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# Passage 1: Bureaucracy Decentralisation

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Around the world, capital cities are disgorging bureaucrats. In the post-colonial fervour of the 20th century, coastal capitals picked by trade-focused empires were spurned for “regionally neutral” new ones . . . . But decamping wholesale is costly and unpopular; governments these days prefer piecemeal dispersal. The trend reflects how the world has changed. In past eras, when information travelled at a snail’s pace, civil servants had to cluster together. But now desk-workers can ping emails and video-chat around the world. Travel for face-to-face meetings may be unavoidable, but transport links, too, have improved. . . .

Proponents of moving civil servants around promise countless benefits. It disperses the risk that a terrorist attack or natural disaster will cripple an entire government. Workers in the sticks will be inspired by new ideas that walled-off capitals cannot conjure up. Autonomous regulators perform best far from the pressure and lobbying of the big city. Some even hail a cure for ascendant cynicism and populism. The unloved bureaucrats of faraway capitals will become as popular as firefighters once they mix with regular folk.

Beyond these sunny visions, dispersing central-government functions usually has three specific aims: to improve the lives of both civil servants and those living in clogged capitals; to save money; and to redress regional imbalances. The trouble is that these goals are not always realised.

The first aim—improving living conditions—has a long pedigree. After the second world war Britain moved thousands of civil servants to “agreeable English country towns” as London was rebuilt. But swapping the capital for somewhere smaller is not always agreeable. Attrition rates can exceed 80%. . . . The second reason to pack bureaucrats off is to save money. Office space costs far more in capitals. . . . Agencies that are moved elsewhere can often recruit better workers on lower salaries than in capitals, where well-paying multinationals mop up talent.

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The third reason to shift is to rebalance regional inequality. Norway treats federal jobs as a resource every region deserves to enjoy, like profits from oil. Where government jobs go, private ones follow. . . . Sometimes the aim is to fulfil the potential of a country’s second-tier cities. Unlike poor, remote places, bigger cities can make the most of relocated government agencies, linking them to local universities and businesses and supplying a better-educated workforce. The decision in 1946 to set up America’s Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta rather than Washington, D.C., has transformed the city into a hub for health-sector research and business.

The dilemma is obvious. Pick small, poor towns, and areas of high unemployment get new jobs, but it is hard to attract the most qualified workers; opt for larger cities with infrastructure and better-qualified residents, and the country’s most deprived areas see little benefit. . . .

Others contend that decentralisation begets corruption by making government agencies less accountable. . . . A study in America found that state-government corruption is worse when the state capital is isolated—journalists, who tend to live in the bigger cities, become less watchful of those in power.

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CAT 2019 Question Paper

# Passage 1: Questions

Q1. According to the passage, colonial powers located their capitals:

- A. to showcase their power and prestige.
- B. where they had the densest populations.
- C. based on political expediency.
- D. to promote their trading interests.

Q2. The “dilemma” mentioned in the passage refers to:

- A. keeping government agencies in the largest city with good infrastructure or moving them to a remote area with few amenities.
- B. concentrating on decongesting large cities or focusing on boosting employment in relatively larger cities.
- C. encouraging private enterprises to relocate to smaller towns or not incentivising them in order to keep government costs in those towns low.
- D. relocating government agencies to boost growth in remote areas with poor amenities or to relatively larger cities with good amenities.

Q3 .People who support decentralising central government functions are LEAST likely to cite which of the following reasons for their view?

- A. More independence could be enjoyed by regulatory bodies located away from political centres.
- B. Policy makers may benefit from fresh thinking in a new environment.
- C. It reduces expenses as infrastructure costs and salaries are lower in smaller cities.
- D. It could weaken the nexus between bureaucrats and media in the capital.

Q4. The “long pedigree” of the aim to shift civil servants to improve their living standards implies that this move:

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- A. is not a new idea and has been tried in the past.
- B. has become common practice in several countries worldwide.
- C. is supported by politicians and the ruling elites.
- D. takes a long time to achieve its intended outcomes.

Q5. According to the author, relocating government agencies has not always been a success for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- A. a rise in pollution levels and congestion in the new locations.
- B. the difficulty of attracting talented, well-skilled people in more remote areas.
- C. increased avenues of corruption away from the capital city.
- D. high staff losses, as people may not be prepared to move to smaller towns.

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

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

# Passage 2: Tech and Archeological Preservation

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War, natural disasters and climate change are destroying some of the world's most precious cultural sites. Google is trying to help preserve these archaeological wonders by allowing users access to 3D images of these treasures through its site.

But the project is raising questions about Google's motivations and about who should own the digital copyrights. Some critics call it a form of "digital colonialism."

When it comes to archaeological treasures, the losses have been mounting. ISIS blew up parts of the ancient city of Palmyra in Syria and an earthquake hit Bagan, an ancient city in Myanmar, damaging dozens of temples, in 2016. In the past, all archaeologists and historians had for restoration and research were photos, drawings, remnants and intuition.

But that's changing. Before the earthquake at Bagan, many of the temples on the site were scanned. . . . [These] scans . . . are on Google's Arts & Culture site. The digital renditions allow viewers to virtually wander the halls of the temple, look up-close at paintings and turn the building over, to look up at its chambers. . . . [Google Arts & Culture] works with museums and other nonprofits . . . to put high-quality images online.

The images of the temples in Bagan are part of a collaboration with CyArk, a nonprofit that creates the 3D scanning of historic sites. . . . Google . . . says [it] doesn't make money off this website, but it fits in with Google's mission to make the world's information available and useful.

Critics say the collaboration could be an attempt by a large corporation to wrap itself in the sheen of culture. Ethan Watrall, an archaeologist, professor at Michigan State University and a member of the Society for American Archaeology, says he's not comfortable with the arrangement between CyArk and Google. . . . Watrall says this project is just a way for Google to promote Google. "They want to make this material accessible so people will browse it and be filled with wonder by it," he says. "But at its core, it's all about advertisements and driving traffic." Watrall says these images belong on the site of a museum or educational institution, where there is serious scholarship and a very different mission. . . .

[There's] another issue for some archaeologists and art historians. CyArk owns the copyrights of the scans — not the countries where these sites are located. That means the countries need CyArk's permission to use these images for commercial purposes.

Erin Thompson, a professor of art crime at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, says it's the latest example of a Western nation appropriating a foreign culture, a centuries-long battle. . . . CyArk says it copyrights the scans so no one can use them in an inappropriate way. The company says it works closely with authorities during the process, even training local people to help. But critics like Thompson are not persuaded. . . . She would prefer the scans to be owned by the countries and people where these sites are located.

Questions

# Passage 2: Questions

Q1. Based on his views mentioned in the passage, one could best characterise Dr. Watrall as being:

- A. opposed to the use of digital technology in archaeological and cultural sites in developing countries.
- B. dismissive of laypeople's access to specialist images of archaeological and cultural sites.
- C. uneasy about the marketing of archaeological images for commercial use by firms such as Google and CyArk.
- D. critical about the links between a non-profit and a commercial tech platform for distributing archaeological images.

Q2. By "digital colonialism", critics of the CyArk–Google project are referring to the fact that:

- A. CyArk and Google have been scanning images without copyright permission from host countries.
- B. the scanning process can damage delicate frescos and statues at the sites.
- C. countries where the scanned sites are located do not own the scan copyrights.
- D. CyArk and Google have not shared the details of digitisation with the host countries.

Q3. Which of the following, if true, would most strongly invalidate Dr. Watrall's objections?

- A. Google takes down advertisements on its website hosting CyArk's scanned images.
- B. There is a ban on CyArk scanning archeological sites located in other countries.
- C. CyArk does not own the copyright on scanned images of archaeological sites.
- D. CyArk uploads its scanned images of archaeological sites onto museum websites only.

