber is working. The ultimate development of the private car will be to reinvent public transport. Traffic jams will be abolished only when the private car becomes a public utility. What then will happen to our fantasies of independence? We'll all have to take to electrically powered bicycles.

# Passage 3: Questions

Q1. Which of the following statements best reflects the author's argument?

- A. Hybrid and electric vehicles signal the end of the age of internal combustion engines.
- B. Elon Musk is a remarkably gifted salesman.
- C. The private car represents an unattainable myth of independence.
- D. The future Uber car will be environmentally friendlier than even the Tesla.

Q2. The author points out all of the following about electric cars EXCEPT

- A. Their reliance on rare materials for batteries will support despotic rule.
- B. They will reduce air and noise pollution.
- C. They will not decrease the number of traffic jams.
- D. They will ultimately undermine rather than further driver autonomy.

Q3. According to the author, the main reason for Tesla's remarkable sales is that

- A. in the long run, the Tesla is more cost effective than fossil fuel-driven cars.
- B. the US government has announced a tax subsidy for Tesla buyers.
- C. All the company is rapidly upscaling the number of specialised charging stations for customer convenience.
- D. people believe in the autonomy represented by private cars.

Q4. The author comes to the conclusion that

- A. car drivers will no longer own cars but will have to use public transport.
- B. cars will be controlled by technology that is more efficient than car drivers.
- C. car drivers dream of autonomy but the future may be public transport.
- D. electrically powered bicycles are the only way to achieve autonomy in transportation.

Q5. In paragraphs 5 and 6, the author provides the example of Uber to argue that

- A. in the future, electric cars will be equipped with mechanisms that prevent collisions.
- B. in the future, traffic jams will not exist.
- C. in the future, the private car will be transformed into a form of public transport.
- D. in the future, Uber rides will outstrip Tesla sales.

Q6. In paragraph 6, the author mentions electrically powered bicycles to argue that

- A. if Elon Musk were a true visionary, he would invest funds in developing electric bicycles.
- B. our fantasies of autonomy might unexpectedly require us to consider electric bicycles.
- C. in terms of environmental friendliness and safety, electric bicycles rather than electric cars are the future.
- D. electric buses are the best form of public transport.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Q6

**Answer the question based on the passage given below:**

Typewriters are the epitome of a technology that has been comprehensively rendered obsolete by the digital age. The ink comes off the ribbon, they weigh a ton, and second thoughts are a disaster. But they are also personal, portable and, above all, private. Type a document and lock it away and more or less the only way anyone else can get it is if you give it to them. That is why the Russians have decided to go back to typewriters in some government offices, and why in the US, some departments have never abandoned them. Yet it is not just their resistance to algorithms and secret surveillance that keeps typewriter production lines - well one, at least - in business (the last British one closed a year ago). Nor is it only the nostalgic appeal of the metal body and the stout well-defined keys that make them popular on eBay. A typewriter demands something particular: attentiveness. By the time the paper is loaded, the ribbon tightened, the carriage returned, the spacing and the margins set, there's a big premium on hitting the right key. That means sorting out ideas, pulling together a kind of order and organising details before actually striking off. There can be no thinking on screen with a typewriter. Nor are there any easy distractions. No online shopping. No urgent emails. No Twitter. No need even for electricity - perfect for writing in a remote hideaway. The thinking process is accompanied by the encouraging clack of keys, and the ratchet of the carriage return. Ping!



# Passage 4: Questions

Q1. Which one of the following best describes what the passage is trying to do?

- A. It describes why people continue to use typewriters even in the digital age.
- B. It argues that typewriters will continue to be used even though they are an obsolete technology.
- C. It highlights the personal benefits of using typewriters.
- D. It shows that computers offer fewer options than typewriters.

Q2. According to the passage, some governments still use typewriters because:

- A. they do not want to abandon old technologies that may be useful in the future.
- B. they want to ensure that typewriter production lines remain in business.
- C. they like the nostalgic appeal of typewriter.
- D. they can control who reads the document.

Q3. The writer praises typewriters for all the following reasons EXCEPT

- A. Unlike computers, they can only be used for typing.
- B. You cannot revise what you have typed on a typewriter
- C. Typewriters are noisier than computers.
- D. Typewriters are messier to use than computers.

Q1

Q2

Q3

**Answer the question based on the passage given below:**

Despite their fierce reputation, Vikings may not have always been the plunderers and pillagers popular culture imagines them to be. In fact, they got their start trading in northern European markets, researchers suggest. Combs carved from animal antlers, as well as comb manufacturing waste and raw antler material has turned up at three archaeological sites in Denmark, including a medieval marketplace in the city of Ribe. A team of researchers from Denmark and the U.K. hoped to identify the species of animal to which the antlers once belonged by analyzing collagen proteins in the samples and comparing them across the animal kingdom, Laura Geggel reports for LiveScience. Somewhat surprisingly, molecular analysis of the artifacts revealed that some combs and other material had been carved from reindeer antlers. Given that reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) don't live in Denmark, the researchers posit that it arrived on Viking ships from Norway. Antler craftsmanship, in the form of decorative combs, was part of Viking culture. Such combs served as symbols of good health, Geggel writes. The fact that the animals shed their antlers also made them easy to collect from the large herds that inhabited Norway.

Since the artifacts were found in marketplace areas at each site it's more likely that the Norsemen came to trade rather than pillage. Most of the artifacts also date to the 780s, but some are as old as 725. That predates the beginning of Viking raids on Great Britain by about 70 years. (Traditionally, the so-called "Viking Age" began with these raids in 793 and ended with the Norman conquest of Great Britain in 1066.) Archaeologists had suspected that the Vikings had experience with long maritime voyages [that] might have preceded their raiding days. Beyond Norway, these combs would have been a popular industry in Scandinavia as well. It's possible that the antler combs represent a larger trade network, where the Norsemen supplied raw material to craftsmen in Denmark and elsewhere.

Q1. The primary purpose of the passage is:

- A. to explain the presence of reindeer antler combs in Denmark.
- B. to contradict the widely-accepted beginning date for the Viking Age in Britain, and propose an alternate one.
- C. to challenge the popular perception of Vikings as raiders by using evidence that suggests their early trade relations with Europe.
- D. to argue that besides being violent pillagers,,Vikings were also skilled craftsmen and efficient traders.

Q2. The evidence - "Most of the artifacts also date to the 780s, but some are as old as 725" — has been used in the passage to argue that:

- A. the beginning date of the Viking Age should be changed from 793 to 725.
- B. the Viking raids started as early as 725.
- C. some of the antler artifacts found in Denmark and Great Britain could have come from Scandinavia.
- D. the Vikings' trade relations with Europe pre-dates the Viking raids.

Q3. All of the following hold true for Vikings EXCEPT

- A. Vikings brought reindeer from Norway to Denmark for trade purposes.
- B. Before becoming the raiders of northern Europe, Vikings had trade relations with European nations.
- C. Antler combs, regarded by the Vikings as a symbol of good health, were part of the Viking culture.
- D. Vikings, once upon a time, had trade relations with Denmark and Scandinavia.

