

Click “Know how to Prepare for VARC”

- Rajesh Balasubramanian

To Download ALL Original CAT Question Paper PDFs - [Click here](#)

Passage 1: Human-Elephant Conflict

[online.2IIM.com](https://www.2iim.com)

“Everybody pretty much agrees that the relationship between elephants and people has dramatically changed,” [says psychologist Gay] Bradshaw. “Where for centuries humans and elephants lived in relatively peaceful coexistence, there is now hostility and violence. Now, I use the term ‘violence’ because of the intentionality associated with it, both in the aggression of humans and, at times, the recently observed behavior of elephants.”

Typically, elephant researchers have cited, as a cause of aggression, the high levels of testosterone in newly matured male elephants or the competition for land and resources between elephants and humans. But, Bradshaw and several colleagues argue that today’s elephant populations are suffering from a form of chronic stress, a kind of species-wide trauma. Decades of poaching and culling and habitat loss, they claim, have so disrupted the intricate web of familial and societal relations by which young elephants have traditionally been raised in the wild, and by which established elephant herds are governed, that what we are now witnessing is nothing less than a precipitous collapse of elephant culture.

Elephants, when left to their own devices, are profoundly social creatures. young elephants are raised within an extended, multi-tiered network of doting female caregivers that includes the birth mother, grandmothers, aunts and friends. These relations are maintained over a life span as long as 70 years. Studies of established herds have shown that young elephants stay within 15 feet of their mothers for nearly all of their first eight years of life, after which young females are socialized into the matriarchal network, while young males go off for a time into an all-male social group before coming back into the fold as mature adults.

This fabric of elephant society, Bradshaw and her colleagues [demonstrate], ha[s] effectively been frayed by years of habitat loss and poaching, along with systematic culling by government agencies to control elephant numbers and translocations of herds to different habitats. As a result of such social upheaval, calves are now being born to and raised by ever younger and inexperienced mothers. Young orphaned elephants, meanwhile, that have witnessed the death of a parent at the hands of poachers are coming of age in the absence of the support system that defines traditional elephant life. “The loss of elephant elders,” [says] Bradshaw “and the traumatic experience of witnessing the massacres of their family, impairs normal brain and behavior development in young elephants.”

[Click to see the Questions](#)

What Bradshaw and her colleagues describe would seem to be an extreme form of anthropocentric conjecture if the evidence that they’ve compiled from various elephant researchers weren’t so compelling. The elephants of decimated herds, especially orphans who’ve watched the death of their parents and elders from poaching and culling, exhibit behavior typically associated with post-traumatic stress disorder and other trauma-related disorders in humans: abnormal startle response, unpredictable asocial behavior, inattentive mothering and hyper-aggression.

[According to Bradshaw], “Elephants are suffering and behaving in the same ways that we recognize in ourselves as a result of violence. Except perhaps for a few specific features, brain organization and early development of elephants and humans are extremely similar.”

[Click to practice and learn more CAT level questions from 2IIM question bank](#)

CAT 2018 Question Paper

Passage 1: Questions

Q1. Which of the following statements best expresses the overall argument of this passage?

- A. Elephants, like the humans they are in conflict with, are profoundly social creatures
- B. The relationship between elephants and humans has changed from one of coexistence to one of hostility
- C. Recent elephant behaviour could be understood as a form of species-wide trauma-related response
- D. The brain organisation and early development of elephants and humans are extremely similar

Q2. In the first paragraph, Bradshaw uses the term "violence" to describe the recent change in the human-elephant relationship because, according to him:

- A. Both humans and elephants have killed members of each other's species
- B. There is a purposefulness in human and elephant aggression towards each other
- C. Human-elephant interactions have changed their character over time
- D. Elephant herds and their habitat have been systematically destroyed by humans

Q3. The passage makes all of the following claims EXCEPT

- A. Elephant mothers are evolving newer ways of rearing their calves to adapt to emerging threats.
- B. The elephant response to deeply disturbing experiences is similar to that of humans.
- C. Elephants establish extended and enduring familial relationships as do humans.
- D. Human actions such as poaching and culling have created stressful conditions for elephant communities

Q4. Which of the following measures is Bradshaw most likely to support to address the problem of elephant aggression?

[Click to see the correct answer](#)

- A. The development of treatment programmes for elephants drawing on insights gained from treating post-traumatic stress disorder in humans.
- B. Funding of more studies to better understand the impact of testosterone on male elephant aggression.
- C. Studying the impact of isolating elephant calves on their early brain development, behaviour and aggression.
- D. Increased funding for research into the similarity of humans and other animals drawing on insights gained from human-elephant similarities.

Q5. In paragraph 4, the phrase, "The fabric of elephant society . . . has(s) effectively been frayed by . . ." is:

- A. an exaggeration aimed at bolstering Bradshaw's claims.
- B. an accurate description of the condition of elephant herds today.
- C. an ode to the fragility of elephant society today.
- D. a metaphor for the effect of human activity on elephant communities.

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

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Passage 2: India and the World War

online.2IIM.com

The Indian government has announced an international competition to design a National War Memorial in New Delhi, to honour all of the Indian soldiers who served in the various wars and counter-insurgency campaigns from 1947 onwards. The terms of the competition also specified that the new structure would be built adjacent to the India Gate – a memorial to the Indian soldiers who died in the First World War. Between the old imperialist memorial and the proposed nationalist one, India's contribution to the Second World War is airbrushed out of existence.

The Indian government's conception of the war memorial was not merely absent-minded. Rather, it accurately reflected the fact that both academic history and popular memory have yet to come to terms with India's Second World War, which continues to be seen as little more than mood music in the drama of India's advance towards independence and partition in 1947. Further, the political trajectory of the postwar subcontinent has militated against popular remembrance of the war. With partition and the onset of the India-Pakistan rivalry, both of the new nations needed fresh stories for self-legitimation rather than focusing on shared wartime experiences.

However, the Second World War played a crucial role in both the independence and partition of India. The Indian army recruited, trained and deployed some 2.5 million men, almost 90,000 of which were killed and many more injured. Even at the time, it was recognised as the largest volunteer force in the war.

India's material and financial contribution to the war was equally significant. India emerged as a major military-industrial and logistical base for Allied operations in south-east Asia and the Middle East. This led the United States to take considerable interest in the country's future, and ensured that this was no longer the preserve of the British government.

Other wartime developments pointed in the direction of India's independence. In a stunning reversal of its long-standing financial relationship with Britain, India finished the war as one of the largest creditors to the imperial power.

Such extraordinary mobilization for war was achieved at great human cost, with the Bengal famine the most extreme manifestation of widespread wartime deprivation. The costs on India's home front must be counted in millions of lives.

Indians signed up to serve on the war and home fronts for a variety of reasons. Many were convinced that their contribution would open the doors to India's freedom. The political and social churn triggered by the war was evident in the massive waves of popular protest and unrest that washed over rural and urban India in the aftermath of the conflict. This turmoil was crucial in persuading the Attlee government to rid itself of the incubus of ruling India.

Seventy years on, it is time that India engaged with the complex legacies of the Second World War. Bringing the war into the ambit of the new national memorial would be a fitting – if not overdue – recognition that this was India's War.

Passage 2: Questions

Q1. In the first paragraph, the author laments the fact that

- A. the new war memorial will be built right next to India Gate.
- B. there is no recognition of the Indian soldiers who served in the 4econd 8orld 8ar.
- C. funds will be wasted on another war memorial when we already have the India Gate memorial.
- D. India lost thousands of human lives during the Second World war.

Q2. The author lists all of the following as outcomes of the Second World War EXCEPT:

- A. US recognition of India's strategic location and role in the war.
- B. Large-scale deaths in Bengal as a result of deprivation and famine.
- C. Independence of the subcontinent and its partition into two countries.
- D. The large financial debt India owed to Britain after the war.

Q3. The phrase “mood music” is used in the second paragraph to indicate that the Second World War is viewed as:

- A. Setting the stage for the emergence of the India–Pakistan rivalry in the subcontinent.
- B. a backdrop to the subsequent independence and partition of the region.
- C. a part of the narrative on the ill-effects of colonial rule on India.
- D. a tragic period in terms of loss of lives and national wealth.