Q4. In Dr. Thompson's view, CyArk owning the copyright of its digital scans of archaeological sites is akin to:

- A. tourists uploading photos of monuments onto social media.
- B. the seizing of ancient Egyptian artefacts by a Western museum.
- C. the illegal downloading of content from the internet.
- D. digital platforms capturing users' data for market research.

Q5. Of the following arguments, which one is LEAST likely to be used by the companies that digitally scan cultural sites?

- A. It enables people who cannot physically visit these sites to experience them.
- B. It helps preserve precious images in case the sites are damaged or destroyed.
- C. It allows a large corporation to project itself as a protector of culture.
- D. It provides images free of cost to all users.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

# Passage 3: Urban Settlements

The magic of squatter cities is that they are improved steadily and gradually by their residents. To a planner's eye, these cities look chaotic. I trained as a biologist and to my eye, they look organic. Squatter cities are also unexpectedly green. They have maximum density—1 million people per square mile in some areas of Mumbai—and have minimum energy and material use. People get around by foot, bicycle, rickshaw, or the universal shared taxi.

Not everything is efficient in the slums, though. In the Brazilian favelas where electricity is stolen and therefore free, people leave their lights on all day. But in most slums recycling is literally a way of life. The Dharavi slum in Mumbai has 400 recycling units and 30,000 ragpickers. Six thousand tons of rubbish are sorted every day. In 2007, the Economist reported that in Vietnam and Mozambique, "Waves of gleaners sift the sweepings of Hanoi's streets, just as Mozambiquan children pick over the rubbish of Maputo's main tip. Every city in Asia and Latin America has an industry based on gathering up old cardboard boxes." . . .

In his 1985 article, Calthorpe made a statement that still jars with most people: "The city is the most environmentally benign form of human settlement. Each city dweller consumes less land, less energy, less water, and produces less pollution than his counterpart in settlements of lower densities." "Green Manhattan" was the inflammatory title of a 2004 New Yorker article by David Owen. "By the most significant measures," he wrote, "New York is the greenest community in the United States, and one of the greenest cities in the world . . . The key to New York's relative environmental benignity is its extreme compactness. . . . Placing one and a half million people on a twenty-three-square-mile island sharply reduces their opportunities to be wasteful." He went on to note that this very compactness forces people to live in the world's most energy-efficient apartment buildings. . . .

Urban density allows half of humanity to live on 2.8 per cent of the land. . . . Consider just the infrastructure efficiencies. According to a 2004 UN report: "The concentration of population and enterprises in urban areas greatly reduces the unit cost of piped water, sewers, drains, roads, electricity, garbage collection, transport, health care, and schools." . . .

[T]he nationally subsidised city of Manaus in northern Brazil "answers the question" of how to stop deforestation: give people decent jobs. Then they can afford houses, and gain security. One hundred thousand people who would otherwise be deforesting the jungle around Manaus are now prospering in town making such things as mobile phones and televisions. . . .

Of course, fast-growing cities are far from an unmitigated good. They concentrate crime, pollution, disease and injustice as much as business, innovation, education and entertainment. . . . But if they are overall a net good for those who move there, it is because cities offer more than just jobs. They are transformative: in the slums, as well as the office towers and leafy suburbs, the progress is from hick to metropolitan to cosmopolitan . . .

# Passage 3: Questions

Q1. Which one of the following statements would undermine the author's stand regarding the greenness of cities?

- A. The compactness of big cities in the West increases the incidence of violent crime.
- B. Sorting through rubbish contributes to the rapid spread of diseases in the slums.
- C. The high density of cities leads to an increase in carbon dioxide and global warming.
- D. Over the last decade the cost of utilities has been increasing for city dwellers.

Q2. According to the passage, squatter cities are environment-friendly for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- A. their transportation is energy efficient.
- B. they recycle material.
- C. they sort out garbage.
- D. their streets are kept clean.

Q3. We can infer that Calthorpe's statement "still jars" with most people because most people:

- A. regard cities as places of disease and crime.
- B. do not consider cities to be eco-friendly places.
- C. do not regard cities as good places to live in.
- D. consider cities to be very crowded and polluted.

Q4. In the context of the passage, the author refers to Manaus in order to:

- A. explain how urban areas help the environment.
- B. describe the infrastructure efficiencies of living in a city.
- C. explain where cities source their labour for factories.
- D. promote cities as employment hubs for people.

Q5. From the passage it can be inferred that cities are good places to live in for all of the following reasons EXCEPT that they:

- A. offer employment opportunities.
- B. help prevent destruction of the environment.
- C. contribute to the cultural transformation of residents.
- D. have suburban areas as well as office areas.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

# Passage 4: Linguistics and Culture

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For two years, I tracked down dozens of . . . Chinese in Upper Egypt [who were] selling lingerie. In a deeply conservative region, where Egyptian families rarely allow women to work or own businesses, the Chinese flourished because of their status as outsiders. They didn't gossip, and they kept their opinions to themselves. In a *New Yorker* article entitled "Learning to Speak Lingerie," I described the Chinese use of Arabic as another non-threatening characteristic. I wrote, "Unlike Mandarin, Arabic is inflected for gender, and Chinese dealers, who learn the language strictly by ear, often pick up speech patterns from female customers. I've come to think of it as the lingerie dialect, and there's something disarming about these Chinese men speaking in the feminine voice." . . .

When I wrote about the Chinese in the *New Yorker*, most readers seemed to appreciate the unusual perspective. But as I often find with topics that involve the Middle East, some people had trouble getting past the black-and-white quality of a byline. "This piece is so orientalist I don't know what to do," Aisha Gani, a reporter who worked at *The Guardian*, tweeted. Another colleague at the British paper, Iman Amrani, agreed: "I wouldn't have minded an article on the subject written by an Egyptian woman—probably would have had better insight." . . .

As an MOL (man of language), I also take issue with this kind of essentialism. Empathy and understanding are not inherited traits, and they are not strictly tied to gender and race. An individual who wrestles with a difficult language can learn to be more sympathetic to outsiders and open to different experiences of the world. This learning process—the embarrassments, the frustrations, the gradual sense of understanding and connection—is invariably transformative. In Upper Egypt, the Chinese experience of struggling to learn Arabic and local culture had made them much more thoughtful. In the same way, I was interested in their lives not because of some kind of voyeurism, but because I had also experienced Egypt and Arabic as an outsider. And both the Chinese and the Egyptians welcomed me because I spoke their languages. My identity as a white male was far less important than my ability to communicate.

And that easily lobbed word—"Orientalist"—hardly captures the complexity of our interactions. What exactly is the dynamic when a man from Missouri observes a Zhejiang native selling lingerie to an Upper Egyptian woman? . . . If all of us now stand beside the same river, speaking in ways we all understand, who's looking east and who's looking west? Which way is Oriental?

For all of our current interest in identity politics, there's no corresponding sense of identity linguistics. You are what you speak—the words that run throughout your mind are at least as fundamental to your selfhood as is your ethnicity or your gender. And sometimes it's healthy to consider human characteristics that are not inborn, rigid, and outwardly defined. After all, you can always learn another language and change who you are.

Questions



# Passage 4: Questions

Q1. Which of the following can be inferred from the author's claim, "Which way is Oriental?"

- A. Learning another language can mitigate cultural hierarchies and barriers.
- B. Globalisation has mitigated cultural hierarchies and barriers.
- C. Goodwill alone mitigates cultural hierarchies and barriers.
- D. Orientalism is a discourse of the past, from colonial times, rarely visible today.

Q2. A French ethnographer decides to study the culture of a Nigerian tribe. Which of the following is most likely to be the view of the author of the passage?