Q1

Q2

Q3

## Q25 : Caterpillars' Whistle

The passage is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars (*Amorpha juglandis*) look like easy meals for birds, but they have a trick up their sleeves - they produce whistles that sound like bird alarm calls, scaring potential predators away. At first, scientists suspected birds were simply startled by the loud noise. But a new study suggests a more sophisticated mechanism: the caterpillar's whistle appears to mimic a bird alarm call, sending avian predators scrambling for cover. When pecked by a bird, the caterpillars whistle by compressing their bodies like an accordion and forcing air out through specialized holes in their sides. The whistles are impressively loud - they have been measured at over 80 dB from 5 cm away from the caterpillar - considering they are made by a two-inch long insect.

- A. North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars will whistle periodically to ward off predator birds - they have a specialized vocal tract that helps them whistle.
- B. North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars can whistle very loudly; the loudness of their whistles is shocking as they are very small insects.
- C. The North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars, in a case of acoustic deception, produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.
- D. North American. walnut sphinx moth caterpillars, in. a case of deception and camouflage, produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.

Answer

Detailed explanation

## Q26 : Socrates and Bacon

The passage is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

Both Socrates and Bacon were very good at asking useful questions. In fact, Socrates is largely credited with coming up with a way of asking questions, 'the Socratic method,' which itself is at the core of the 'scientific method,' popularized by Bacon. The Socratic method disproves arguments by finding exceptions to them and can therefore lead your opponent to a point where they admit something that contradicts their original position. In common with Socrates, Bacon stressed it was as important to disprove a theory as it was to prove one - and real-world observation and experimentation were key to achieving both aims. Bacon also saw science as a collaborative affair, with scientists working together, challenging each other.

- A. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated clever questioning of the opponents to disprove their arguments and theories.
- B. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated challenging arguments and theories by observation and experimentation.
- C. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated confirming arguments and theories by finding exceptions.
- D. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated examining arguments and theories from both sides to prove them.

Answer

Detailed explanation

## Q27 : Meaning in use

The passage is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

A fundamental property of language is that it is slippery and messy and more liquid than solid, a gelatinous mass that changes shape to fit. As Wittgenstein would remind us, "usage has no sharp boundary." Oftentimes, the only way to determine the meaning of a word is to examine how it is used. This insight is often described as the "meaning is use" doctrine. There are differences between the "meaning is use" doctrine and a dictionary-first theory of meaning. "The dictionary's careful fixing of words to definitions, like butterflies pinned under glass, can suggest that this is how language works. The definitions can seem to ensure and fix the meaning of words, just as the gold standard can back a country's currency." What Wittgenstein found in the circulation of ordinary language, however, was a free floating currency of meaning. The value of each word arises out of the exchange. The lexicographer abstracts a meaning from that exchange, which is then set within the conventions of the dictionary definition.

- A. Dictionary definitions are like 'gold standards' — artificial, theoretical and dogmatic. Actual meaning of words is their free-exchange value.
- B. Language is already slippery; given this, accounting for 'meaning in use' will only exasperate the problem. That is why lexicographers 'fix' meanings.
- C. Meaning is dynamic; definitions are static. The 'meaning in use' theory helps us understand that definitions of words are culled from their meaning in exchange and use and not vice versa.
- D. The meaning of words in dictionaries is clear, fixed and less dangerous and ambiguous than the meaning that arises when words are exchanged between people.

Answer

Detailed explanation

## Q28: Indian stories

The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. The implications of retelling of Indian stories, hence, takes on new meaning in a modern India.
2. The stories we tell reflect the world around us.
3. We cannot help but retell the stories that we value - after all, they are never quite right for us - in our time.
4. And even if we manage to get them quite right, they are only right for us - other people living around us will have different reasons for telling similar stories.
5. As soon as we capture a story, the world we were trying to capture has changed.

Detailed explanation

# Q29: Nitrogen - Lightning

The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. Before plants can take life from atmosphere, nitrogen must undergo transformations similar to ones that food undergoes in our digestive machinery.
2. In its aerial form nitrogen is insoluble, unusable and is in need of transformation.
3. Lightning starts the series of chemical reactions that need to happen to nitrogen, ultimately helping it nourish our earth.
4. Nitrogen - an essential food for plants - is an abundant resource, with about 22 million tons of it floating over each square mile of earth.
5. One of the most dramatic examples in nature of ill wind that blows goodness is lightning.

Detailed explanation



## Q30: Placebo effect

The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. This has huge implications for the health care system as it operates today, where depleted resources and time lead to patients rotating in and out of doctor's offices, oftentimes receiving minimal care or concern (what is commonly referred to as "bed side manner") from doctors.
2. The placebo effect is when an individual's medical condition or pain shows signs of improvement based on a fake intervention that has been presented to them as a real one and used to be regularly dismissed by researchers as a psychological effect.
3. The placebo effect is not solely based on believing in treatment, however, as the clinical setting in which treatments are administered is also paramount.
4. That the mind has the power to trigger biochemical changes because the individual believes that a given drug or intervention will be effective could empower chronic patients through the notion of our bodies' capacity for self-healing.
5. Placebo effects are now studied not just as foils for "real" interventions but as a potential portal into the self-healing powers of the body.

Detailed explanation

# Q31: Samuel Johnson

The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. Johnson treated English very practically, as a living language, with many different shades of meaning and adopted his definitions on the principle of English common law - according to precedent.
2. Masking a profound inner torment, Johnson found solace in compiling the words of a language that was, in its coarse complexity and comprehensive genius, the precise analogue of his character.
3. Samuel Johnson was a pioneer who raised common sense to heights of genius, and a man of robust popular instincts whose watchwords were clarity, precision and simplicity.
4. The 18th century English reader, in the new world of global trade and global warfare, needed a dictionary with authoritative acts of definition of words of a language that was becoming seeded throughout the first British empire by a vigorous and practical champion.
5. The Johnson who challenged Bishop Berkeley's solipsist theory of the nonexistence of matter by kicking a large stone ("I refute it thus") is the same Johnson for whom language must have a daily practical use.

Detailed explanation

# Q32: Communication

Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out.

1. Although we are born with the gift of language, research shows that we are surprisingly unskilled when it comes to communicating with others.
2. We must carefully orchestrate our speech if we want to achieve our goals and bring our dreams to fruition.
3. We often choose our words without thought, oblivious of the emotional effects they can have on others.
4. We talk more than we need to, ignoring the effect we are having on those listening to us.
5. We listen poorly, without realizing it, and we often fail to pay attention to the subtle meanings conveyed by facial expressions, body gestures, and the tone and cadence of our voice.

Detailed explanation

## Q33: Roger Federer

Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out.