Q4. The author suggests that a major reason why India has not so far acknowledged its role in the Second World War is that it:

- A. wants to forget the human and financial toll of the War on the country.
- B. has been focused on building an independent, non-colonial political identity.
- C. views the War as a predominantly Allied effort, with India playing only a supporting role.
- D. blames the War for leading to the momentous partition of the country.

Q5. The author claims that omitting mention of Indians who served in the Second World War from the new National War Memorial is:

- A. a reflection of misplaced priorities of the post-independence Indian governments.
- B. a reflection of the academic and popular view of India’s role in the War
- C. appropriate as their names can always be included in the India Gate memorial.
- D. is something which can be rectified in future by constructing a separate memorial.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Passage 3: Plastic Pollution

The only thing worse than being lied to is not knowing you're being lied to. It's true that plastic pollution is a huge problem, of planetary proportions. And it's true we could all do more to reduce our plastic footprint. The lie is that blame for the plastic problem is wasteful consumers and that changing our individual habits will fix it.

Recycling plastic is to saving the Earth what hammering a nail is to halting a falling skyscraper. You struggle to find a place to do it and feel pleased when you succeed. But your effort is wholly inadequate and distracts from the real problem of why the building is collapsing in the first place. The real problem is that single-use plastic—the very idea of producing plastic items like grocery bags, which we use for an average of 12 minutes but can persist in the environment for half a millennium—is an incredibly reckless abuse of technology. Encouraging individuals to recycle more will never solve the problem of a massive production of single-use plastic that should have been avoided in the first place.

As an ecologist and evolutionary biologist, I have had a disturbing window into the accumulating literature on the hazards of plastic pollution. Scientists have long recognized that plastics biodegrade slowly, if at all, and pose multiple threats to wildlife through entanglement and consumption. More recent reports highlight dangers posed by absorption of toxic chemicals in the water and by plastic odors that mimic some species' natural food. Plastics also accumulate up the food chain, and studies now show that we are likely ingesting it ourselves in seafood.

Beginning in the 1950s, big beverage companies like Coca-Cola and Anheuser-Busch, along with Phillip Morris and others, formed a non-profit called Keep America Beautiful. Its mission is/was to educate and encourage environmental stewardship in the public. At face value, these efforts seem benevolent, but they obscure the real problem, which is the role that corporate polluters play in the plastic problem. This clever misdirection has led journalist and author Heather Rogers to describe Keep America Beautiful as the first corporate greenwashing front, as it has helped shift the public focus to consumer recycling behavior and actively thwarted legislation that would increase extended producer responsibility for waste management. The greatest success of Keep America Beautiful has been to shift the onus of environmental responsibility onto the public while simultaneously becoming a trusted name in the environmental movement.

So what can we do to make responsible use of plastic a reality? First: reject the lie. Litterbugs are not responsible for the global ecological disaster of plastic. Humans can only function to the best of their abilities, given time, mental bandwidth and systemic constraints. Our huge problem with plastic is the result of a permissive legal framework that has allowed the uncontrolled rise of plastic pollution, despite clear evidence of the harm it causes to local communities and the world's oceans. Recycling is also too hard in most parts of the U.S. and lacks the proper incentives to make it work well.

Passage 3: Questions

Q1. Which of the following interventions would the author most strongly support:

- A. recycling all plastic debris in the seabed.
- B. having all consumers change their plastic consumption habits.
- C. completely banning all single-use plastic bags.
- D. passing regulations targeted at producers that generate plastic products.

Q2. The author lists all of the following as negative effects of the use of plastics EXCEPT the:

- A. slow pace of degradation or non-degradation of plastics in the environment.
- B. air pollution caused during the process of recycling plastics.
- C. poisonous chemicals released into the water and food we consume.
- D. adverse impacts on the digestive systems of animals exposed to plastic.

Q3. In the first paragraph, the author uses “lie” to refer to the:

- A. blame assigned to consumers for indiscriminate use of plastics.
- B. understatement of the enormity of the plastics pollution problem.
- C. fact that people do not know they have been lied to.
- D. understatement of the effects of recycling plastics.

Q4. In the second paragraph, the phrase “what hammering a nail is to halting a falling skyscraper” means:

- A. relying on emerging technologies to mitigate the ill-effects of plastic pollution.
- B. encouraging the responsible production of plastics by firms.
- C. focusing on consumer behaviour to tackle the problem of plastics pollution.
- D. focusing on single-use plastic bags to reduce the plastics footprint.

Q5. It can be inferred that the author considers the Keep America Beautiful organisation:

- A. a "greenwash" because it was a benevolent attempt to improve public recycling habits.
- B. a sham as it diverted attention away from the role of corporates in plastics pollution.
- C. an important step in sensitising producers to the need to tackle plastics pollution.
- D. an innovative example of a collaborative corporate social responsibility initiative.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Passage 4: Economy and Happiness

Economists have spent most of the 20th century ignoring psychology, positive or otherwise. But today there is a great deal of emphasis on how happiness can shape global economies, or — on a smaller scale — successful business practice. This is driven, in part, by a trend in "measuring" positive emotions, mostly so they can be optimized. Neuroscientists, for example, claim to be able to locate specific emotions, such as happiness or disappointment, in particular areas of the brain. Wearable technologies, such as Spire, offer data-driven advice on how to reduce stress.

We are no longer just dealing with "happiness" in a philosophical or romantic sense — it has become something that can be monitored and measured, including by our behavior, use of social media and bodily indicators such as pulse rate and facial expressions.

There is nothing automatically sinister about this trend. But it is disquieting that the businesses and experts driving the quantification of happiness claim to have our best interests at heart, often concealing their own agendas in the process. In the workplace, happy workers are viewed as a "win-win." Work becomes more pleasant, and employees, more productive. But this is now being pursued through the use of performance-evaluating wearable technology, such as Humanyze or Virgin Pulse, both of which monitor physical signs of stress and activity toward the goal of increasing productivity.

Cities such as Dubai, which has pledged to become the "happiest city in the world," dream up ever-more elaborate and intrusive ways of collecting data on well-being — to the point where there is now talk of using CCTV cameras to monitor facial expressions in public spaces. New ways of detecting emotions are hitting the market all the time: One company, Beyond Verbal, aims to calculate moods conveyed in a phone conversation, potentially without the knowledge of at least one of the participants. And Facebook [has] demonstrated that it could influence our emotions through tweaking our news feeds — opening the door to ever-more targeted manipulation in advertising and influence.

As the science grows more sophisticated and technologies become more intimate with our thoughts and bodies, a clear trend is emerging. Where happiness indicators were once used as a basis to reform society, challenging the obsession with money that G.D.P. measurement entrenches, they are increasingly used as a basis to transform or discipline individuals.

Happiness becomes a personal project, that each of us must now work on, like going to the gym. Since the 1970s, depression has come to be viewed as a cognitive or neurological defect in the individual, and never a consequence of circumstances. All of this simply escalates the sense of responsibility each of us feels for our own feelings, and with it, the sense of failure when things go badly. A society that deliberately removed certain sources of misery, such as precarious and exploitative employment, may well be a happier one. But we won't get there by making this single, often fleeting emotion, the over-arching goal.

Passage 4: Questions

Q1. According to the author, wearable technologies and social media are contributing most to:

- A. happiness as a “personal project”.
- B. depression as a thing of the past.
- C. disciplining individuals to be happy.
- D. making individuals aware of stress in their lives.

Q2. The author’s view would be undermined by which of the following research findings?

- A. There is a definitive move towards the adoption of wearable technology that taps into emotions.
- B. Stakeholders globally are moving away from collecting data on the well-being of individuals.
- C. A proliferation of gyms that are collecting data on customer well-being.
- D. Individuals worldwide are utilising technologies to monitor and increase their well-being.

Q3. In the author's opinion, the shift in thinking in the 1970s:

- A. was a welcome change from the earlier view that depression could be cured by changing circumstances.
- B. introduced greater stress into people’s lives as they were expected to be responsible for their own happiness.
- C. put people in touch with their own feelings rather than depending on psychologists.
- D. reflected the emergence of neuroscience as the authority on human emotions.

Q4. From the passage we can infer that the author would like economists to:

- A. incorporate psychological findings into their research cautiously.
- B. correlate measurements of happiness with economic indicators
- C. measure the effectiveness of Facebook and social media advertising
- D. work closely with neuroscientists to understand human behaviour.