- A. The author would encourage the ethnographer, but ask him/her to first learn the language of the Nigerian tribe s/he wishes to study.
- B. The author would encourage the ethnographer, but ask him/her to be mindful of his/her racial and gender identity in the process.
- C. The author would discourage the ethnographer from conducting the study as Nigerian ethnographers can better understand the tribe.
- D. The author would encourage the ethnographer and recommend him/her to hire a good translator for the purpose of holding interviews.

Q3. The author's critics would argue that:

- A. Empathy can overcome identity politics.
- B. Language is insufficient to bridge cultural barriers.
- C. Linguistic politics can be erased.
- D. Orientalism cannot be practiced by Egyptians.

Q4. According to the passage, which of the following is not responsible for language's ability to change us?

- A. The ups and downs involved in the course of learning a language.
- B. Language's intrinsic connection to our notions of self and identity.
- C. Language's ability to mediate the impact of identity markers one is born with.
- D. The twists and turns in the evolution of language over time.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

# Passage 5: British Colonialism

British colonial policy . . . went through two policy phases, or at least there were two strategies between which its policies actually oscillated, sometimes to its great advantage. At first, the new colonial apparatus exercised caution, and occupied India by a mix of military power and subtle diplomacy, the high ground in the middle of the circle of circles. This, however, pushed them into contradictions. For, whatever their sense of the strangeness of the country and the thinness of colonial presence, the British colonial state represented the great conquering discourse of Enlightenment rationalism, entering India precisely at the moment of its greatest unchecked arrogance. As inheritors and representatives of this discourse, which carried everything before it, this colonial state could hardly adopt for long such a self-denying attitude. It had restructured everything in Europe—the productive system, the political regimes, the moral and cognitive orders—and would do the same in India, particularly as some empirically inclined theorists of that generation considered the colonies a massive laboratory of utilitarian or other theoretical experiments. Consequently, the colonial state could not settle simply for eminence at the cost of its marginality; it began to take initiatives to introduce the logic of modernity into Indian society. But this modernity did not enter a passive society. Sometimes, its initiatives were resisted by pre-existing structural forms. At times, there was a more direct form of collective resistance. Therefore the map of continuity and discontinuity that this state left behind at the time of independence was rather complex and has to be traced with care.

Most significantly, of course, initiatives for . . . modernity came to assume an external character. The acceptance of modernity came to be connected, ineradicably, with subjection. This again points to two different problems, one theoretical, the other political. Theoretically, because modernity was externally introduced, it is explanatorily unhelpful to apply the logical format of the 'transition process' to this pattern of change. Such a logical format would be wrong on two counts. First, however subtly, it would imply that what was proposed to be built was something like European capitalism. (And, in any case, historians have forcefully argued that what it was to replace was not like feudalism, with or without modificatory adjectives.) But, more fundamentally, the logical structure of endogenous change does not apply here. Here transformation agendas attack as an external force. This externality is not something that can be casually mentioned and forgotten. It is inscribed on every move, every object, every proposal, every legislative act, each line of causality. It comes to be marked on the epoch itself. This repetitive emphasis on externality should not be seen as a nationalist initiative that is so well rehearsed in Indian social science. . . .

Quite apart from the externality of the entire historical proposal of modernity, some of its contents were remarkable. . . . Economic reforms, or rather alterations . . . did not foreshadow the construction of a classical capitalist economy, with its necessary emphasis on extractive and transport sectors. What happened was the creation of a degenerate version of capitalism—what early dependency theorists called the 'development of underdevelopment'.

# Passage 5: Questions

Q1. All of the following statements about British colonialism can be inferred from the first paragraph, EXCEPT that it:

- A. was at least partly an outcome of Enlightenment rationalism.
- B. faced resistance from existing structural forms of Indian modernity.
- C. was at least partly shaped by the project of European modernity.
- D. allowed the treatment of colonies as experimental sites.

Q2. All of the following statements, if true, could be seen as supporting the arguments in the passage, EXCEPT:

- A. the introduction of capitalism in India was not through the transformation of feudalism, as happened in Europe.
- B. modernity was imposed upon India by the British and, therefore, led to underdevelopment.
- C. throughout the history of colonial conquest, natives have often been experimented on by the colonisers.
- D. the change in British colonial policy was induced by resistance to modernity in Indian society.

Q3. “Consequently, the colonial state could not settle simply for eminence at the cost of its marginality; it began to take initiatives to introduce the logic of modernity into Indian society.”

Which of the following best captures the sense of this statement?

- A. The colonial state’s eminence was unsettled by its marginal position; therefore, it developed Indian society by modernising it.
- B. The colonial enterprise was a costly one; so to justify the cost it began to take initiatives to introduce the logic of modernity into Indian society.
- C. The colonial state felt marginalised from Indian society because of its own modernity; therefore, it sought to address that marginalisation by bringing its modernity to change Indian society.
- D. The cost of the colonial state’s eminence was not settled; therefore, it took the initiative of introducing modernity into Indian society.

Q4. Which one of the following 5-word sequences best captures the flow of the arguments in the passage?

- A. Military power—arrogance—laboratory—modernity—capitalism.
- B. Colonial policy—Enlightenment—external modernity—subjection—underdevelopment.
- C. Colonial policy—arrogant rationality—resistance—independence—development.
- D. Military power—colonialism—restructuring—feudalism—capitalism.

Q5. Which of the following observations is a valid conclusion to draw from the author’s statement that “the logical structure of endogenous change does not apply here. Here transformation agendas attack as an external force”?

- A. The endogenous logic of colonialism can only bring change if it attacks and transforms external forces.
- B. Indian society is not endogamous; it is more accurately characterised as aggressively exogamous.
- C. Colonised societies cannot be changed through logic; they need to be transformed with external force.
- D. The transformation of Indian society did not happen organically, but was forced by colonial agendas.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

## Q25: Gender and time

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

1. Conceptualisations of 'women's time' as contrary to clock-time and clock-time as synonymous with economic rationalism are two of the deleterious results of this representation.
2. While dichotomies of 'men's time', 'women's time', clock-time, and caring time can be analytically useful, this article argues that everyday caring practices incorporate a multiplicity of times; and both men and women can engage in these multiple-times.
3. When the everyday practices of working sole fathers and working sole mothers are carefully examined to explore conceptualisations of gendered time, it is found that caring time is often more focused on the clock than generally theorised.
4. Clock-time has been consistently represented in feminist literature as a masculine artefact representative of a 'time is money' perspective.

Detailed explanation

# Q26: Cognition and Structure

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

1. Living things—animals and plants—typically exhibit correlational structure.
2. Adaptive behaviour depends on cognitive economy, treating objects as equivalent.
3. The information we receive from our senses, from the world, typically has structure and order, and is not arbitrary.
4. To categorize an object means to consider it equivalent to other things in that category, and different—along some salient dimension—from things that are not.

Detailed explanation

## Q27: Impact of Language

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

Language is an autapomorphy found only in our lineage, and not shared with other branches of our group such as primates. We also have no definitive evidence that any species other than *Homo sapiens* ever had language. However, it must be noted straightaway that 'language' is not a monolithic entity, but rather a complex bundle of traits that must have evolved over a significant time frame.... Moreover, language crucially draws on aspects of cognition that are long established in the primate lineage, such as memory: the language faculty as a whole comprises more than just the uniquely linguistic features.

- A. Language, a derived trait found only in humans, has evolved over time and involves memory.
- B. Language is a distinctively human feature as there is no evidence of the existence of language in any other species.
- C. Language evolved with linguistic features building on features of cognition such as memory.
- D. Language is not a single, uniform entity but the end result of a long and complex process of linguistic evolution.