1. Over the past fortnight, one of its finest champions managed to pull off a similar impression.
2. Wimbledon's greatest illusion is the sense of timelessness it evokes.
3. At 35 years and 342 days, Roger Federer became the oldest man to win the singles title in the Open Era - a full 14 years after he first claimed the title as a scruffy, pony-tailed upstart.
4. Once he had survived the opening week, the second week witnessed the range of a rested Federer's genius.
5. Given that his method isn't reliant on explosive athleticism or muscular ball-striking, both vulnerable to decay, there is cause to believe that Federer will continue to enchant for a while longer

Answer

Detailed explanation

Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out.

1. Those geometric symbols and aerodynamic swooshes are more than just skin deep.
2. The Commonwealth Bank logo - a yellow diamond, with a black chunk sliced out in one corner - is so recognisable that the bank doesn't even use its full name in its advertising.
3. It's not just logos with hidden shapes; sometimes brands will have meanings or stories within them that are deliberately vague or lost in time, urging you to delve deeper to solve the riddle.
4. Graphic designers embed cryptic references because it adds a story to the brand; they want people to spend more time with a brand and have that idea that they are an insider if they can understand the hidden message.
5. But the CommBank logo has more to it than meets the eye, as squirrelled away in that diamond is the Southern Cross constellation.

Answer

Detailed explanation

CAT 2017 Question Paper

# Passage 1: Solutions

Q1. In the author's view, cities promote human creativity for all the following reasons EXCEPT that they

- A. contain spaces that enable people to meet and share new ideas.
- B. expose people to different and novel ideas, because they are home to varied groups of people.
- C. provide the financial and institutional networks that enable ideas to become reality.
- D. provide access to cultural activities that promote new and creative ways of thinking.**

Q2. The author uses 'ironic' in the third paragraph to point out that

- A. people need social contact rather than isolation to nurture their creativity.
- B. institutions created to promote creativity eventually stifle it**
- C. the larger the creative population in a city, the more likely it is to be stifled.
- D. large bureaucracies and institutions are the inevitable outcome of successful cities

Q3. The central idea of this passage is that

- A. social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity.**
- B. creativity and ideas are gradually declining in all societies.
- C. the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio-economic trends.
- D. more people should work in jobs that engage their creative faculties.

Q4. Jane Jacobs believed that cities that are more creative

- A. have to struggle to retain their creativity
- B. have to 'squellch' unproductive people and promote creative ones
- C. have leaders and institutions that do not block creativity.**
- D. typically do not start off as creative hubs

[Click to go back to question](#)

Q5. The 1968 study is used here to show that

- A. as they get older, children usually learn to be more creative.
- B. schooling today does not encourage creative thinking in children.**
- C. the more children learn, the less creative they become.
- D. technology today prevents children from being creative.

Q6. The author's conclusions about the most 'creative cities' in the US (paragraph 6) are based on his assumption that

- A. people who work with their hands are not doing creative work.**
- B. more than half the population works in non-creative jobs.
- C. only artists, musicians, writers, and so on should be valued in a society.
- D. most cities ignore or waste the creativity of low-wage workers.

# Passage 1: Detailed Solutions

Q1. In the author's view, cities promote human creativity for all the following reasons EXCEPT that they

- A. contain spaces that enable people to meet and share new ideas.
- B. expose people to different and novel ideas, because they are home to varied groups of people.
- C. provide the financial and institutional networks that enable ideas to become reality.
- D. provide access to cultural activities that promote new and creative ways of thinking.**

## Option D

The passage does not mention that cities provide access to cultural activities and that this promotes creativity.

The points about public spaces 'where people can meet spontaneously and serendipitously', 'diverse' populations and infrastructure for finance, organization and trade which allow ideas 'to be swiftly actualized' are mentioned in paragraph 2.

[Click to go back to Passage](#)

Q2. The author uses 'ironic' in the third paragraph to point out that

- A. people need social contact rather than isolation to nurture their creativity.
- B. institutions created to promote creativity eventually stifle it**
- C. the larger the creative population in a city, the more likely it is to be stifled.
- D. large bureaucracies and institutions are the inevitable outcome of successful cities

## Option B

See paragraph 3: 'As for what stanches creativity, that's easy, if ironic. It's *the very institutions* that we build to manage, exploit and perpetuate the fruits of creativity...'

[Click to go back to question](#)

Q3. The central idea of this passage is that

- A. social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity.**
- B. creativity and ideas are gradually declining in all societies.
- C. the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio-economic trends.
- D. more people should work in jobs that engage their creative faculties.

## Option A

The passage states that it is a "big myth" is that creativity is the province of great individual geniuses and argues that creativity is a social process, fostered by interactions with other creative people.

The other options are easily eliminated. The passage does not say that creativity is gradually declining. In fact, it argues that creativity is flourishing, in the last paragraph. While the passage does mention that the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio-economic trends, this is not the main idea of the passage. Option 4 states that people "should work" in jobs that encourage creativity. This is not what the passage states.

[Next \( 4, 5, 6 \)](#)

Q4. Jane Jacobs believed that cities that are more creative

- A. have to struggle to retain their creativity
- B. have to 'squell' unproductive people and promote creative ones
- C. have leaders and institutions that do not block creativity.**
- D. typically do not start off as creative hubs

### Option C

Refer to paragraph 5: 'All cities, she said, were filled with creative people...But some cities had more than their shares of leaders, people and institutions that blocked out that creativity.'

That is, cities that are creative do not have many leaders, people and institutions that block out that creativity.

Q5. The 1968 study is used here to show that

- A. as they get older, children usually learn to be more creative.
- B. schooling today does not encourage creative thinking in children.**
- C. the more children learn, the less creative they become.
- D. technology today prevents children from being creative.

### Option B

Easy one, refer to paragraphs 3 and 4.

[Click to go back to question](#)

Q6. The author's conclusions about the most 'creative cities' in the US (paragraph 6) are based on his assumption that

- A. people who work with their hands are not doing creative work.**
- B. more than half the population works in non-creative jobs.
- C. only artists, musicians, writers, and so on should be valued in a society.
- D. most cities ignore or waste the creativity of low-wage workers.

### Option A

See paragraph 6 about the people the author describes as creative: 'artists, musicians, writers, techies, innovators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, journalists or educators - *those of us who work with our minds.*' So, according to the author, those who work with their hands, and not their minds, are not creative.