Q5. According to the author, Dubai:

- A. is on its way to becoming one of the world’s happiest cities.
- B. collaborates with Facebook to selectively influence its inhabitants’ moods.
- C. develops sophisticated technologies to monitor its inhabitants’ states of mind.
- D. incentivises companies that prioritise worker welfare.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Passage 5: Acquired Characteristics

When researchers at Emory University in Atlanta trained mice to fear the smell of almonds (by pairing it with electric shocks), they found, to their consternation, that both the children and grandchildren of these mice were spontaneously afraid of the same smell. That is not supposed to happen. Generations of schoolchildren have been taught that the inheritance of acquired characteristics is impossible. A mouse should not be born with something its parents have learned during their lifetimes, any more than a mouse that loses its tail in an accident should give birth to tailless mice.

Modern evolutionary biology dates back to a synthesis that emerged around the 1940s-60s, which married Charles Darwin's mechanism of natural selection with Gregor Mendel's discoveries of how genes are inherited. The traditional, and still dominant, view is that adaptations – from the human brain to the peacock's tail – are fully and satisfactorily explained by natural selection (and subsequent inheritance). Yet [new evidence] from genomics, epigenetics and developmental biology [indicates] that evolution is more complex than we once assumed.

In his book *On Human Nature* (1978), the evolutionary biologist Edward O Wilson claimed that human culture is held on a genetic leash. The metaphor [needs revision]. Imagine a dogwalker (the genes) struggling to retain control of a brawny mastiff (human culture). The pair's trajectory (the pathway of evolution) reflects the outcome of the struggle. Now imagine the same dog-walker struggling with multiple dogs, on leashes of varied lengths, with each dog tugging in different directions. All these tugs represent the influence of developmental factors, including epigenetics, antibodies and hormones passed on by parents, as well as the ecological legacies and culture they bequeath.

The received wisdom is that parental experiences can't affect the characters of their offspring. Except they do. The way that genes are expressed to produce an organism's phenotype – the actual characteristics it ends up with – is affected by chemicals that attach to them.

Everything from diet to air pollution to parental behaviour can influence the addition or removal of these chemical marks, which switches genes on or off. Usually these so-called 'epigenetic' attachments are removed during the production of sperm and eggs cells, but it turns out that some escape the resetting process and are passed on to the next generation, along with the genes. This is known as 'epigenetic inheritance', and more and more studies are confirming that it really happens. Let's return to the almond-fearing mice. The inheritance of an epigenetic mark transmitted in the sperm is what led the mice's offspring to acquire an inherited fear.

Epigenetics is only part of the story. Through culture and society, [humans and other animals] inherit knowledge and skills acquired by [their] parents. All this complexity points to an evolutionary process in which genomes (over hundreds to thousands of generations), epigenetic modifications and inherited cultural factors (over several, perhaps tens or hundreds of generations), and parental effects (over single-generation timespans) collectively inform how organisms adapt. These extra-genetic kinds of inheritance give organisms the flexibility to make rapid adjustments to environmental challenges, dragging genetic change in their wake – much like a rowdy pack of dogs.

Passage 5: Questions

Q1. The passage uses the metaphor of a dog walker to argue that evolutionary adaptation is most comprehensively understood as being determined by:

- A. genetic, epigenetic, developmental factors, and ecological legacies.
- B. socio-cultural, genetic, epigenetic, and genomic legacies
- C. ecological, hormonal, extra genetic and genetic legacies.
- D. extra genetic, genetic, epigenetic and genomic legacies.

Q2. Which of the following options best describes the author's argument?

- A. Darwin's theory of natural selection cannot fully explain evolution.
- B. Mendel's theory of inheritance is unfairly underestimated in explaining evolution.
- C. Darwin's and Mendel's theories together best explain evolution.
- D. Wilson's theory of evolution is scientifically superior to either Darwin's or Mendel's.

Q3. The Emory University experiment with mice points to the inheritance of:

- A. acquired characteristics
- B. psychological markers
- C. personality traits
- D. acquired parental fears

Q4. Which of the following, if found to be true, would negate the main message of the passage?

- A. A study indicating the primacy of ecological impact on human adaptation.
- B. A study highlighting the criticality of epigenetic inheritance to evolution.
- C. A study affirming the sole influence of natural selection and inheritance on evolution.
- D. A study affirming the influence of socio-cultural markers on evolutionary processes.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q25: Artificial embryo twinning

online.2IIM.com

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

Artificial embryo twinning is a relatively low-tech way to make clones. As the name suggests, this technique mimics the natural process that creates identical twins. In nature, twins form very early in development when the embryo splits in two. Twinning happens in the first days after egg and sperm join, while the embryo is made of just a small number of unspecialized cells. Each half of the embryo continues dividing on its own, ultimately developing into separate, complete individuals. Since they developed from the same fertilized egg, the resulting individuals are genetically identical.

- A. Artificial embryo twinning is just like the natural development of twins, where during fertilization twins are formed.
- B. Artificial embryo twinning is low-tech and is close to the natural development of twins where the embryo splits into two identical twins.
- C. Artificial embryo twinning is low-tech unlike the natural development of identical twins from the embryo after fertilization.
- D. Artificial embryo twinning is low-tech and mimetic of the natural development of genetically identical twins from the embryo after fertilization.

Answer

Detailed explanation

Q26: Knowledge production

online.2IIM.com

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

Production and legitimation of scientific knowledge can be approached from a number of perspectives. To study knowledge production from the sociology of professions perspective would mean a focus on the institutionalization of a body of knowledge. The professions-approach informed earlier research on managerial occupation, business schools and management knowledge. It however tends to reify institutional power structures in its understanding of the links between knowledge and authority. Knowledge production is restricted in the perspective to the selected members of the professional community, most notably to the university faculties and professional colleges. Power is understood as a negative mechanism, which prevents the nonprofessional actors from offering their ideas and information as legitimate knowledge.

- A. The study of knowledge production can be done through many perspectives.
- B. The professions-approach has been one of the most relied upon perspective in the study of management knowledge production.
- C. Professions-approach aims at the institutionalisation of knowledge but restricts knowledge production as a function of a select few.
- D. Professions-approach focuses on the creation of institutions of higher education and disciplines to promote knowledge production

Answer

Detailed explanation

Q27: Understanding landscapes

online.2IIM.com

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

The conceptualization of landscape as a geometric object first occurred in Europe and is historically related to the European conceptualization of the organism, particularly the human body, as a geometric object with parts having a rational, three-dimensional organization and integration. The European idea of landscape appeared before the science of landscape emerged, and it is no coincidence that Renaissance artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, who studied the structure of the human body, also facilitated an understanding of the structure of landscape. Landscape which had been a subordinate background to religious or historical narratives, became an independent genre or subject of art by the end of sixteenth century or the beginning of the seventeenth century.

- A. The study of landscape as an independent genre was aided by the Renaissance artists.
- B. The three-dimensional understanding of the organism in Europe led to a similar approach towards the understanding of landscape.
- C. The Renaissance artists were responsible for the study of landscape as a subject of art.
- D. Landscape became a major subject of art at the turn of the sixteenth century.

Answer

Detailed explanation

CAT 2018 Question Paper

Q28: Skin cancer

The four sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer:

1. The eventual diagnosis was skin cancer and after treatment all seemed well.
2. The viola player didn't know what it was; nor did her GP.
3. Then a routine scan showed it had come back and spread to her lungs.
4. It started with a lump on Cathy Perkins' index finger.

Detailed explanation

Q29: Swifts

The four sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer:

1. The woodland's canopy receives most of the sunlight that falls on the trees.
2. Swifts do not confine themselves to woodlands, but hunt wherever there are insects in the air.
3. With their streamlined bodies, swifts are agile flyers, ideally adapted to twisting and turning through the air as they chase flying insects – the creatures that form their staple diet.
4. Hundreds of thousands of insects fly in the sunshine up above the canopy, some falling prey to swifts and swallows

Detailed explanation

Q30: Democracy and power

online.2IIM.com

The four sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer:

1. But now we have another group: the unwitting enablers.
2. Democracy and high levels of inequality of the kind that have come to characterize the United States are simply incompatible.
3. Believing these people are working for a better world, they are, actually, at most, chipping away at the margins, making slight course corrections, ensuring the system goes on as it is, uninterrupted.
4. Very rich people will always use money to maintain their political and economic power.