Detailed explanation

# Q28: Movements and Organisations

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

Social movement organizations often struggle to mobilize supporters from allied movements in their efforts to achieve critical mass. Organizations with hybrid identities—those whose organizational identities span the boundaries of two or more social movements, issues, or identities—are vital to mobilizing these constituencies. Studies of the post-9/11 U.S. antiwar movement show that individuals with past involvement in non-anti-war movements are more likely to join hybrid organizations than are individuals without involvement in non-anti-war movements. In addition, they show that organizations with hybrid identities occupy relatively more central positions in inter-organizational contact networks within the antiwar movement and thus recruit significantly more participants in demonstrations than do nonhybrid organizations.

- A. Post 9/11 studies show that people who are involved in non anti-war movements are likely to join hybrid organizations.
- B. Hybrid organizations attract individuals that are deeply involved in anti-war movements.
- C. Movements that work towards social change often find it difficult to mobilize a critical mass of supporters.
- D. Organizations with hybrid identities are able to mobilize individuals with different points of view.

Answer

Detailed explanation

## Q29: Atonality

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

1. To the uninitiated listener, atonal music can sound like chaotic, random noise.
2. Atonality is a condition of music in which the constructs of the music do not 'live' within the confines of a particular key signature, scale, or mode.
3. After you realize the amount of knowledge, skill, and technical expertise required to compose or perform it, your tune may change, so to speak.
4. However, atonality is one of the most important movements in 20th century music.

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

1. A particularly interesting example of inference occurs in many single panel comics.
2. It's the creator's participation and imagination that makes the single-panel comic so engaging and so rewarding.
3. Often, the humor requires you to imagine what happened in the instant immediately before or immediately after the panel you're being shown.
4. To get the joke, you actually have to figure out what some of these missing panels must be.
5. It is as though the cartoonist devised a series of panels to tell the story and has chosen to show you only one – and typically not even the funniest.

Detailed explanation

# Q31: Rumination

Five sentences related to a topic are given below in a jumbled order. Four of them form a coherent and unified paragraph. Identify the odd sentence that does not go with the four. Key in the number of the option that you choose.

1. Socrates told us that ‘the unexamined life is not worth living’ and that to ‘know thyself’ is the path to true wisdom.
2. It suggests that you should adopt an ancient rhetorical method favored by the likes of Julius Caesar and known as ‘illeism’ – or speaking about yourself in the third person.
3. Research has shown that people who are prone to rumination also often suffer from impaired decision making under pressure and are at a substantially increased risk of depression.
4. Simple rumination – the process of churning your concerns around in your head – is not the way to achieve self-realization.
5. The idea is that this small change in perspective can clear your emotional fog, allowing you to see past your biases.

Detailed explanation

## Q32: Ocean Plastic

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. Ocean plastic is problematic for a number of reasons, but primarily because marine animals eat it.
2. The largest numerical proportion of ocean plastic falls in small size fractions.
3. Aside from clogging up the digestive tracts of marine life, plastic also tends to adsorb pollutants from the water column.
4. Plastic in the oceans is arguably one of the most important and pervasive environmental problems today.
5. Eating plastic has a number of negative consequences such as the retention of plastic particles in the gut for longer periods than normal food particles.

Detailed explanation

## Q33: Teleology

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

1. Such a belief in the harmony of nature requires a purpose presumably imposed by the goodness and wisdom of a deity.
2. These parts, all fit together into an integrated, well-ordered system that was created by design.
3. Historically, the notion of a balance of nature is part observational, part metaphysical, and not scientific in any way.
4. It is an example of an ancient belief system called teleology, the notion that what we call nature has a predetermined destiny associated with its component parts.

Detailed explanation

## Q34: Office Spaces

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

Privacy-challenged office workers may find it hard to believe, but open-plan offices and cubicles were invented by architects and designers who thought that to break down the social walls that divide people, you had to break down the real walls, too. Modernist architects saw walls and rooms as downright fascist. The spaciousness and flexibility of an open plan would liberate homeowners and office dwellers from the confines of boxes. But companies took up their idea less out of a democratic ideology than a desire to pack in as many workers as they could. The typical open-plan office of the first half of the 20th century was a white-collar assembly line. Cubicles were interior designers' attempt to put some soul back in.

- A. Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out as desired and therefore cubicles came into being.
- B. Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out the way their utopian inventors intended, as they became tools for exploitation of labor.
- C. Wall-free office spaces could have worked out the way their utopian inventors intended had companies cared for workers' satisfaction.
- D. Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out as companies don't believe in democratic ideology.

Answer

Detailed explanation

# Passage 1: Solutions

Q1. According to the passage, colonial powers located their capitals:

- A. to showcase their power and prestige.
- B. where they had the densest populations.
- C. based on political expediency.
- D. to promote their trading interests.**

Q2. The “dilemma” mentioned in the passage refers to:

- A. keeping government agencies in the largest city with good infrastructure or moving them to a remote area with few amenities.
- B. concentrating on decongesting large cities or focusing on boosting employment in relatively larger cities.
- C. encouraging private enterprises to relocate to smaller towns or not incentivising them in order to keep government costs in those towns low.
- D. relocating government agencies to boost growth in remote areas with poor amenities or to relatively larger cities with good amenities.**

Q3. People who support decentralising central government functions are LEAST likely to cite which of the following reasons for their view?

- A. More independence could be enjoyed by regulatory bodies located away from political centres.
- B. Policy makers may benefit from fresh thinking in a new environment.
- C. It reduces expenses as infrastructure costs and salaries are lower in smaller cities.
- D. It could weaken the nexus between bureaucrats and media in the capital.**

Q4. The “long pedigree” of the aim to shift civil servants to improve their living standards implies that this move:

- A. is not a new idea and has been tried in the past.**
- B. has become common practice in several countries worldwide.
- C. is supported by politicians and the ruling elites.
- D. takes a long time to achieve its intended outcomes.

Q5. According to the author, relocating government agencies has not always been a success for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- A. a rise in pollution levels and congestion in the new locations.**
- B. the difficulty of attracting talented, well-skilled people in more remote areas.
- C. increased avenues of corruption away from the capital city.
- D. high staff losses, as people may not be prepared to move to smaller towns.

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

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Q1. According to the passage, colonial powers located their capitals:

- A. to showcase their power and prestige.
- B. where they had the densest populations.
- C. based on political expediency.
- D. to promote their trading interests.**

## Option D

See paragraph 1, line 1 :‘coastal capitals picked by trade-focused empires...’.So, empires picked their capitals in order to promote their trading interests.

Q2. The “dilemma” mentioned in the passage refers to:

- A. keeping government agencies in the largest city with good infrastructure or moving them to a remote area with few amenities.
- B. concentrating on decongesting large cities or focusing on boosting employment in relatively larger cities.
- C. encouraging private enterprises to relocate to smaller towns or not incentivising them in order to keep government costs in those towns low.
- D. relocating government agencies to boost growth in remote areas with poor amenities or to relatively larger cities with good amenities.**

## Option D

Paragraph 6 explains the dilemma. Small, poor towns = new jobs in areas of high employment, but it is hard to attract the most qualified workers; Larger cities = infrastructure and better-qualified residents, but deprived areas do not benefit. Option D simply paraphrases this.

Q3. People who support decentralising central government functions are LEAST likely to cite which of the following reasons for their view?

- A. More independence could be enjoyed by regulatory bodies located away from political centres.
- B. Policy makers may benefit from fresh thinking in a new environment.
- C. It reduces expenses as infrastructure costs and salaries are lower in smaller cities.
- D. It could weaken the nexus between bureaucrats and media in the capital.**

## Option D

The question asks us to pick the option that those who support decentralisation are *least likely* to cite, i.e. the option that *does not support the argument for* decentralisation.