- Q1. The purpose of this passage is to
- A. introduce readers to a relatively unknown ecosystem: the subnivium.
  - B. explain how the subnivium works to provide shelter and food to several species
  - C. outline the effects of climate change on the subnivium.**
  - D. draw an analogy between the effect of blankets on humans and of snow cover on species living in the subnivium.
- Q2. All of the following statements are true EXCEPT
- A. Snow depth and Snow density both influence the stability of the subnivium.
  - B. Climate change has some positive effects on the subnivium.**
  - C. The subnivium maintains a steady temperature that can be 30 to 40 degrees warmer than the winter air temperature.
  - D. Researchers have established the adverse effects of dwindling snow cover on the subnivium.
- Q3. Based on this extract, the author would support which one of the following actions?
- A. The use of snow machines in winter to ensure snow cover of at least eight inches
  - B. Government action to curb climate change.**
  - C. Adding nutrients to the soil in winter
  - D. Planting more shrubs in areas of short snow season.
- Q4. In paragraph 6, the author provides the examples of crowberry and alpine azalea to demonstrate that
- A. Despite frigid temperatures, several species survive in temperate and Arctic regions
  - B. Due to frigid temperatures in the temperate and Arctic regions, plant species that survive tend to be shrubs rather than trees.
  - C. The crowberry and alpine azalea are abundant in temperate and Arctic regions.
  - D. The stability of the subnivium depends on several interrelated factors, including shrubs on the forest floor.**
- Q5. Which one of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?
- A. In an ecosystem, altering any one element has a ripple effect on all others.**
  - B. Climate change affects temperate and Arctic regions more than equatorial or arid ones.
  - C. A compact layer of wool is warmer than a similarly compact layer of goose down.
  - D. The loss of the subnivium, while tragic, will affect only temperate and Arctic regions.
- Q6. In paragraph 1, the author uses blankets as a device to
- A. evoke the bitter cold of winter in the minds of readers.
  - B. explain how blankets work to keep us warm.
  - C. draw an analogy between blankets and the snow pack.**
  - D. alert readers to the fatal effects of excessive exposure to the cold.

Q1. The purpose of this passage is to

- A. introduce readers to a relatively unknown ecosystem: the subnivium.
- B. explain how the subnivium works to provide shelter and food to several species
- C. outline the effects of climate change on the subnivium.**
- D. draw an analogy between the effect of blankets on humans and of snow cover on species living in the subnivium.

### Option C

The main idea of the passage is that disruptions to the subnivium brought about by climate change will affect everything from population dynamics to nutrient cycling through the ecosystem. Option 3 is the only one that mentions climate change.

Q2. All of the following statements are true EXCEPT

- A. Snow depth and Snow density both influence the stability of the subnivium.
- B. Climate change has some positive effects on the subnivium.**
- C. The subnivium maintains a steady temperature that can be 30 to 40 degrees warmer than the winter air temperature.
- D. Researchers have established the adverse effects of dwindling snow cover on the subnivium.

### Option B

Option 2 is clearly false. See the last line of the 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph: 'even though winters are expected to become warmer overall from future climate change, the subnivium will tend to become colder and more variable with less protection from the above-ground temperatures.'

Q3. Based on this extract, the author would support which one of the following actions?

- A. The use of snow machines in winter to ensure snow cover of at least eight inches
- B. Government action to curb climate change.**
- C. Adding nutrients to the soil in winter
- D. Planting more shrubs in areas of short snow season.

### Option B

The passage is all about the negative effects of climate change on the subnivium. So, the author is likely to support government action to tackle climate change.

Next ( 4, 5, 6 )

Q4. In paragraph 6, the author provides the examples of crowberry and alpine azalea to demonstrate that

- A. Despite frigid temperatures, several species survive in temperate and Arctic regions
- B. Due to frigid temperatures in the temperate and Arctic regions, plant species that survive tend to be shrubs rather than trees.
- C. The crowberry and alpine azalea are abundant in temperate and Arctic regions.
- D. The stability of the subnivium depends on several interrelated factors, including shrubs on the forest floor.**

## Option D

The passage cites crowberry and alpine azalea to drive home the point that the *effects of a colder subnivium are complex*. Crowberry and alpine azalea help retain higher depths of snow around them, thereby keeping soils insulated, which in turn increases plant decomposition and nutrient release. Clearly, there are several interrelated factors at work here.

Q5. Which one of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?

- A. In an ecosystem, altering any one element has a ripple effect on all others.**
- B. Climate change affects temperate and Arctic regions more than equatorial or arid ones.
- C. A compact layer of wool is warmer than a similarly compact layer of goose down.
- D. The loss of the subnivium, while tragic, will affect only temperate and Arctic regions.

## Option A

While option 1 can be easily inferred from the passage, the others cannot. The passage does not mention equatorial or arid regions, so option 2 is ruled out. Option 3 is false, as the passage explains that compression increases density and reduces insulation (see paragraph 4). Option 4 is not an inference we can draw from the passage.

Q6. In paragraph 1, the author uses blankets as a device to

- A. evoke the bitter cold of winter in the minds of readers.
- B. explain how blankets work to keep us warm.
- C. draw an analogy between blankets and the snow pack.**
- D. alert readers to the fatal effects of excessive exposure to the cold.

## Option C

In paragraph 4, the passage talks about blankets to explain that the stability of the subnivium depends on the interaction between snow depth and snow density.

# Passage 3: Solutions

Q1. Which of the following statements best reflects the author's argument?

- A. Hybrid and electric vehicles signal the end of the age of internal combustion engines.
- B. Elon Musk is a remarkably gifted salesman.
- C. The private car represents an unattainable myth of independence.**
- D. The future Uber car will be environmentally friendlier than even the Tesla.

Q2. The author points out all of the following about electric cars EXCEPT

- A. Their reliance on rare materials for batteries will support despotic rule.
- B. They will reduce air and noise pollution.
- C. They will not decrease the number of traffic jams.
- D. They will ultimately undermine rather than further driver autonomy.**

Q3. According to the author, the main reason for Tesla's remarkable sales is that

- A. in the long run, the Tesla is more cost effective than fossil fuel-driven cars.
- B. the US government has announced a tax subsidy for Tesla buyers.
- C. The company is rapidly upscaling the number of specialised charging stations for customer convenience.
- D. people believe in the autonomy represented by private cars.**

Q4. The author comes to the conclusion that

- A. car drivers will no longer own cars but will have to use public transport.
- B. cars will be controlled by technology that is more efficient than car drivers.
- C. car drivers dream of autonomy but the future may be public transport.**
- D. electrically powered bicycles are the only way to achieve autonomy in transportation.

Q5. In paragraphs 5 and 6, the author provides the example of Uber to argue that

- A. in the future, electric cars will be equipped with mechanisms that prevent collisions.
- B. in the future, traffic jams will not exist.
- C. in the future, the private car will be transformed into a form of public transport.**
- D. in the future, Uber rides will outstrip Tesla sales.

Q6. In paragraph 6, the author mentions electrically powered bicycles to argue that

- A. if Elon Musk were a true visionary, he would invest funds in developing electric bicycles.
- B. our fantasies of autonomy might unexpectedly require us to consider electric bicycles.**
- C. in terms of environmental friendliness and safety, electric bicycles rather than electric cars are the future.
- D. electric buses are the best form of public transport.

Q1. Which of the following statements best reflects the author's argument?

- A. Hybrid and electric vehicles signal the end of the age of internal combustion engines.
- B. Elon Musk is a remarkably gifted salesman.
- C. The private car represents an unattainable myth of independence.**
- D. The future Uber car will be environmentally friendlier than even the Tesla.