Answer

Detailed explanation

CAT 2018 Question Paper

Q31: Impartiality and objectivity

online.2IIM.com

The four sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer:

1. Impartiality and objectivity are fiendishly difficult concepts that can cause all sorts of injustices even if transparently implemented.
2. It encourages us into bubbles of people we know and like, while blinding us to different perspectives, but the deeper problem of 'transparency' lies in the words "and much more".
3. Twitter's website says that "tweets you are likely to care about most will show up first in your timeline based on accounts you interact with most, tweets you engage with, and much more."
4. We are only told some of the basic principles, and we can't see the algorithm itself, making it hard for citizens to analyse the system sensibly or fairly or be convinced of its impartiality and objectivity

Answer

Detailed explanation

CAT 2018 Question Paper

Q32: . Displacement in Bengal

online.2IIM.com

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. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. Displacement in Bengal is thus not very significant in view of its magnitude.
2. A factor of displacement in Bengal is the shifting course of the Ganges leading to erosion of river banks.
3. The nature of displacement in Bengal makes it an interesting case study.
4. Since displacement due to erosion is well spread over a long period of time, it remains invisible.
5. Rapid displacement would have helped sensitize the public to its human costs.

Answer

Detailed explanation

CAT 2018 Question Paper

Q33: Immunization

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. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. In many cases time inconsistency is what prevents our going from intention to action.
2. For people to continuously postpone getting their children immunized, they would need to be constantly fooled by themselves.
3. In the specific case of immunization, however, it is hard to believe that time inconsistency by itself would be sufficient to make people permanently postpone the decision if they were fully cognizant of its benefits.
4. In most cases, even a small cost of immunization was large enough to discourage most people.
5. Not only do they have to think that they prefer to spend time going to the camp next month rather than today, they also have to believe that they will indeed go next month.

Detailed explanation

Q34: Bumblebees

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. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. Translators are like bumblebees.
2. Though long since scientifically disproved, this factoid is still routinely trotted out.
3. Similar pronouncements about the impossibility of translation have dogged practitioners since Leonardo Bruni's *De interpretatione recta*, published in 1424.
4. Bees, unaware of these deliberations, have continued to flit from flower to flower, and translators continue to translate.
5. In 1934, the French entomologist August Magnan pronounced the flight of the bumblebee to be aerodynamically impossible

Detailed explanation

Passage 1: Solutions

Q1. Which of the following statements best expresses the overall argument of this passage?

- A. Elephants, like the humans they are in conflict with, are profoundly social creatures.
- B. The relationship between elephants and humans has changed from one of coexistence to one of hostility.
- C. Recent elephant behaviour could be understood as a form of species-wide trauma-related response.**
- D. The brain organisation and early development of elephants and humans are extremely similar.

Q2. In the first paragraph, Bradshaw uses the term "violence" to describe the recent change in the human-elephant relationship because, according to him:

- A. Both humans and elephants have killed members of each other's species.
- B. There is a purposefulness in human and elephant aggression towards each other.**
- C. Human-elephant interactions have changed their character over time.
- D. Elephant herds and their habitat have been systematically destroyed by humans.

Q3. The passage makes all of the following claims EXCEPT

- A. Elephant mothers are evolving newer ways of rearing their calves to adapt to emerging threats.**
- B. The elephant response to deeply disturbing experiences is similar to that of humans.
- C. Elephants establish extended and enduring familial relationships as do humans.
- D. Human actions such as poaching and culling have created stressful conditions for elephant communities.

Q4. Which of the following measures is Bradshaw most likely to support to address the problem of elephant aggression?

[Click to go back to question](#)

- A. The development of treatment programmes for elephants drawing on insights gained from treating post-traumatic stress disorder in humans.**
- B. Funding of more studies to better understand the impact of testosterone on male elephant aggression.
- C. Studying the impact of isolating elephant calves on their early brain development, behaviour and aggression.
- D. Increased funding for research into the similarity of humans and other animals drawing on insights gained from human-elephant similarities.

Q5. In paragraph 4, the phrase, "The fabric of elephant society . . . has(s) effectively been frayed by . . ." is:

- A. an exaggeration aimed at bolstering Bradshaw's claims.
- B. an accurate description of the condition of elephant herds today.
- C. an ode to the fragility of elephant society today.
- D. a metaphor for the effect of human activity on elephant communities.**

Detailed explanation

Passage 1: Detailed Solution

Q1. Which of the following statements best expresses the overall argument of this passage?

- A. Elephants, like the humans they are in conflict with, are profoundly social creatures.
- B. The relationship between elephants and humans has changed from one of coexistence to one of hostility.
- C. Recent elephant behaviour could be understood as a form of species-wide trauma-related response.**
- D. The brain organisation and early development of elephants and humans are extremely similar.

Option C

While all given options are true statements, the overall argument of the passage is best captured by option 3. As against the typical explanation offered by researchers for elephant aggression (high levels of testosterone, competition for land and resources etc) Bradshaw and her colleagues argue that *chronic stress* is the reason for elephant behavior observed today. The passage explains the reasons for this stress in detail.

[Click to go back to passage](#)

Q2. In the first paragraph, Bradshaw uses the term "violence" to describe the recent change in the human-elephant relationship because, according to him:

- A. Both humans and elephants have killed members of each other's species.
- B. There is a purposefulness in human and elephant aggression towards each other.**
- C. Human-elephant interactions have changed their character over time.
- D. Elephant herds and their habitat have been systematically destroyed by humans.

Option B

Easy one. The first paragraph clearly states 'I use the term violence because of the *intentionality* associated with it...'

[Click to go back to question](#)

Q3. The passage makes all of the following claims EXCEPT

- A. Elephant mothers are evolving newer ways of rearing their calves to adapt to emerging threats.**
- B. The elephant response to deeply disturbing experiences is similar to that of humans.
- C. Elephants establish extended and enduring familial relationships as do humans.
- D. Human actions such as poaching and culling have created stressful conditions for elephant communities.

Option A

While there is no evidence in the passage to support option A, the other options can be defended by statements in the passage:

Option B – See last paragraph: 'elephants are suffering and behaving in the same ways that we recognize in ourselves as a result of violence'

Option C – See paragraph 3: 'young elephants are raised within an extended, multi-tiered network of doting female caregivers that includes the birth mother, grandmothers, aunts and friends. These relations are maintained over a life span as long as 70 years'

Option D – See paragraph 4: 'This fabric of elephant society, Bradshaw and her colleagues demonstrate, has effectively been frayed by years of habitat loss and poaching, along with systematic culling by government agencies'

Next (4, 5)

Q4. Which of the following measures is Bradshaw most likely to support to address the problem of elephant aggression?

- A. **The development of treatment programmes for elephants drawing on insights gained from treating post-traumatic stress disorder in humans.**
- B. Funding of more studies to better understand the impact of testosterone on male elephant aggression.
- C. Studying the impact of isolating elephant calves on their early brain development, behaviour and aggression.
- D. Increased funding for research into the similarity of humans and other animals drawing on insights gained from human-elephant similarities.

Option A

The key idea of the passage is that the chronic stress elephants experience due to human activities like poaching and culling is the reason why there is hostility and violence between humans and elephants. So, to address the problem of elephant aggression, Bradshaw is likely to support a measure that helps reduce or overcome this stress. Option 1 offers a possible solution.

Bradshaw does not believe testosterone is the reason for elephant aggression; so, option B is ruled out.

Neither option C nor D is compelling as they do not address the problem of elephant aggression. Besides, Bradshaw has already documented evidence to show that isolating elephant calves impacts their development and behavior and that humans and elephants are similar in brain organization and early development.

Q5. In paragraph 4, the phrase, "The fabric of elephant society . . . has(s) effectively been frayed by . . ." is:

- A. an exaggeration aimed at bolstering Bradshaw's claims.
- B. an accurate description of the condition of elephant herds today.
- C. an ode to the fragility of elephant society today.
- D. **a metaphor for the effect of human activity on elephant communities.**

[Click to go back to question](#)

Option D

The fabric of elephant society ... has effectively been frayed...

Here, the elephant society is compared to a frayed fabric. This is a metaphor, a figure of speech used to explain an idea by equating it to something else.

[Previous \(1, 2, 3 \)](#)

Passage 2: Solutions

Q1. In the first paragraph, the author laments the fact that

- A. the new war memorial will be built right next to India Gate.
- B. there is no recognition of the Indian soldiers who served in the 4econd 8orld 8ar.**
- C. funds will be wasted on another war memorial when we already have the India Gate memorial.
- D. India lost thousands of human lives during the Second world war.