The last paragraph explains how decentralisation begets corruption: journalists in bigger cities are less likely to hold bureaucrats in smaller cities accountable. Those who support decentralisation are not likely to mention this while making their point.

More independence, fresh thinking and lower costs in smaller cities are, on the other hand, arguments *for* decentralisation.

Q4. The “long pedigree” of the aim to shift civil servants to improve their living standards implies that this move:

- A. **is not a new idea and has been tried in the past.**
- B. has become common practice in several countries worldwide.
- C. is supported by politicians and the ruling elites.
- D. takes a long time to achieve its intended outcomes.

## Option A

‘Pedigree’ is used in the sense of ‘history’ here. That is, shifting civil servants in order to improve their living standards is something that is not new and has been tried in the past.

Q5. According to the author, relocating government agencies has not always been a success for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- A. **a rise in pollution levels and congestion in the new locations.**
- B. the difficulty of attracting talented, well-skilled people in more remote areas.
- C. increased avenues of corruption away from the capital city.
- D. high staff losses, as people may not be prepared to move to smaller towns.

## Option A

Note the double negative in the question. It’s easier to pick the answer to this question by completing the sentence with the answer option and checking if the statement is true or false.

Relocating government agencies has not always been a success because of a rise in pollution levels and congestion in the new locations. The passage does not mention a rise in pollution levels in smaller cities. So, this option is *not supported* by the passage.

Relocating government agencies has not always been a success because of the difficulty of attracting talented, well-skilled people in more remote areas. This is true. (see paragraph 4 : ‘agencies that are moved elsewhere can often recruit better workers on lower salaries than in capitals, where well-paying multinationals mop up talent.’)

Relocating government agencies has not always been a success because of increased avenues of corruption away from the capital city. Again, this is true. (see last paragraph)

Relocating government agencies has not always been a success because of high staff losses, as people may not be prepared to move to smaller towns. This is also true. (see paragraph 4: ‘swapping the capital for somewhere smaller is not always agreeable. Attrition rates can exceed 80%.’)

So, options B, C and D are true, while A is not.



# Passage 2: Solutions

Q1. Based on his views mentioned in the passage, one could best characterise Dr. Watrall as being:

- A. opposed to the use of digital technology in archaeological and cultural sites in developing countries.
- B. dismissive of laypeople's access to specialist images of archaeological and cultural sites.
- C. uneasy about the marketing of archaeological images for commercial use by firms such as Google and CyArk.
- D. critical about the links between a non-profit and a commercial tech platform for distributing archaeological images.**

Q2. By "digital colonialism", critics of the CyArk–Google project are referring to the fact that:

- A. CyArk and Google have been scanning images without copyright permission from host countries.
- B. the scanning process can damage delicate frescos and statues at the sites.
- C. countries where the scanned sites are located do not own the scan copyrights.**
- D. CyArk and Google have not shared the details of digitisation with the host countries.

Q3. Which of the following, if true, would most strongly invalidate Dr. Watrall's objections?

- A. Google takes down advertisements on its website hosting CyArk's scanned images.
- B. There is a ban on CyArk scanning archeological sites located in other countries.
- C. CyArk does not own the copyright on scanned images of archaeological sites.
- D. CyArk uploads its scanned images of archaeological sites onto museum websites only.**

Q4. In Dr. Thompson's view, CyArk owning the copyright of its digital scans of archaeological sites is akin to:

- A. tourists uploading photos of monuments onto social media.
- B. the seizing of ancient Egyptian artefacts by a Western museum.**
- C. the illegal downloading of content from the internet.
- D. digital platforms capturing users' data for market research.

Q5. Of the following arguments, which one is LEAST likely to be used by the companies that digitally scan cultural sites?

- A. It enables people who cannot physically visit these sites to experience them.
- B. It helps preserve precious images in case the sites are damaged or destroyed.
- C. It allows a large corporation to project itself as a protector of culture.**
- D. It provides images free of cost to all users.

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

# Passage 2: Detailed Solution

- Q1. Based on his views mentioned in the passage, one could best characterise Dr. Watrall as being:
- A. opposed to the use of digital technology in archaeological and cultural sites in developing countries.
  - B. dismissive of laypeople's access to specialist images of archaeological and cultural sites.
  - C. uneasy about the marketing of archaeological images for commercial use by firms such as Google and CyArk.
  - D. critical about the links between a non-profit and a commercial tech platform for distributing archaeological images.**

## Option D

The passage states that Dr. Watrall is 'not comfortable' about the arrangement between CyArk and Google as he sees the project as 'a way for Google to promote Google', and, at its core, 'about advertisements and driving traffic.'

Options A is easily ruled out, as Dr. Watrall is not opposed to the use digital technology in archaeological sites.

Option B is also incorrect. The fact that Dr. Watrall would like the images to belong to a museum or educational institution 'where there is serious scholarship' does not automatically imply that he is dismissive of laypeople's access to specialist images.

Option C is incorrect as well. From the passage we gather that CyArk is a *non-profit organisation* that *creates the 3D scanning of historic sites* and that Google does not make money off the website. Option C labels both Google and CyArk as firms interested in the marketing of archaeological images for commercial use. This is false.

Option D—that Dr. Watrall is critical about the links between a non-profit and a commercial tech platform for distributing archaeological images—is the correct choice.

Q2. By "digital colonialism", critics of the CyArk–Google project are referring to the fact that:

- A. CyArk and Google have been scanning images without copyright permission from host countries.
- B. the scanning process can damage delicate frescos and statues at the sites.
- C. countries where the scanned sites are located do not own the scan copyrights.**
- D. CyArk and Google have not shared the details of digitisation with the host countries.

## Option C

Note the context in which 'digital colonialism' is mentioned in the passage: '...the project is raising questions about Google's motivations and about *who should own the digital copyrights*. Some critics call it a form of "digital colonialism." The problem, according to the passage, is that the countries need *CyArk's permission* to use the images for commercial purposes.' So, 'digital colonialism' is about the appropriation of the scan copyrights by CyArk-Google.

# Passage 2: Detailed Solution

Q3. Which of the following, if true, would most strongly invalidate Dr. Watrall's objections?

- A. Google takes down advertisements on its website hosting CyArk's scanned images.
- B. There is a ban on CyArk scanning archeological sites located in other countries.
- C. CyArk does not own the copyright on scanned images of archaeological sites.
- D. CyArk uploads its scanned images of archaeological sites onto museum websites only.**

## Option D

In Dr. Watrall's view, the CyArk-Google project is about Google promoting itself and benefitting through advertisements and traffic. Dr. Watrall believes these images, instead, belong on the site of a museum or educational institution, 'where there is serious scholarship and a very different mission'. His concern relates, primarily, to *how the images are put to use*.

If CyArk uploads its scanned images of archaeological sites onto museum websites, Dr. Watrall's objections are invalidated.

Option A talks about Google's advertisements on the website hosting CyArk's scanned images. This only addresses a very small part of the issue raised by Dr. Watrall.

Option B too is incorrect. Dr. Watrall is not opposed to CyArk scanning archaeological sites but is concerned about how the images are used.

Option C is tempting, but incorrect. Dr. Watrall does not raise the issue of copyrights—this is discussed later in the passage.

Q4. In Dr. Thompson's view, CyArk owning the copyright of its digital scans of archaeological sites is akin to:

- A. tourists uploading photos of monuments onto social media.
- B. the seizing of ancient Egyptian artefacts by a Western museum.**
- C. the illegal downloading of content from the internet.
- D. digital platforms capturing users' data for market research.

## Option B

Dr. Thompson describes CyArk owning the copyright of its digital scans of archaeological sites as 'the latest example of a *Western nation appropriating a foreign culture*'. Option B is the one that closely matches this.