### Option C

The central idea of the passage is in paragraph 3: 'This last may be *the most important factor in the story*. The private car is a device of immense practical help and economic significance, but at the same time a theatre for myths of unattainable self-fulfillment.'

Q2. The author points out all of the following about electric cars EXCEPT

- A. Their reliance on rare materials for batteries will support despotic rule.
- B. They will reduce air and noise pollution.
- C. They will not decrease the number of traffic jams.
- D. They will ultimately undermine rather than further driver autonomy.**

### Option D

Option 4 is clearly false. Note the following in paragraph 6: 'This is where the fantasy of autonomy comes full circle. The logical outcome of cars which need no driver is that they will become cars which need no owner either'.

The other options are easily verified from paragraph 4.

Q3. According to the author, the main reason for Tesla's remarkable sales is that

- A. in the long run, the Tesla is more cost effective than fossil fuel-driven cars.
- B. the US government has announced a tax subsidy for Tesla buyers.
- C. The company is rapidly upscaling the number of specialised charging stations for customer convenience.
- D. people believe in the autonomy represented by private cars.**

### Option D

In reference to the remarkable sale of Tesla cars, the author comments 'Mr Musk is selling a dream that the world wants to believe in' and that 'The sleek and swift electric car is at one level merely the *most contemporary fantasy of autonomy and power*.'

Q4. The author comes to the conclusion that

- A. car drivers will no longer own cars but will have to use public transport.
- B. cars will be controlled by technology that is more efficient than car drivers.
- C. car drivers dream of autonomy but the future may be public transport.**
- D. electrically powered bicycles are the only way to achieve autonomy in transportation.

### Option C

See the last paragraph: 'This is where the fantasy of autonomy comes full circle. The logical outcome of cars which need no driver is that they will become cars which need no owner either.... The ultimate development of the private car will be to reinvent public transport. Traffic jams will be abolished only when the private car becomes a public utility.'  
Note that option 3 is much better worded than option 1. Option 2 is not the conclusion of the passage. As to electrically powered bikes, the author mentions these wryly, as a solution to 'our fantasies of independence'.

Q5. In paragraphs 5 and 6, the author provides the example of Uber to argue that

- A. in the future, electric cars will be equipped with mechanisms that prevent collisions.
- B. in the future, traffic jams will not exist.
- C. in the future, the private car will be transformed into a form of public transport.**
- D. in the future, Uber rides will outstrip Tesla sales.

### Option C

Note the context in which the passage mentions Uber: 'the ultimate development of the private car will be to *reinvent public transport*. Traffic jams will be abolished only *when the private car becomes a public utility*'.

Q6. In paragraph 6, the author mentions electrically powered bicycles to argue that

- A. if Elon Musk were a true visionary, he would invest funds in developing electric bicycles.
- B. our fantasies of autonomy might unexpectedly require us to consider electric bicycles.**
- C. in terms of environmental friendliness and safety, electric bicycles rather than electric cars are the future.
- D. electric buses are the best form of public transport.

### Option B

Refer to the last paragraph. The passage talks about electrically powered bicycles while trying to answer what we can do to indulge 'our fantasies of independence'.

Q1. Which one of the following best describes what the passage is trying to do?

- A. **It describes why people continue to use typewriters even in the digital age.**
- B. It argues that typewriters will continue to be used even though they are an obsolete technology.
- C. It highlights the personal benefits of using typewriters.
- D. It shows that computers offer fewer options than typewriters.

Q2. According to the passage, some governments still use typewriters because:

- A. they do not want to abandon old technologies that may be useful in the future.
- B. they want to ensure that typewriter production lines remain in business.
- C. they like the nostalgic appeal of typewriter.
- D. **they can control who reads the document.**

Q3. The writer praises typewriters for all the following reasons EXCEPT

- A. Unlike computers, they can only be used for typing.
- B. You cannot revise what you have typed on a typewriter
- C. Typewriters are noisier than computers.
- D. **Typewriters are messier to use than computers.**

Q1. Which one of the following best describes what the passage is trying to do?

- A. **It describes why people continue to use typewriters even in the digital age.**
- B. It argues that typewriters will continue to be used even though they are an obsolete technology.
- C. It highlights the personal benefits of using typewriters.
- D. It shows that computers offer fewer options than typewriters.

## Option A

The passage tries to explain why typewriters are 'still in business', though rendered obsolete in the digital age.

Note that the passage does not declare that typewriters *will continue* to be used; it merely states why typewriters are still used.

Q2. According to the passage, some governments still use typewriters because:

- A. they do not want to abandon old technologies that may be useful in the future.
- B. they want to ensure that typewriter production lines remain in business.
- C. they like the nostalgic appeal of typewriter.
- D. **they can control who reads the document.**

## Option D

The passage states that typewriters are used by government offices as you can 'type a document and lock it away and more or less the only way anyone else can get it is if you give it to them. That is why the Russians have decided to go back to typewriters in some government offices'.

Q3. The writer praises typewriters for all the following reasons EXCEPT

- A. Unlike computers, they can only be used for typing.
- B. You cannot revise what you have typed on a typewriter
- C. Typewriters are noisier than computers.
- D. **Typewriters are messier to use than computers.**

## Option D

While highlighting the positive aspects of typewriters, the author mentions these: 'there's a big premium on hitting the right key', 'there can be no thinking on screen with a typewriter. Nor are there any easy distractions' and 'the thinking process is accompanied by the *encouraging* clack of keys, and the ratchet of the carriage return'.



Q1. The primary purpose of the passage is:

- A. to explain the presence of reindeer antler combs in Denmark.
- B. to contradict the widely-accepted beginning date for the Viking Age in Britain, and propose an alternate one.
- C. to challenge the popular perception of Vikings as raiders by using evidence that suggests their early trade relations with Europe.**
- D. to argue that besides being violent pillagers,,Vikings were also skilled craftsmen and efficient traders.

Q2. The evidence - "Most of the artifacts also date to the 780s, but some are as old as 725" — has been used in the passage to argue that:

- A. the beginning date of the Viking Age should be changed from 793 to 725.
- B. the Viking raids started as early as 725.
- C. some of the antler artifacts found in Denmark and Great Britain could have come from Scandinavia.
- D. the Vikings' trade relations with Europe pre-dates the Viking raids.**

Q3. All of the following hold true for Vikings EXCEPT

- A. Vikings brought reindeer from Norway to Denmark for trade purposes.**
- B. Before becoming the raiders of northern Europe, Vikings had trade relations with European nations.
- C. Antler combs, regarded by the Vikings as a symbol of good health, were part of the Viking culture.
- D. Vikings, once upon a time, had trade relations with Denmark and Scandinavia.

Q1. The primary purpose of the passage is:

- A. to explain the presence of reindeer antler combs in Denmark.
- B. to contradict the widely-accepted beginning date for the Viking Age in Britain, and propose an alternate one.
- C. to challenge the popular perception of Vikings as raiders by using evidence that suggests their early trade relations with Europe.**
- D. to argue that besides being violent pillagers, Vikings were also skilled craftsmen and efficient traders.