Q2. The author lists all of the following as outcomes of the Second World War EXCEPT:

- A. US recognition of India's strategic location and role in the war.
- B. Large-scale deaths in Bengal as a result of deprivation and famine.
- C. Independence of the subcontinent and its partition into two countries.
- D. The large financial debt India owed to Britain after the war.**

Q3. The phrase “mood music” is used in the second paragraph to indicate that the Second World War is viewed as:

- A. Setting the stage for the emergence of the India–Pakistan rivalry in the subcontinent.
- B. a backdrop to the subsequent independence and partition of the region.**
- C. a part of the narrative on the ill-effects of colonial rule on India.
- D. a tragic period in terms of loss of lives and national wealth.

Q4. The author suggests that a major reason why India has not so far acknowledged its role in the Second World War is that it:

- A. wants to forget the human and financial toll of the War on the country.
- B. has been focused on building an independent, non-colonial political identity.**
- C. views the War as a predominantly Allied effort, with India playing only a supporting role.
- D. blames the War for leading to the momentous partition of the country.

Q5. The author claims that omitting mention of Indians who served in the Second World War from the new National War Memorial is:

- A. a reflection of misplaced priorities of the post-independence Indian governments.
- B. a reflection of the academic and popular view of India’s role in the War**
- C. appropriate as their names can always be included in the India Gate memorial.
- D. is something which can be rectified in future by constructing a separate memorial.

Detailed explanation

Passage 2: Detailed Solution

Q1. In the first paragraph, the author laments the fact that

- A. the new war memorial will be built right next to India Gate.
- B. there is no recognition of the Indian soldiers who served in the 4econd 8orld 8ar.**
- C. funds will be wasted on another war memorial when we already have the India Gate memorial.
- D. India lost thousands of human lives during the Second world war.

Option B

In the first paragraph, the author deplores the fact that 'India's contribution to the second world war is *airbrushed out of existence*.' That is, there is no recognition of the Indian soldiers who served in the second world war.

Q2. The author lists all of the following as outcomes of the Second World War EXCEPT:

- A. US recognition of India's strategic location and role in the war.
- B. Large-scale deaths in Bengal as a result of deprivation and famine.
- C. Independence of the subcontinent and its partition into two countries.
- D. The large financial debt India owed to Britain after the war.**

Option D

Option D is clearly incorrect, as the passage states that 'India finished the war as one of the largest creditors' to Britain in the second world war. (see paragraph 5).

Evidence to support option A is in paragraph 4. That the Bengal famine was one of the dreadful outcomes of the war is explained in paragraph 6. Evidence to support option C is in paragraph 7.

Q3. The phrase "mood music" is used in the second paragraph to indicate that the Second World War is viewed as:

- A. Setting the stage for the emergence of the India–Pakistan rivalry in the subcontinent.
- B. a backdrop to the subsequent independence and partition of the region.**
- C. a part of the narrative on the ill-effects of colonial rule on India.
- D. a tragic period in terms of loss of lives and national wealth.

Option B

The author says 'India's second world war... continues to be seen as little more than mood music in the drama of India's advance towards independence and partition in 1947.' That is, the war is seen as nothing more than a background score/ backdrop that sets the mood in the drama leading to independence and partition.

Next (4, 5.)

Q4. The author suggests that a major reason why India has not so far acknowledged its role in the Second World War is that it:

- A. wants to forget the human and financial toll of the War on the country.
- B. has been focused on building an independent, non-colonial political identity.**
- C. views the War as a predominantly Allied effort, with India playing only a supporting role.
- D. blames the War for leading to the momentous partition of the country.

Option B

See paragraph 2: The author states that ‘the political trajectory of the postwar subcontinent has militated against popular remembrance of the war...’ as both nations needed ‘fresh stories for self-legitimation rather than focusing on shared wartime experiences’. That is, rather than looking into shared wartime experiences with Pakistan, India focused on building an independent, non-colonial political identity after independence.

There is no evidence in the paragraph to support any of the other options.

Q5. The author claims that omitting mention of Indians who served in the Second World War from the new National War Memorial is:

- A. a reflection of misplaced priorities of the post-independence Indian governments.
- B. a reflection of the academic and popular view of India’s role in the War**
- C. appropriate as their names can always be included in the India Gate memorial.
- D. is something which can be rectified in future by constructing a separate memorial.

Option B

In the second paragraph, the author clearly states that the reason why the new war memorial is conceived the way it is can be attributed to the fact that ‘*both academic history and popular memory* have yet to come to terms with India’s second world war’.

Passage 3: Solutions

Q1. Which of the following interventions would the author most strongly support:

- A. recycling all plastic debris in the seabed.
- B. having all consumers change their plastic consumption habits.
- C. completely banning all single-use plastic bags.
- D. passing regulations targeted at producers that generate plastic products.**

Q2. The author lists all of the following as negative effects of the use of plastics EXCEPT the:

- A. slow pace of degradation or non-degradation of plastics in the environment.
- B. air pollution caused during the process of recycling plastics.**
- C. poisonous chemicals released into the water and food we consume.
- D. adverse impacts on the digestive systems of animals exposed to plastic.

Q3. In the first paragraph, the author uses “lie” to refer to the:

- A. blame assigned to consumers for indiscriminate use of plastics.**
- B. understatement of the enormity of the plastics pollution problem.
- C. fact that people do not know they have been lied to.
- D. understatement of the effects of recycling plastics.

Q4. In the second paragraph, the phrase “what hammering a nail is to halting a falling skyscraper” means:

- A. relying on emerging technologies to mitigate the ill-effects of plastic pollution.
- B. encouraging the responsible production of plastics by firms.
- C. focusing on consumer behaviour to tackle the problem of plastics pollution.**
- D. focusing on single-use plastic bags to reduce the plastics footprint.

Q5. It can be inferred that the author considers the Keep America Beautiful organisation:

- A. a "greenwash" because it was a benevolent attempt to improve public recycling habits.
- B. a sham as it diverted attention away from the role of corporates in plastics pollution.**
- C. an important step in sensitising producers to the need to tackle plastics pollution.
- D. an innovative example of a collaborative corporate social responsibility initiative.

Detailed explanation

Q1. Which of the following interventions would the author most strongly support:

- A. recycling all plastic debris in the seabed.
- B. having all consumers change their plastic consumption habits.
- C. completely banning all single-use plastic bags.
- D. passing regulations targeted at producers that generate plastic products.**

Option D

The central idea of the passage is that *individuals* are not responsible for the ecological disaster of plastic; the plastic problem is the result of a *permissive legal framework* that has not put the onus on producers of plastic to manage waste (see paragraphs 4 and 5). So, the intervention the author is likely to support is the one mentioned in option D.

Q2. The author lists all of the following as negative effects of the use of plastics EXCEPT the:

- A. slow pace of degradation or non-degradation of plastics in the environment.
- B. air pollution caused during the process of recycling plastics.**
- C. poisonous chemicals released into the water and food we consume.
- D. adverse impacts on the digestive systems of animals exposed to plastic.

Option B

Paragraph 3 lists options A, C and D as the negative effects of the use of plastics. Only option B is not mentioned in the passage.

Q3. In the first paragraph, the author uses “lie” to refer to the:

- A. blame assigned to consumers for indiscriminate use of plastics.**
- B. understatement of the enormity of the plastics pollution problem.
- C. fact that people do not know they have been lied to.
- D. understatement of the effects of recycling plastics.

Option A

Paragraph 1 clearly states that the lie ‘is that blame for the plastic problem is wasteful consumers and that changing our individual habits can fix it’.

Q4. In the second paragraph, the phrase “what hammering a nail is to halting a falling skyscraper” means:

- A. relying on emerging technologies to mitigate the ill-effects of plastic pollution.
- B. encouraging the responsible production of plastics by firms.
- C. focusing on consumer behaviour to tackle the problem of plastics pollution.**
- D. focusing on single-use plastic bags to reduce the plastics footprint.

Option C

In the second paragraph, the author compares consumers recycling plastic to save the Earth to ‘hammering a nail is to halting a falling skyscraper’. Note the line ‘encouraging individuals to recycle more will never solve the problem of a massive production of single-use plastic...’