# Passage 2: Detailed Solution

Q5. Of the following arguments, which one is LEAST likely to be used by the companies that digitally scan cultural sites?

- A. It enables people who cannot physically visit these sites to experience them.
- B. It helps preserve precious images in case the sites are damaged or destroyed.
- C. It allows a large corporation to project itself as a protector of culture.**
- D. It provides images free of cost to all users.

## Option C

The question asks us to choose the argument that is *least likely* to be used by the companies that digitally scan cultural sites.

Companies that digitally scan cultural sites will choose to argue that it enables people who cannot physically visit these sites to experience them, that it helps to preserve precious images in case the sites are damaged or destroyed and that it provides images free of cost to all users.

These companies, however, would not like it to be generally known that this project is a good way for them acquire a sheen of culture.

# Passage 3: Solutions

Q1. Which one of the following statements would undermine the author's stand regarding the greenness of cities?

- A. The compactness of big cities in the West increases the incidence of violent crime.
- B. Sorting through rubbish contributes to the rapid spread of diseases in the slums.
- C. The high density of cities leads to an increase in carbon dioxide and global warming.**
- D. Over the last decade the cost of utilities has been increasing for city dwellers.

Q2. According to the passage, squatter cities are environment-friendly for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- A. their transportation is energy efficient.
- B. they recycle material.
- C. they sort out garbage.
- D. their streets are kept clean.**

Q3. We can infer that Calthorpe's statement "still jars" with most people because most people:

- A. regard cities as places of disease and crime.
- B. do not consider cities to be eco-friendly places.**
- C. do not regard cities as good places to live in.
- D. consider cities to be very crowded and polluted.

Q4. In the context of the passage, the author refers to Manaus in order to:

- A. explain how urban areas help the environment.**
- B. describe the infrastructure efficiencies of living in a city.
- C. explain where cities source their labour for factories.
- D. promote cities as employment hubs for people.

Q5. From the passage it can be inferred that cities are good places to live in for all of the following reasons EXCEPT that they:

- A. offer employment opportunities.
- B. help prevent destruction of the environment.
- C. contribute to the cultural transformation of residents.
- D. have suburban areas as well as office areas.**

Q1. Which one of the following statements would undermine the author's stand regarding the greenness of cities?

- A. The compactness of big cities in the West increases the incidence of violent crime.
- B. Sorting through rubbish contributes to the rapid spread of diseases in the slums.
- C. The high density of cities leads to an increase in carbon dioxide and global warming.**
- D. Over the last decade the cost of utilities has been increasing for city dwellers.

### Option C

According to the author, high urban density makes cities green. The argument that high density of cities results in an increase in carbon dioxide and global warming goes against this.

Options A and B are unrelated to the idea of greenness of big cities.

According to the author, high urban density forces 'minimum energy and material use', thereby making cities green. Option 4 only talks of increasing cost of utilities for city dwellers, ignoring the point about recycling and reduced opportunities to be wasteful in big cities mentioned in the passage. So, it does not really help undermine the author's stand.

Q2. According to the passage, squatter cities are environment-friendly for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- A. their transportation is energy efficient.
- B. they recycle material.
- C. they sort out garbage.
- D. their streets are kept clean.**

### Option D

Energy efficient transportation, recycling of material and sorting of garbage all relate to environment friendliness. Keeping streets clean, on the other hand, does not relate to environment friendliness as such.

Q3. We can infer that Calthorpe's statement "still jars" with most people because most people:

- A. regard cities as places of disease and crime.
- B. do not consider cities to be eco-friendly places.**
- C. do not regard cities as good places to live in.
- D. consider cities to be very crowded and polluted.

### Option B

The author says that Calthorpe calling the city 'the *most environmentally benign* form of human settlement' jars most people. Why? Because people believe the opposite: that cities are not eco-friendly.

Of the given options A and C are easily ruled out. Calthorpe argues that the very fact that cities are crowded *contributes to* their environmental benignity. The point here is not the crowding, but the fact that Calthorpe regards this extreme compactness to be environment friendly.

Q4. In the context of the passage, the author refers to Manaus in order to:

- A. explain how urban areas help the environment.**
- B. describe the infrastructure efficiencies of living in a city.
- C. explain where cities source their labour for factories.
- D. promote cities as employment hubs for people.

### Option A

Note the context in which the author mentions Manaus: 'One hundred thousand people *who would otherwise be deforesting the jungle around Manaus* are now prospering in town making such things as mobile phones and televisions'. The idea the author wants to convey is that employment in the city helps stop deforestation.

Q5. From the passage it can be inferred that cities are good places to live in for all of the following reasons EXCEPT that they:

- A. offer employment opportunities.
- B. help prevent destruction of the environment.
- C. contribute to the cultural transformation of residents.
- D. have suburban areas as well as office areas.**

### Option D

That cities have suburban as well as office areas does not meaningfully relate to the idea that cities are good places to live in. In the passage, the author mentions employment opportunities ('give people decent jobs. Then they can afford houses, and gain security'), prevention of destruction of the environment (example of Manaus) and cultural transformation ('the progress is from hick to metropolitan to cosmopolitan') as reasons for cities being good places to live in.

# Passage 4: Solutions

Q1. Which of the following can be inferred from the author's claim, "Which way is Oriental?"

- A. **Learning another language can mitigate cultural hierarchies and barriers.**
- B. Globalisation has mitigated cultural hierarchies and barriers.
- C. Goodwill alone mitigates cultural hierarchies and barriers.
- D. Orientalism is a discourse of the past, from colonial times, rarely visible today.

Q2. A French ethnographer decides to study the culture of a Nigerian tribe. Which of the following is most likely to be the view of the author of the passage?

- A. **The author would encourage the ethnographer, but ask him/her to first learn the language of the Nigerian tribe s/he wishes to study.**
- B. The author would encourage the ethnographer, but ask him/her to be mindful of his/her racial and gender identity in the process.
- C. The author would discourage the ethnographer from conducting the study as Nigerian ethnographers can better understand the tribe.
- D. The author would encourage the ethnographer and recommend him/her to hire a good translator for the purpose of holding interviews.

Q3. The author's critics would argue that:

- A. Empathy can overcome identity politics.
- B. **Language is insufficient to bridge cultural barriers.**
- C. Linguistic politics can be erased.
- D. Orientalism cannot be practiced by Egyptians.

Q4. According to the passage, which of the following is not responsible for language's ability to change us?

- A. The ups and downs involved in the course of learning a language.
- B. Language's intrinsic connection to our notions of self and identity.
- C. Language's ability to mediate the impact of identity markers one is born with.
- D. **The twists and turns in the evolution of language over time.**

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4



Q1. Which of the following can be inferred from the author's claim, "Which way is Oriental?"

- A. Learning another language can mitigate cultural hierarchies and barriers.
- B. Globalisation has mitigated cultural hierarchies and barriers.
- C. Goodwill alone mitigates cultural hierarchies and barriers.
- D. Orientalism is a discourse of the past, from colonial times, rarely visible today.

### Option A

The main idea of the passage is summed up in the last paragraph: 'You are what you speak—the words that run throughout your mind are at least as fundamental to your selfhood as is your ethnicity or your gender.'

The author asks, 'Which way is Oriental?' to help readers realise that cultural hierarchies and barriers are not fixed and that they can be mitigated by learning another language.

Q2. A French ethnographer decides to study the culture of a Nigerian tribe. Which of the following is most likely to be the view of the author of the passage?

- A. The author would encourage the ethnographer, but ask him/her to first learn the language of the Nigerian tribe s/he wishes to study.
- B. The author would encourage the ethnographer, but ask him/her to be mindful of his/her racial and gender identity in the process.
- C. The author would discourage the ethnographer from conducting the study as Nigerian ethnographers can better understand the tribe.
- D. The author would encourage the ethnographer and recommend him/her to hire a good translator for the purpose of holding interviews.