### Option C

The first 2 lines of the passage state its main idea: 'Despite their fierce reputation, Vikings may not have always been the plunderers and pillagers popular culture imagines them to be. In fact, they got their start trading in northern European markets'

Q2. The evidence - "Most of the artifacts also date to the 780s, but some are as old as 725" — has been used in the passage to argue that:

- A. the beginning date of the Viking Age should be changed from 793 to 725.
- B. the Viking raids started as early as 725.
- C. some of the antler artifacts found in Denmark and Great Britain could have come from Scandinavia.
- D. the Vikings' trade relations with Europe pre-dates the Viking raids.**

### Option D

Note the context in which the passage mentions the year 725: 'Since the artifacts were found in marketplace areas at each site it's more likely that the Norsemen came to trade rather than pillage. Most of the artifacts also date to the 780s, but some are as old as 725. That predates the beginning of Viking raids on Great Britain by about 70 years.'

Q3. All of the following hold true for Vikings EXCEPT

- A. Vikings brought reindeer from Norway to Denmark for trade purposes.**
- B. Before becoming the raiders of northern Europe, Vikings had trade relations with European nations.
- C. Antler combs, regarded by the Vikings as a symbol of good health, were part of the Viking culture.
- D. Vikings, once upon a time, had trade relations with Denmark and Scandinavia.

### Option A

The passage does not say the Vikings brought reindeer, as such, from Norway, but that they brought *artifacts made from reindeer antlers*.

The other options are easily verified to be true from the passage.

The passage is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars (*Amorpha juglandis*) look like easy meals for birds, but they have a trick up their sleeves - they produce whistles that sound like bird alarm calls, scaring potential predators away. At first, scientists suspected birds were simply startled by the loud noise. But a new study suggests a more sophisticated mechanism: the caterpillar's whistle appears to mimic a bird alarm call, sending avian predators scrambling for cover. When pecked by a bird, the caterpillars whistle by compressing their bodies like an accordion and forcing air out through specialized holes in their sides. The whistles are impressively loud - they have been measured at over 80 dB from 5 cm away from the caterpillar - considering they are made by a two-inch long insect.

- A. North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars will whistle periodically to ward off predator birds - they have a specialized vocal tract that helps them whistle.
- B. North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars can whistle very loudly; the loudness of their whistles is shocking as they are very small insects.
- C. The North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars, in a case of acoustic deception, produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.**
- D. North American. walnut sphinx moth caterpillars, in. a case of deception and camouflage, produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.

## Q25 Detailed solution:

The passage is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars (*Amorpha juglandis*) look like easy meals for birds, but they have a trick up their sleeves - they produce whistles that sound like bird alarm calls, scaring potential predators away. At first, scientists suspected birds were simply startled by the loud noise. But a new study suggests a more sophisticated mechanism: the caterpillar's whistle appears to mimic a bird alarm call, sending avian predators scrambling for cover. When pecked by a bird, the caterpillars whistle by compressing their bodies like an accordion and forcing air out through specialized holes in their sides. The whistles are impressively loud - they have been measured at over 80 dB from 5 cm away from the caterpillar - considering they are made by a two-inch long insect.

- A. North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars will whistle periodically to ward off predator birds - they have a specialized vocal tract that helps them whistle.
- B. North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars can whistle very loudly; the loudness of their whistles is shocking as they are very small insects.
- C. The North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars, in a case of acoustic deception, produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.**
- D. North American. walnut sphinx moth caterpillars, in. a case of deception and camouflage, produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.

### Option C

The paragraph explains how North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars scare off bird predators: the caterpillar's whistle appears to mimic a bird alarm call, sending avian predators scrambling for cover.

Option 1 talks of a 'specialized vocal tract' which is not mentioned in the paragraph. Option 2 is incorrect as explained in the paragraph; it is not the loudness of the noise but the fact that it mimics a bird alarm call that frightens away the birds. Option 4 mentions 'camouflage', which is not discussed in the paragraph.

The passage is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

Both Socrates and Bacon were very good at asking useful questions. In fact, Socrates is largely credited with coming up with a way of asking questions, 'the Socratic method,' which itself is at the core of the 'scientific method,' popularised by Bacon. The Socratic method disproves arguments by finding exceptions to them, and can therefore lead your opponent to a point where they admit something that contradicts their original position. In common with Socrates, Bacon stressed it was as important to disprove a theory as it was to prove one - and real-world observation and experimentation were key to achieving both aims. Bacon also saw science as a collaborative affair, with scientists working together, challenging each other.

- A. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated clever questioning of the opponents to disprove their arguments and theories.
- B. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated challenging arguments and theories by observation and experimentation.
- C. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated confirming arguments and theories by finding exceptions.
- D. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated examining arguments and theories from both sides to prove them.**

[Detailed explanation](#)

## Q26 Detailed Solution:

The passage is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

Both Socrates and Bacon were very good at asking useful questions. In fact, Socrates is largely credited with coming up with a way of asking questions, 'the Socratic method,' which itself is at the core of the 'scientific method,' popularised by Bacon. The Socratic method disproves arguments by finding exceptions to them, and can therefore lead your opponent to a point where they admit something that contradicts their original position. In common with Socrates, Bacon stressed it was as important to disprove a theory as it was to prove one - and real-world observation and experimentation were key to achieving both aims. Bacon also saw science as a collaborative affair, with scientists working together, challenging each other.

- A. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated clever questioning of the opponents to disprove their arguments and theories.
- B. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated challenging arguments and theories by observation and experimentation.
- C. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated confirming arguments and theories by finding exceptions.
- D. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated examining arguments and theories from both sides to prove them.**

### Option D

The paragraph states that both Socrates and Bacon believed that '*it was as important to disprove a theory as it was to prove one* - and real-world observation and experimentation were key to achieving both aims.'

The other options are eliminated as they talk of either proving or disproving, not both.

The passage is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

A fundamental property of language is that it is slippery and messy and more liquid than solid, a gelatinous mass that changes shape to fit. As Wittgenstein would remind us, "usage has no sharp boundary." Oftentimes, the only way to determine the meaning of a word is to examine how it is used. This insight is often described as the "meaning is use" doctrine. There are differences between the "meaning is use" doctrine and a dictionary-first theory of meaning. "The dictionary's careful fixing of words to definitions, like butterflies pinned under glass, can suggest that this is how language works. The definitions can seem to ensure and fix the meaning of words, just as the gold standard can back a country's currency." What Wittgenstein found in the circulation of ordinary language, however, was a freefloating currency of meaning. The value of each word arises out of the exchange. The lexicographer abstracts a meaning from that exchange, which is then set within the conventions of the dictionary definition.

- A. Dictionary definitions are like 'gold standards' — artificial, theoretical and dogmatic. Actual meaning of words is their free-exchange value.
- B. Language is already slippery; given this, accounting for 'meaning in use' will only exasperate the problem. That is why lexicographers 'fix' meanings.
- C. Meaning is dynamic; definitions are static. The 'meaning in use' theory helps us understand that definitions of words are culled from their meaning in exchange and use and not vice versa.**
- D. The meaning of words in dictionaries is clear, fixed and less dangerous and ambiguous than the meaning that arises when words are exchanged between people.