Q5. It can be inferred that the author considers the Keep America Beautiful organisation:

- A. a "greenwash" because it was a benevolent attempt to improve public recycling habits.
- B. a sham as it diverted attention away from the role of corporates in plastics pollution.**
- C. an important step in sensitising producers to the need to tackle plastics pollution.
- D. an innovative example of a collaborative corporate social responsibility initiative.

Option B

See paragraph 4: ‘This *clever misdirection* Keep America Beautiful...the first corporate greenwashing front as it *has helped shift the public focus* to consumer recycling behavior and actively thwarted legislation that would increase extended producer responsibility for waste management’.

Passage 4: Solutions

Q1. According to the author, wearable technologies and social media are contributing most to:

- A. happiness as a “personal project”.
- B. depression as a thing of the past.
- C. disciplining individuals to be happy.**
- D. making individuals aware of stress in their lives.

Q2. The author’s view would be undermined by which of the following research findings?

- A. There is a definitive move towards the adoption of wearable technology that taps into emotions.
- B. Stakeholders globally are moving away from collecting data on the well-being of individuals.**
- C. A proliferation of gyms that are collecting data on customer well-being.
- D. Individuals worldwide are utilising technologies to monitor and increase their well-being.

Q3. In the author's opinion, the shift in thinking in the 1970s:

- A. was a welcome change from the earlier view that depression could be cured by changing circumstances.
- B. introduced greater stress into people’s lives as they were expected to be responsible for their own happiness.**
- C. put people in touch with their own feelings rather than depending on psychologists.
- D. reflected the emergence of neuroscience as the authority on human emotions.

Q4. From the passage we can infer that the author would like economists to:

- A. incorporate psychological findings into their research cautiously.**
- B. correlate measurements of happiness with economic indicators
- C. measure the effectiveness of Facebook and social media advertising
- D. work closely with neuroscientists to understand human behaviour.

Q5. According to the author, Dubai:

- A. is on its way to becoming one of the world’s happiest cities.
- B. collaborates with Facebook to selectively influence its inhabitants’ moods.
- C. develops sophisticated technologies to monitor its inhabitants’ states of mind.**
- D. incentivises companies that prioritise worker welfare.

Detailed explanation

Passage 4: Detailed Solution

Q1. According to the author, wearable technologies and social media are contributing most to:

- A. happiness as a “personal project”.
- B. depression as a thing of the past.
- C. disciplining individuals to be happy.**
- D. making individuals aware of stress in their lives.

Option C

Close contest between options 3 and 4 here. The first paragraph says that ‘wearable technologies... offer data-driven advice on how to reduce stress’ and the third paragraph that ‘performance evaluating wearable technology... monitor physical signs of stress and activity toward the goal of increasing productivity’.

The main idea of the passage is that happiness is being quantified by businesses—ostensibly with our best interests in heart—but, in reality used as ‘a basis to transform or discipline individuals’. This is best reflected by option 3.

Q2. The author’s view would be undermined by which of the following research findings?

- A. There is a definitive move towards the adoption of wearable technology that taps into emotions.
- B. Stakeholders globally are moving away from collecting data on the well-being of individuals.**
- C. A proliferation of gyms that are collecting data on customer well-being.
- D. Individuals worldwide are utilising technologies to monitor and increase their well-being.

Option B

The very premise of the passage is that, increasingly, individual data is being collected in ever-more elaborate and intrusive ways and that this data is being used to manipulate or transform individuals. Options A, C and D support this. Only B does not.

Q3. In the author's opinion, the shift in thinking in the 1970s:

- A. was a welcome change from the earlier view that depression could be cured by changing circumstances.
- B. introduced greater stress into people’s lives as they were expected to be responsible for their own happiness.**
- C. put people in touch with their own feelings rather than depending on psychologists.
- D. reflected the emergence of neuroscience as the authority on human emotions.

Option B

See the last paragraph: ‘Since the 1970s, depression has come to be viewed as a cognitive or neurological defect in the individual, and never a consequence of circumstances. All of this simply *escalates the sense of responsibility* each of us feels for our own feelings, and with it, the sense of failure when things go badly.’

Q4. From the passage we can infer that the author would like economists to:

- A. **incorporate psychological findings into their research cautiously.**
- B. correlate measurements of happiness with economic indicators
- C. measure the effectiveness of Facebook and social media advertising
- D. work closely with neuroscientists to understand human behaviour.

Option A

In the first paragraph, the author states that while economists *ignored psychology* for the most part of the 20th century, today they put *a great deal of emphasis* on how happiness can shape economies and businesses. The author then goes on to say why the current trend of quantification of happiness is 'disquieting'. We infer that the author would recommend a middle path.

Option B is clearly incorrect: See the reference to 'the obsession with money that GDP measurement entrenches' in paragraph 5. Neither option C nor option D is mentioned in the paragraph.

Q5. According to the author, Dubai:

- A. is on its way to becoming one of the world's happiest cities.
- B. collaborates with Facebook to selectively influence its inhabitants' moods.
- C. **develops sophisticated technologies to monitor its inhabitants' states of mind.**
- D. incentivises companies that prioritise worker welfare.

Option C

See the fourth paragraph: 'Dubai... ever-more elaborate and intrusive ways of collecting data on well-being - to the point where there is now talk of using CCTV cameras to monitor facial expressions in public spaces.'

Passage 5: Solutions

Q1. The passage uses the metaphor of a dog walker to argue that evolutionary adaptation is most comprehensively understood as being determined by:

- A. **genetic, epigenetic, developmental factors, and ecological legacies.**
- B. socio-cultural, genetic, epigenetic, and genomic legacies
- C. ecological, hormonal, extra genetic and genetic legacies.
- D. extra genetic, genetic, epigenetic and genomic legacies.

Q2. Which of the following options best describes the author's argument?

- A. **Darwin's theory of natural selection cannot fully explain evolution.**
- B. Mendel's theory of inheritance is unfairly underestimated in explaining evolution.
- C. Darwin's and Mendel's theories together best explain evolution.
- D. Wilson's theory of evolution is scientifically superior to either Darwin's or Mendel's.

Q3. The Emory University experiment with mice points to the inheritance of:

- A. **acquired characteristics**
- B. psychological markers
- C. personality traits
- D. acquired parental fears

Q4. Which of the following, if found to be true, would negate the main message of the passage?

- A. A study indicating the primacy of ecological impact on human adaptation.
- B. A study highlighting the criticality of epigenetic inheritance to evolution.
- C. **A study affirming the sole influence of natural selection and inheritance on evolution.**
- D. A study affirming the influence of socio-cultural markers on evolutionary processes.

Detailed explanation

Q1. The passage uses the metaphor of a dog walker to argue that evolutionary adaptation is most comprehensively understood as being determined by:

- A. **genetic, epigenetic, developmental factors, and ecological legacies.**
- B. socio-cultural, genetic, epigenetic, and genomic legacies
- C. ecological, hormonal, extra genetic and genetic legacies.
- D. extra genetic, genetic, epigenetic and genomic legacies.

Option A

Answer to this question is in paragraphs 3 and 5. The last paragraph states that genomes, epigenetic modifications, inherited cultural factors and parental effects affect evolutionary adaptation. Paragraph 3 groups epigenetics and parental effects under 'developmental factors' and also mentions ecological legacies. Option 1 covers all these influences comprehensively.

Q2. Which of the following options best describes the author's argument?

- A. **Darwin's theory of natural selection cannot fully explain evolution.**
- B. Mendel's theory of inheritance is unfairly underestimated in explaining evolution.
- C. Darwin's and Mendel's theories together best explain evolution.
- D. Wilson's theory of evolution is scientifically superior to either Darwin's or Mendel's.

Option A

See the second paragraph: 'The traditional, and still dominant, view is that adaptations ...are fully and satisfactorily explained by natural selection and subsequent inheritance. Yet new evidence from genomics, epigenetics and developmental biology indicates that evolution is more complex than we once assumed ...'.

Options B and C are clearly incorrect. There is no evidence in the passage to support the claim that Wilson's theory of evolution is *scientifically superior* to Darwin's or Mendel's.

Q3. The Emory University experiment with mice points to the inheritance of:

- A. **acquired characteristics**
- B. psychological markers
- C. personality traits
- D. acquired parental fears

Option A

See paragraph 1: 'That is not supposed to happen. Generations of schoolchildren have been taught that the inheritance of *acquired characteristics* is impossible...' Option D is incorrect as it is too narrow in scope, talking only of acquired parental fears.