### Option A

The author firmly believes that learning another language can help transcend cultural barriers. See paragraph 3: 'An individual who wrestles with a difficult language can learn to be more sympathetic to outsiders and open to different experiences of the world.'

Q3. The author's critics would argue that:

- A. Empathy can overcome identity politics.
- B. Language is insufficient to bridge cultural barriers.**
- C. Linguistic politics can be erased.
- D. Orientalism cannot be practiced by Egyptians.

## Option B

The author observes 'both the Chinese and the Egyptians welcomed me because I spoke their languages. My identity as a white male was far less important than my ability to communicate.' That is, he believes language can help overcome identity politics. His critics' view would be the opposite: language is insufficient to bridge cultural barriers.

Q4. According to the passage, which of the following is not responsible for language's ability to change us?

- A. The ups and downs involved in the course of learning a language.
- B. Language's intrinsic connection to our notions of self and identity.
- C. Language's ability to mediate the impact of identity markers one is born with.
- D. The twists and turns in the evolution of language over time.**

## Option D

Observe what the author says about how the language learning process changes one's identity: 'This learning process—the embarrassments, the frustrations, the gradual sense of understanding and connection—is invariably transformative.'

The embarrassments, the frustrations= the ups and downs of learning a new language

The gradual sense of understanding and connection = Language's ability to mediate the impact of identity markers one is born with

In the last paragraph, the author states 'the words that run throughout your mind are at least as fundamental to your selfhood as is your ethnicity or your gender.' This relates to language's intrinsic connection to our notions of self and identity.

Only language evolution is not related to language's ability to change us. The author does not talk about language evolution in the passage.

# Passage 5: Solutions

Q1. All of the following statements about British colonialism can be inferred from the first paragraph, EXCEPT that it:

- A. was at least partly an outcome of Enlightenment rationalism.
- B. faced resistance from existing structural forms of Indian modernity.**
- C. was at least partly shaped by the project of European modernity.
- D. allowed the treatment of colonies as experimental sites.

Q2. All of the following statements, if true, could be seen as supporting the arguments in the passage, EXCEPT:

- A. the introduction of capitalism in India was not through the transformation of feudalism, as happened in Europe.
- B. modernity was imposed upon India by the British and, therefore, led to underdevelopment.
- C. throughout the history of colonial conquest, natives have often been experimented on by the colonisers.
- D. the change in British colonial policy was induced by resistance to modernity in Indian society.**

Q3. “Consequently, the colonial state could not settle simply for eminence at the cost of its marginality; it began to take initiatives to introduce the logic of modernity into Indian society.”

Which of the following best captures the sense of this statement?

- A. The colonial state’s eminence was unsettled by its marginal position; therefore, it developed Indian society by modernising it.
- B. The colonial enterprise was a costly one; so to justify the cost it began to take initiatives to introduce the logic of modernity into Indian society.
- C. The colonial state felt marginalised from Indian society because of its own modernity; therefore, it sought to address that marginalisation by bringing its modernity to change Indian society.**
- D. The cost of the colonial state’s eminence was not settled; therefore, it took the initiative of introducing modernity into Indian society.

Q4. Which one of the following 5-word sequences best captures the flow of the arguments in the passage?

- A. Military power—arrogance—laboratory—modernity—capitalism.
- B. Colonial policy—Enlightenment—external modernity—subjection—underdevelopment.**
- C. Colonial policy—arrogant rationality—resistance—independence—development.
- D. Military power—colonialism—restructuring—feudalism—capitalism.

Q5. Which of the following observations is a valid conclusion to draw from the author’s statement that “the logical structure of endogenous change does not apply here. Here transformation agendas attack as an external force”?

- A. The endogenous logic of colonialism can only bring change if it attacks and transforms external forces.
- B. Indian society is not endogamous; it is more accurately characterised as aggressively exogamous.
- C. Colonised societies cannot be changed through logic; they need to be transformed with external force.
- D. The transformation of Indian society did not happen organically, but was forced by colonial agendas.**

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

# Passage 5: Detailed Solution

Q1. All of the following statements about British colonialism can be inferred from the first paragraph, EXCEPT that it:

- A. was at least partly an outcome of Enlightenment rationalism.
- B. faced resistance from existing structural forms of Indian modernity.**
- C. was at least partly shaped by the project of European modernity.
- D. allowed the treatment of colonies as experimental sites.

## Option B

The question asks which of the given statements cannot be inferred. Let us check each one by one.

Option A states British colonialism was at least partly *an outcome* of Enlightenment rationalism. The fact that the colonial state emerged at least partly as a result of Enlightenment rationalism can be inferred from paragraph 1: 'the British colonial state represented the great conquering discourse of Enlightenment rationalism... As inheritors and *representatives* of this discourse, which carried everything before it, this colonial state could hardly adopt for long such a self-denying attitude...'

Option B states British colonialism faced resistance from existing structural forms of Indian modernity. This does not sound correct, as the passage only talks about European modernity, *not Indian modernity*. Paragraph 1 does mention that initiatives to introduce its logic of modernity on the Indian society by the British 'were resisted by pre-existing structural forms'. Were these structural forms of *Indian modernity*? This is not mentioned in the passage.

Consider option C. British colonialism was *at least partly shaped by* the project of European modernity. This is clearly true. See paragraph 1 : 'the British colonial state represented the great conquering discourse of Enlightenment rationalism.... As *inheritors* and representatives of this discourse.... this colonial state could hardly adopt for long such a self-denying attitude. It had restructured everything in Europe...and would do the same in India'. The British colonial state *inherited the discourse of Enlightenment rationalism* which had restructured everything in Europe.

Option D states that British colonialism allowed the treatment of colonies as experimental sites. This can also be easily inferred from paragraph 1: '....some empirically inclined theorists of that generation considered the colonies a massive laboratory of utilitarian or other theoretical experiments'.

# Passage 5: Detailed Solution

Q2. All of the following statements, if true, could be seen as supporting the arguments in the passage, EXCEPT:

- A. the introduction of capitalism in India was not through the transformation of feudalism, as happened in Europe.
- B. modernity was imposed upon India by the British and, therefore, led to underdevelopment.
- C. throughout the history of colonial conquest, natives have often been experimented on by the colonisers.
- D. the change in British colonial policy was induced by resistance to modernity in Indian society.**

## Option D

The question asks us to choose the statement which *cannot* be seen as supporting the arguments in the passage.

Option A states that the introduction of capitalism in India was not through the transformation of feudalism, as happened in Europe. This statement supports the arguments in the passage. See what paragraph 2 says about the introduction of modernity by the British: 'First, however subtly, it would imply that *what was proposed to be built was something like European capitalism*. (And, in any case, historians have forcefully argued that *what it was to replace was not like feudalism*, with or without modificatory adjectives.)' The passage argues here that what European modernity tried to introduce was not like European capitalism and that what it tried to replace was not like feudalism in Europe.

Option B states that modernity was imposed upon India by the British and, therefore, led to underdevelopment. This statement also supports the arguments in the passage. That modernity was imposed on India can be inferred from multiple references in the passage, to quote a few: 'initiatives for modernity came to assume an external character. The acceptance of modernity came to be connected, ineradicably, with subjection' and '...transformation agendas attack as an *external force*'. That modernity imposed by the British led to underdevelopment can be inferred from the last lines of the passage: 'Economic reforms, or rather alterations *did not foreshadow the construction of a classical capitalist economy*, with its necessary emphasis on extractive and transport sectors. What happened was the creation of a degenerate version of capitalism—what early dependency theorists called the '*development of underdevelopment*'. That is, economic reforms imposed by the British in India only resulted in underdevelopment.