[Detailed explanation](#)

# Q27 Detailed solution:

The passage is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

A fundamental property of language is that it is slippery and messy and more liquid than solid, a gelatinous mass that changes shape to fit. As Wittgenstein would remind us, "usage has no sharp boundary." Oftentimes, the only way to determine the meaning of a word is to examine how it is used. This insight is often described as the "meaning is use" doctrine. There are differences between the "meaning is use" doctrine and a dictionary-first theory of meaning. "The dictionary's careful fixing of words to definitions, like butterflies pinned under glass, can suggest that this is how language works. The definitions can seem to ensure and fix the meaning of words, just as the gold standard can back a country's currency." What Wittgenstein found in the circulation of ordinary language, however, was a freefloating currency of meaning. The value of each word arises out of the exchange. The lexicographer abstracts a meaning from that exchange, which is then set within the conventions of the dictionary definition.

- A. Dictionary definitions are like 'gold standards' — artificial, theoretical and dogmatic. Actual meaning of words is their free-exchange value.
- B. Language is already slippery; given this, accounting for 'meaning in use' will only exasperate the problem. That is why lexicographers 'fix' meanings.
- C. Meaning is dynamic; definitions are static. The 'meaning in use' theory helps us understand that definitions of words are culled from their meaning in exchange and use and not vice versa.**
- D. The meaning of words in dictionaries is clear, fixed and less dangerous and ambiguous than the meaning that arises when words are exchanged between people.

## Option C

The paragraph argues that the meanings of words are not fixed, but arise out of exchange, in the way the words are used. The lexicographer abstracts a meaning from that exchange and sets it down in the dictionary. The dictionary-first theory of meaning is not valid.

Option 3 touches upon all key ideas and sums up the paragraph best.

Option 1 incorrectly labels dictionary definitions 'artificial' and does not mention the 'meaning is use' theory. Option 2 contradicts what the paragraph says. Option 4 calls the meanings of words in dictionaries 'less dangerous' than meanings in exchange. This is not what the paragraph says.



## Q28 solution:

The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. The implications of retelling of Indian stories, hence, takes on new meaning in a modern India.
2. The stories we tell reflect the world around us.
3. We cannot help but retell the stories that we value - after all, they are never quite right for us - in our time.
4. And even if we manage to get them quite right, they are only right for us - other people living around us will have different reasons for telling similar stories.
5. As soon as we capture a story, the world we were trying to capture has changed.

Answer: **25341**

## Q28 Detailed solution:

The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. The implications of retelling of Indian stories, hence, takes on new meaning in a modern India.
2. The stories we tell reflect the world around us.
3. We cannot help but retell the stories that we value - after all, they are never quite right for us - in our time.
4. And even if we manage to get them quite right, they are only right for us - other people living around us will have different reasons for telling similar stories.
5. As soon as we capture a story, the world we were trying to capture has changed.

Answer: **25341**

2, being the most general of the given statements, is the best opening sentence. 5 follows 2, as it continues the theme of how the world is captured in stories. 34 is a link: 3 talks of stories “never quite right” for us, and 4 about what happens “even if we manage to get them quite right”. 1 is a concluding statement. So, 25341 is the right order.

## Q29 solution:

The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. Before plants can take life from atmosphere, nitrogen must undergo transformations similar to ones that food undergoes in our digestive machinery.
2. In its aerial form nitrogen is insoluble, unusable and is in need of transformation.
3. Lightning starts the series of chemical reactions that need to happen to nitrogen, ultimately helping it nourish our earth.
4. Nitrogen - an essential food for plants - is an abundant resource, with about 22 million tons of it floating over each square mile of earth.
5. One of the most dramatic examples in nature of ill wind that blows goodness is lightning.

Answer: **53421**

## Q29 Detailed solution:

The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. Before plants can take life from atmosphere, nitrogen must undergo transformations similar to ones that food undergoes in our digestive machinery.
2. In its aerial form nitrogen is insoluble, unusable and is in need of transformation.
3. Lightning starts the series of chemical reactions that need to happen to nitrogen, ultimately helping it nourish our earth.
4. Nitrogen - an essential food for plants - is an abundant resource, with about 22 million tons of it floating over each square mile of earth.
5. One of the most dramatic examples in nature of ill wind that blows goodness is lightning.

Answer: **53421**

Of the given sentences, 5 is the best opening statement. 5 calls lightning an example of ill wind that blows goodness; 3 explains why so. So, 3 follows 5. 3 mentions nitrogen; 4 states its importance. So, 4 follows 3. 2 is a link: 2 explains that aerial nitrogen is unusable by plants and 1 expands on this. So, 53421 is the right order.

The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. This has huge implications for the health care system as it operates today, where depleted resources and time lead to patients rotating in and out of doctor's offices, oftentimes receiving minimal care or concern (what is commonly referred to as "bed side manner") from doctors.
2. The placebo effect is when an individual's medical condition or pain shows signs of improvement based on a fake intervention that has been presented to them as a real one and used to be regularly dismissed by researchers as a psychological effect.
3. The placebo effect is not solely based on believing in treatment, however, as the clinical setting in which treatments are administered is also paramount.
4. That the mind has the power to trigger biochemical changes because the individual believes that a given drug or intervention will be effective could empower chronic patients through the notion of our bodies' capacity for self-healing.
5. Placebo effects are now studied not just as foils for "real" interventions but as a potential portal into the self-healing powers of the body.

Answer: **25431**

[Detailed explanation](#)

# Q30 Detailed solution:

The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. This has huge implications for the health care system as it operates today, where depleted resources and time lead to patients rotating in and out of doctor's offices, oftentimes receiving minimal care or concern (what is commonly referred to as "bed side manner") from doctors.
2. The placebo effect is when an individual's medical condition or pain shows signs of improvement based on a fake intervention that has been presented to them as a real one and used to be regularly dismissed by researchers as a psychological effect.
3. The placebo effect is not solely based on believing in treatment, however, as the clinical setting in which treatments are administered is also paramount.
4. That the mind has the power to trigger biochemical changes because the individual believes that a given drug or intervention will be effective could empower chronic patients through the notion of our bodies' capacity for self-healing.
5. Placebo effects are now studied not just as foils for "real" interventions but as a potential portal into the self-healing powers of the body.

Answer: **25431**

2, which explains what placebo effect is, is the best opening sentence. 2 states that the placebo effect "*used to be regularly dismissed by researchers*". 5 follows this up with what is now true: placebo effects are *now studied not just as foils for "real" interventions* but as a potential portal into the self-healing powers. So, 5 follows 2. 4 expands on the idea of self-healing mentioned in 5. So, 4 follows 5. 4 talks about the role of the mind in self-healing. 3 follows this up stating that the placebo effect "is not solely based on believing in treatment". 1 carries forward the idea in 3 that the clinical setting in which treatments are administered is also paramount. So, 25431 is the correct order.