Q4. Which of the following, if found to be true, would negate the main message of the passage?

- A. A study indicating the primacy of ecological impact on human adaptation.
- B. A study highlighting the criticality of epigenetic inheritance to evolution.
- C. **A study affirming the sole influence of natural selection and inheritance on evolution.**
- D. A study affirming the influence of socio-cultural markers on evolutionary processes.

Option C

The main idea of the passage is that evolution is shaped by several factors—genomics, epigenetics and developmental biology—and cannot be fully and satisfactorily explained by natural selection and subsequent inheritance alone. Options A, B and D would support this. Only option C negates the main idea of the passage.

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

Artificial embryo twinning is a relatively low-tech way to make clones. As the name suggests, this technique mimics the natural process that creates identical twins. In nature, twins form very early in development when the embryo splits in two. Twinning happens in the first days after egg and sperm join, while the embryo is made of just a small number of unspecialized cells. Each half of the embryo continues dividing on its own, ultimately developing into separate, complete individuals. Since they developed from the same fertilized egg, the resulting individuals are genetically identical.

- A. Artificial embryo twinning is just like the natural development of twins, where during fertilization twins are formed.
- B. Artificial embryo twinning is low-tech and is close to the natural development of twins where the embryo splits into two identical twins.
- C. Artificial embryo twinning is low-tech unlike the natural development of identical twins from the embryo after fertilization.
- D. Artificial embryo twinning is low-tech and mimetic of the natural development of genetically identical twins from the embryo after fertilization.**

Detailed explanation

Q25 Detailed solution:

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

Artificial embryo twinning is a relatively low-tech way to make clones. As the name suggests, this technique mimics the natural process that creates identical twins. In nature, twins form very early in development when the embryo splits in two. Twinning happens in the first days after egg and sperm join, while the embryo is made of just a small number of unspecialized cells. Each half of the embryo continues dividing on its own, ultimately developing into separate, complete individuals. Since they developed from the same fertilized egg, the resulting individuals are genetically identical.

- A. Artificial embryo twinning is just like the natural development of twins, where during fertilization twins are formed.
- B. Artificial embryo twinning is low-tech and is close to the natural development of twins where the embryo splits into two identical twins.
- C. Artificial embryo twinning is low-tech unlike the natural development of identical twins from the embryo after fertilization.
- D. Artificial embryo twinning is low-tech and mimetic of the natural development of genetically identical twins from the embryo after fertilization.**

Option D

The paragraph states that artificial embryo twinning is relatively low-tech and that it mimics the natural twinning process, where in the first days after fertilization, the embryo splits into two genetically identical individuals. Option D simply rephrases this.

Option C is clearly incorrect, as it states that artificial embryo twinning is *unlike* natural twinning. Option A is incorrect, as it states that twins are formed *during fertilization*. Option B is a bit vague and not as precise as option D.

Q26 Solution:

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

Production and legitimation of scientific knowledge can be approached from a number of perspectives. To study knowledge production from the sociology of professions perspective would mean a focus on the institutionalization of a body of knowledge. The professions-approach informed earlier research on managerial occupation, business schools and management knowledge. It however tends to reify institutional power structures in its understanding of the links between knowledge and authority. Knowledge production is restricted in the perspective to the selected members of the professional community, most notably to the university faculties and professional colleges. Power is understood as a negative mechanism, which prevents the nonprofessional actors from offering their ideas and information as legitimate knowledge.

- A. The study of knowledge production can be done through many perspectives.
- B. The professions-approach has been one of the most relied upon perspective in the study of management knowledge production.
- C. Professions-approach aims at the institutionalisation of knowledge but restricts knowledge production as a function of a select few.**
- D. Professions-approach focuses on the creation of institutions of higher education and disciplines to promote knowledge production

Detailed explanation

Q26 Detailed Solution:

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

Production and legitimation of scientific knowledge can be approached from a number of perspectives. To study knowledge production from the sociology of professions perspective would mean a focus on the institutionalization of a body of knowledge. The professions-approach informed earlier research on managerial occupation, business schools and management knowledge. It however tends to reify institutional power structures in its understanding of the links between knowledge and authority. Knowledge production is restricted in the perspective to the selected members of the professional community, most notably to the university faculties and professional colleges. Power is understood as a negative mechanism, which prevents the nonprofessional actors from offering their ideas and information as legitimate knowledge.

- A. The study of knowledge production can be done through many perspectives.
- B. The professions-approach has been one of the most relied upon perspective in the study of management knowledge production.
- C. Professions-approach aims at the institutionalisation of knowledge but restricts knowledge production as a function of a select few.**
- D. Professions-approach focuses on the creation of institutions of higher education and disciplines to promote knowledge production

Option C

Option C sums up all the key ideas in the paragraph: 'To study knowledge production from....professions perspective would mean a focus on the institutionalization of a body of knowledge... however tends to reify institutional power structures...knowledge production is restricted in the perspective to the selected members of the professional community'.

Option A rephrases the first line of the paragraph; it does not summarize the paragraph. Option C calls the professions approach 'one of the most relied upon perspective in the study of management knowledge production'. There is no evidence in the paragraph to support this. Option D is also not supported by the paragraph. The paragraph only states that the professions approach researches managerial occupation, business schools and management knowledge. It does not talk of the creation of institutions of higher education and disciplines.

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

The conceptualization of landscape as a geometric object first occurred in Europe and is historically related to the European conceptualization of the organism, particularly the human body, as a geometric object with parts having a rational, three-dimensional organization and integration. The European idea of landscape appeared before the science of landscape emerged, and it is no coincidence that Renaissance artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, who studied the structure of the human body, also facilitated an understanding of the structure of landscape. Landscape which had been a subordinate background to religious or historical narratives, became an independent genre or subject of art by the end of sixteenth century or the beginning of the seventeenth century.

- A. **The study of landscape as an independent genre was aided by the Renaissance artists.**
- B. The three-dimensional understanding of the organism in Europe led to a similar approach towards the understanding of landscape.
- C. The Renaissance artists were responsible for the study of landscape as a subject of art.
- D. Landscape became a major subject of art at the turn of the sixteenth century.

Detailed explanation

Q27 Detailed solution:

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

The conceptualization of landscape as a geometric object first occurred in Europe and is historically related to the European conceptualization of the organism, particularly the human body, as a geometric object with parts having a rational, three-dimensional organization and integration. The European idea of landscape appeared before the science of landscape emerged, and it is no coincidence that Renaissance artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, who studied the structure of the human body, also facilitated an understanding of the structure of landscape. Landscape which had been a subordinate background to religious or historical narratives, became an independent genre or subject of art by the end of sixteenth century or the beginning of the seventeenth century.

- A. The study of landscape as an independent genre was aided by the Renaissance artists.
- B. The three-dimensional understanding of the organism in Europe led to a similar approach towards the understanding of landscape.
- C. The Renaissance artists were responsible for the study of landscape as a subject of art.
- D. Landscape became a major subject of art at the turn of the sixteenth century.

Option A

The main idea of this paragraph is that the conceptualization and study of landscape as a geometric object by Renaissance artists led to it being recognized as an independent genre/subject of art by the end of the 16th century. Of the given options, option A captures this idea best.

Option B is close. The paragraph does talk of the 3D understanding of the organism/human body facilitating the understanding of the structure of the landscape. However, the focus of the given paragraph is on the *study of landscape* by Renaissance artists and how it evolved to become an independent genre/ subject of art by the end of the sixteenth century. Option B focuses on one, narrow idea and is not as good a summary as option A. In the same way, option C focuses on Renaissance artists, calling them “responsible” for the study of landscape as a subject of art. The paragraph only states that they *facilitated* an understanding of the structure of landscape. Option D, while correct, does not mention Renaissance artists.

Q28 solution:

The four sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer:

1. The woodland's canopy receives most of the sunlight that falls on the trees.
2. Swifts do not confine themselves to woodlands, but hunt wherever there are insects in the air.
3. With their streamlined bodies, swifts are agile flyers, ideally adapted to twisting and turning through the air as they chase flying insects – the creatures that form their staple diet.
4. Hundreds of thousands of insects fly in the sunshine up above the canopy, some falling prey to swifts and swallows.

Answer: **4213**

Detailed explanation

Q28 Detailed solution:

The four sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer:

1. The woodland's canopy receives most of the sunlight that falls on the trees.
2. Swifts do not confine themselves to woodlands, but hunt wherever there are insects in the air.
3. With their streamlined bodies, swifts are agile flyers, ideally adapted to twisting and turning through the air as they chase flying insects – the creatures that form their staple diet.
4. Hundreds of thousands of insects fly in the sunshine up above the canopy, some falling prey to swifts and swallows.

Answer: **4213**

4213

Sentence 4 is the best opening sentence: it sets the scene and tells us what 'it started with'. The subject of sentence 2 is 'the viola player'. This could only be Cathy Perkins, who is mentioned only in 4. So, 2 follows immediately after 4. Now, of the remaining sentences, 1 is a better option to follow 2 than 3. This is because sentences 2 and 4 talk of a medical condition. Sentence 1 mentions the 'eventual diagnosis' and response to treatment. So, 1 follows 2. Also, sentence 3 states that 'it had come back'. The 'it' in question could only refer to the cancer mentioned in 1. So, 3 follows 1.

Q29 solution:

The four sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer:

1. The eventual diagnosis was skin cancer and after treatment all seemed well.
2. The viola player didn't know what it was; nor did her GP.
3. Then a routine scan showed it had come back and spread to her lungs.
4. It started with a lump on Cathy Perkins' index finger.

Answer: **1432**

Detailed explanation

Q29 Detailed solution:

The four sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer:

1. The eventual diagnosis was skin cancer and after treatment all seemed well.
2. The viola player didn't know what it was; nor did her GP.
3. Then a routine scan showed it had come back and spread to her lungs.
4. It started with a lump on Cathy Perkins' index finger.

Answer: **1432**

1432

Sentence 1 is the best opening sentence. 14 is a link due to the reference to 'the canopy' in 4. Both sentences 2 and 3 talk about swifts chasing insects. However, the order 32 is better than 23 because sentence 3 explains that insects are the creatures that form the staple diet of swifts. Sentence 2, which states that swifts hunt 'wherever there are insects in the air' can only follow 3.

The four sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer:

1. But now we have another group: the unwitting enablers.
2. Democracy and high levels of inequality of the kind that have come to characterize the United States are simply incompatible.
3. Believing these people are working for a better world, they are, actually, at most, chipping away at the margins, making slight course corrections, ensuring the system goes on as it is, uninterrupted.
4. Very rich people will always use money to maintain their political and economic power.

Answer: **2413**

Detailed explanation

Q30 Detailed solution:

The four sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer:

1. But now we have another group: the unwitting enablers.
2. Democracy and high levels of inequality of the kind that have come to characterize the United States are simply incompatible.
3. Believing these people are working for a better world, they are, actually, at most, chipping away at the margins, making slight course corrections, ensuring the system goes on as it is, uninterrupted.
4. Very rich people will always use money to maintain their political and economic power.

Answer: **2413**

2413

Sentence 2 is the best opening sentence, as it is very general. 4 explains 2 and so 24 is a sequence. Similarly, 41 is a sequence: 4 talks of 'very rich people' as a group, while sentence 1 talks of 'another group', the unwitting enablers. The reference to 'these people' in 3 could only be to the unwitting enablers. So, 3 is the concluding sentence.

The four sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer:

1. Impartiality and objectivity are fiendishly difficult concepts that can cause all sorts of injustices even if transparently implemented.
2. It encourages us into bubbles of people we know and like, while blinding us to different perspectives, but the deeper problem of 'transparency' lies in the words "and much more".
3. Twitter's website says that "tweets you are likely to care about most will show up first in your timeline based on accounts you interact with most, tweets you engage with, and much more."
4. We are only told some of the basic principles, and we can't see the algorithm itself, making it hard for citizens to analyse the system sensibly or fairly or be convinced of its impartiality and objectivity.

Answer: **1324**

Detailed explanation

Q31 Detailed solution:

The four sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer:

1. Impartiality and objectivity are fiendishly difficult concepts that can cause all sorts of injustices even if transparently implemented.
2. It encourages us into bubbles of people we know and like, while blinding us to different perspectives, but the deeper problem of 'transparency' lies in the words "and much more".
3. Twitter's website says that "tweets you are likely to care about most will show up first in your timeline based on accounts you interact with most, tweets you engage with, and much more."
4. We are only told some of the basic principles, and we can't see the algorithm itself, making it hard for citizens to analyse the system sensibly or fairly or be convinced of its impartiality and objectivity.

Answer: **1324**

1324

324 is a clear sequence: all three sentences are about Twitter's policy. 2 follows immediately after 3, as the pronoun 'it' that 2 starts with could only refer to the statement in Twitter's website mentioned in 3.

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. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. Displacement in Bengal is thus not very significant in view of its magnitude.
2. A factor of displacement in Bengal is the shifting course of the Ganges leading to erosion of river banks.
3. The nature of displacement in Bengal makes it an interesting case study.
4. Since displacement due to erosion is well spread over a long period of time, it remains invisible.
5. Rapid displacement would have helped sensitize the public to its human costs.

Answer: **5**

Detailed explanation

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. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. Displacement in Bengal is thus not very significant in view of its magnitude.
2. A factor of displacement in Bengal is the shifting course of the Ganges leading to erosion of river banks.
3. The nature of displacement in Bengal makes it an interesting case study.
4. Since displacement due to erosion is well spread over a long period of time, it remains invisible.
5. Rapid displacement would have helped sensitize the public to its human costs.

Answer: **5**

Option 5

Of the given sentences, only 5 talks of rapid displacement and sensitizing the public to the human cost of displacement. None of the other sentences relate to these ideas.

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. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. In many cases time inconsistency is what prevents our going from intention to action.
2. For people to continuously postpone getting their children immunized, they would need to be constantly fooled by themselves.
3. In the specific case of immunization, however, it is hard to believe that time inconsistency by itself would be sufficient to make people permanently postpone the decision if they were fully cognizant of its benefits.
4. In most cases, even a small cost of immunization was large enough to discourage most people.
5. Not only do they have to think that they prefer to spend time going to the camp next month rather than today, they also have to believe that they will indeed go next month.

Answer: **4**

Detailed explanation

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. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. In many cases time inconsistency is what prevents our going from intention to action.
2. For people to continuously postpone getting their children immunized, they would need to be constantly fooled by themselves.
3. In the specific case of immunization, however, it is hard to believe that time inconsistency by itself would be sufficient to make people permanently postpone the decision if they were fully cognizant of its benefits.
4. In most cases, even a small cost of immunization was large enough to discourage most people.
5. Not only do they have to think that they prefer to spend time going to the camp next month rather than today, they also have to believe that they will indeed go next month.

Answer: **4**

Option 4

Only 4 cites the cost of immunization as a factor in discouraging people from immunization. The rest of the sentences are about the logic for *constant postponement* of immunization. The sequence 1325 is a cogent paragraph.

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. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. Translators are like bumblebees.
2. Though long since scientifically disproved, this factoid is still routinely trotted out.
3. Similar pronouncements about the impossibility of translation have dogged practitioners since Leonardo Bruni's *De interpretatione recta*, published in 1424.
4. Bees, unaware of these deliberations, have continued to flit from flower to flower, and translators continue to translate.
5. In 1934, the French entomologist August Magnan pronounced the flight of the bumblebee to be aerodynamically impossible

Answer: 2

Detailed explanation

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. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. Translators are like bumblebees.
2. Though long since scientifically disproved, this factoid is still routinely trotted out.
3. Similar pronouncements about the impossibility of translation have dogged practitioners since Leonardo Bruni's *De interpretatione recta*, published in 1424.
4. Bees, unaware of these deliberations, have continued to flit from flower to flower, and translators continue to translate.
5. In 1934, the French entomologist August Magnan pronounced the flight of the bumblebee to be aerodynamically impossible

Answer: 2

Option 2

1 and 4 liken translators to bumblebees. Also, 5 is a sequence: 5 about the impossibility of the flight of the bumblebee and 3 about the impossibility of translation. While 2 could fit into the paragraph after 5, if an odd sentence is to be picked, the best choice is 2.

SIGN UP as a trial user, Get 40 Hrs of Free CAT Coaching

Visit - [Questions.2IIM.com](https://www.questions.2iim.com)

If you like this PDF, you will fall in love with the Question bank page. It has 26 CAT-Level sets with detailed video solutions.

To Download ALL Original CAT Question Paper PDFs - [Click here](#)