The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. Johnson treated English very practically, as a living language, with many different shades of meaning and adopted his definitions on the principle of English common law - according to precedent.
2. Masking a profound inner torment, Johnson found solace in compiling the words of a language that was, in its coarse complexity and comprehensive genius, the precise analogue of his character.
3. Samuel Johnson was a pioneer who raised common sense to heights of genius, and a man of robust popular instincts whose watchwords were clarity, precision and simplicity.
4. The 18th century English reader, in the new world of global trade and global warfare, needed a dictionary with authoritative acts of definition of words of a language that was becoming seeded throughout the first British empire by a vigorous and practical champion.
5. The Johnson who challenged Bishop Berkeley's solipsist theory of the nonexistence of matter by kicking a large stone ("I refute it thus") is the same Johnson for whom language must have a daily practical use.

Answer: **43512**

[Detailed explanation](#)

CAT 2017 Question Paper

# Q31 Detailed solution:

The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. Johnson treated English very practically, as a living language, with many different shades of meaning and adopted his definitions on the principle of English common law - according to precedent.
2. Masking a profound inner torment, Johnson found solace in compiling the words of a language that was, in its coarse complexity and comprehensive genius, the precise analogue of his character.
3. Samuel Johnson was a pioneer who raised common sense to heights of genius, and a man of robust popular instincts whose watchwords were clarity, precision and simplicity.
4. The 18th century English reader, in the new world of global trade and global warfare, needed a dictionary with authoritative acts of definition of words of a language that was becoming seeded throughout the first British empire by a vigorous and practical champion.
5. The Johnson who challenged Bishop Berkeley's solipsist theory of the nonexistence of matter by kicking a large stone ("I refute it thus") is the same Johnson for whom language must have a daily practical use.

Answer: **43512**

4 is the best opening sentence. The rest of the sentences are about Samuel Johnson, who is introduced in sentence 3. So, 3 follows 4. The unit 51 follows 3: 5 states that for Johnson "language must have a daily practical use" and 1 adds to this, explaining how he treated language "very practically, as a living language". 2 concludes the paragraph. So, 43512 is the right order.



Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out.

1. Although we are born with the gift of language, research shows that we are surprisingly unskilled when it comes to communicating with others.
2. We must carefully orchestrate our speech if we want to achieve our goals and bring our dreams to fruition.
3. We often choose our words without thought, oblivious of the emotional effects they can have on others.
4. We talk more than we need to, ignoring the effect we are having on those listening to us.
5. We listen poorly, without realizing it, and we often fail to pay attention to the subtle meanings conveyed by facial expressions, body gestures, and the tone and cadence of our voice.

Answer: **2**

# Q32 Detailed solution:

Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out.

1. Although we are born with the gift of language, research shows that we are surprisingly unskilled when it comes to communicating with others.
2. We must carefully orchestrate our speech if we want to achieve our goals and bring our dreams to fruition.
3. We often choose our words without thought, oblivious of the emotional effects they can have on others.
4. We talk more than we need to, ignoring the effect we are having on those listening to us.
5. We listen poorly, without realizing it, and we often fail to pay attention to the subtle meanings conveyed by facial expressions, body gestures, and the tone and cadence of our voice.

Answer: **2**

## Option 2

While all other sentences relate to the idea that we are unskilled when it comes to communication, 2 talks about the importance of *orchestrating* speech to *achieve goals*. This is a completely different idea.

Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out.

1. Over the past fortnight, one of its finest champions managed to pull off a similar impression.
2. Wimbledon's greatest illusion is the sense of timelessness it evokes.
3. At 35 years and 342 days, Roger Federer became the oldest man to win the singles title in the Open Era - a full 14 years after he first claimed the title as a scruffy, pony-tailed upstart.
4. Once he had survived the opening week, the second week witnessed the range of a rested Federer's genius.
5. Given that his method isn't reliant on explosive athleticism or muscular ball-striking, both vulnerable to decay, there is cause to believe that Federer will continue to enchant for a while longer

Answer: 4

## Q33 Detailed solution:

Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out.

1. Over the past fortnight, one of its finest champions managed to pull off a similar impression.
2. Wimbledon's greatest illusion is the sense of timelessness it evokes.
3. At 35 years and 342 days, Roger Federer became the oldest man to win the singles title in the Open Era - a full 14 years after he first claimed the title as a scruffy, pony-tailed upstart.
4. Once he had survived the opening week, the second week witnessed the range of a rested Federer's genius.
5. Given that his method isn't reliant on explosive athleticism or muscular ball-striking, both vulnerable to decay, there is cause to believe that Federer will continue to enchant for a while longer.

Answer: 4

21 is a unit: 2 talks of the sense of timelessness Wimbledon evokes. 1 follows this up with the observation that one of its finest champions managed to pull off a similar impression. 3 explains how Federer managed this. 4 adds to 3, predicting that Federer's will "continue to enchant for a while longer" as his skills are not "vulnerable to decay". 2134 is a cogent paragraph on the idea of display of timelessness in tennis. 4 is the odd one out, as it is about a specific week in the tournament.

Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out.

1. Those geometric symbols and aerodynamic swooshes are more than just skin deep.
2. The Commonwealth Bank logo - a yellow diamond, with a black chunk sliced out in one corner - is so recognisable that the bank doesn't even use its full name in its advertising.
3. It's not just logos with hidden shapes; sometimes brands will have meanings or stories within them that are deliberately vague or lost in time, urging you to delve deeper to solve the riddle.
4. Graphic designers embed cryptic references because it adds a story to the brand; they want people to spend more time with a brand and have that idea that they are an insider if they can understand the hidden message.
5. But the CommBank logo has more to it than meets the eye, as squirrelled away in that diamond is the Southern Cross constellation.

Answer: **1**

## Q34 Detailed solution:

Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out.

1. Those geometric symbols and aerodynamic swooshes are more than just skin deep.
2. The Commonwealth Bank logo - a yellow diamond, with a black chunk sliced out in one corner - is so recognisable that the bank doesn't even use its full name in its advertising.
3. It's not just logos with hidden shapes; sometimes brands will have meanings or stories within them that are deliberately vague or lost in time, urging you to delve deeper to solve the riddle.
4. Graphic designers embed cryptic references because it adds a story to the brand; they want people to spend more time with a brand and have that idea that they are an insider if they can understand the hidden message.
5. But the CommBank logo has more to it than meets the eye, as squirrelled away in that diamond is the Southern Cross constellation.

Answer: **1**

43 is a unit: both sentences talk of the cryptic references, hidden shapes and so on that graphic designers embed in logos to entice people into spending more time with a brand. The unit 25 follows this up with the example of the Commonwealth Bank logo. 4325 is a cogent paragraph. While 1 seems to relate to 4 and 3, neither 2 nor 5 relates to 1. So, 1 is the odd one out.

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