Option C states that throughout the history of colonial conquest, natives have often been experimented on by the colonisers. This statement, too, supports the arguments in the passage. See paragraph 1: '...empirically inclined theorists of that generation considered the colonies a massive laboratory of utilitarian or other theoretical experiments.' That is, colonizers regarded colonies as laboratories of practical or theoretical experiments.

Option D states that the change in British colonial policy was induced by resistance to modernity in Indian society. This statement does not support the arguments in the passage. Did the resistance to modernity in India *result in a change in* British colonial policy? The passage does not say this. The passage only talks of resistance resulting in a 'the map of continuity and discontinuity' being left behind at the time of independence. So, option D is the correct answer.

Q3. “Consequently, the colonial state could not settle simply for eminence at the cost of its marginality; it began to take initiatives to introduce the logic of modernity into Indian society.”

Which of the following best captures the sense of this statement?

- A. The colonial state’s eminence was unsettled by its marginal position; therefore, it developed Indian society by modernising it.
- B. The colonial enterprise was a costly one; so to justify the cost it began to take initiatives to introduce the logic of modernity into Indian society.
- C. The colonial state felt marginalised from Indian society because of its own modernity; therefore, it sought to address that marginalisation by bringing its modernity to change Indian society.**
- D. The cost of the colonial state’s eminence was not settled; therefore, it took the initiative of introducing modernity into Indian society.

### Option C

The British colonial state could not settle for eminence at the cost of its marginality. That is, the British colonial state believed its superior modernity set it apart from the Indian society. But it did not want to be marginalised because of its modernity. So, it began to take initiatives to introduce the logic of modernity into Indian society. Option 3 best captures this.

Q4. Which one of the following 5-word sequences best captures the flow of the arguments in the passage?

- A. Military power—arrogance—laboratory—modernity—capitalism.
- B. Colonial policy—Enlightenment—external modernity—subjection—underdevelopment.**
- C. Colonial policy—arrogant rationality—resistance—independence—development.
- D. Military power—colonialism—restructuring—feudalism—capitalism.

### Option B

The passage can be summed up as follows. British colonial policy was guided by the idea of Enlightenment rationalism/ European modernity. Because they believed colonies could be used as laboratories, the British resolved they would do the same in India. However, this imposed modernity came to assume an external character. External modernity was associated with subjugation and met with stiff resistance. What the economic reforms resulted in was only a degenerate version of capitalism and underdevelopment.

Option B captures key ideas like ‘external modernity’ and ‘underdevelopment’ that none of the other options mention.

Q5. Which of the following observations is a valid conclusion to draw from the author's statement that "the logical structure of endogenous change does not apply here. Here transformation agendas attack as an external force"?

- A. The endogenous logic of colonialism can only bring change if it attacks and transforms external forces.
- B. Indian society is not endogamous; it is more accurately characterised as aggressively exogamous.
- C. Colonised societies cannot be changed through logic; they need to be transformed with external force.
- D. The transformation of Indian society did not happen organically, but was forced by colonial agendas.**

Option D

'Endogenous change' means change from within. The first line means that the transformation of the Indian society did not proceed due to changes within the system. 'Transformation agendas attack as an external force' means the agenda to transform the society was imposed upon by external forces. Here, the external force is the colonial agenda. Option D sums this up best.

## Q25 solution:

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

1. Conceptualisations of 'women's time' as contrary to clock-time and clock-time as synonymous with economic rationalism are two of the deleterious results of this representation.
2. While dichotomies of 'men's time', 'women's time', clock-time, and caring time can be analytically useful, this article argues that everyday caring practices incorporate a multiplicity of times; and both men and women can engage in these multiple-times.
3. When the everyday practices of working sole fathers and working sole mothers are carefully examined to explore conceptualisations of gendered time, it is found that caring time is often more focused on the clock than generally theorised.
4. Clock-time has been consistently represented in feminist literature as a masculine artefact representative of a 'time is money' perspective.

Answer: **4132**

Detailed explanation



# Q25 Detailed solution:

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

1. Conceptualisations of 'women's time' as contrary to clock-time and clock-time as synonymous with economic rationalism are two of the deleterious results of this representation.
2. While dichotomies of 'men's time', 'women's time', clock-time, and caring time can be analytically useful, this article argues that everyday caring practices incorporate a multiplicity of times; and both men and women can engage in these multiple-times.
3. When the everyday practices of working sole fathers and working sole mothers are carefully examined to explore conceptualisations of gendered time, it is found that caring time is often more focused on the clock than generally theorised.
4. Clock-time has been consistently represented in feminist literature as a masculine artefact representative of a 'time is money' perspective.

Answer: **4132**

4132

Tricky question.

Sentence 1 says that conceptualisations of 'women's time' as contrary to clock-time and clock-time as synonymous with economic rationalism are two results of "this representation". The representation referred to here can only be the representation of clock-time in feminist literature as a masculine 'time is money' artefact—mentioned in sentence 4. Feminist literature representing clock-time as masculine implies the conceptualisation of 'women's time' as contrary to clock-time. The idea that time is money relates to economic rationalism. So, sentence 1 follows sentence 4.

Sentence 3 introduces the idea of 'caring time'. Sentence 2 mentions all 4 conceptualisations of time referred to in sentences 4, 1 and 3. It is best placed at the end of the paragraph as it lays down the main premise of 'this article' that everyday caring practices incorporate a multiplicity of times. So, 4132 is the right order.

## Q26 Solution:

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

1. Living things—animals and plants—typically exhibit correlational structure.
2. Adaptive behaviour depends on cognitive economy, treating objects as equivalent.
3. The information we receive from our senses, from the world, typically has structure and order, and is not arbitrary.
4. To categorize an object means to consider it equivalent to other things in that category, and different—along some salient dimension—from things that are not.

Answer: **2431**

Detailed explanation

## Q26 Detailed Solution:

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

1. Living things—animals and plants—typically exhibit correlational structure.
2. Adaptive behaviour depends on cognitive economy, treating objects as equivalent.
3. The information we receive from our senses, from the world, typically has structure and order, and is not arbitrary.
4. To categorize an object means to consider it equivalent to other things in that category, and different—along some salient dimension—from things that are not.

Answer: **2431**

2431

The sentences given relate to adaptive behaviour, so sentence 2 offers the best start to the paragraph. Sentence 2 states that adaptive behaviour depends on cognitive economy—that is, minimising thinking and information processing effort—by treating objects as equivalent. Sentence 4 elaborates what 'treating objects as equivalent' involves. So, 4 follows 2. Of the remaining sentences, 3 logically follows 2, as it explains that the information we receive from the world has both structure and order. This introduces the idea of 'structure' in the living world. Sentence 1 adds to 3. So, 2431 is the correct order.

## Q27 solution:

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

Language is an autapomorphy found only in our lineage, and not shared with other branches of our group such as primates. We also have no definitive evidence that any species other than Homo sapiens ever had language. However, it must be noted straightaway that 'language' is not a monolithic entity, but rather a complex bundle of traits that must have evolved over a significant time frame.... Moreover, language crucially draws on aspects of cognition that are long established in the primate lineage, such as memory: the language faculty as a whole comprises more than just the uniquely linguistic features.

- A. Language, a derived trait found only in humans, has evolved over time and involves memory.
- B. Language is a distinctively human feature as there is no evidence of the existence of language in any other species.
- C. Language evolved with linguistic features building on features of cognition such as memory.**
- D. Language is not a single, uniform entity but the end result of a long and complex process of linguistic evolution.

Detailed explanation

## Q27 Detailed solution:

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

Language is an autapomorphy found only in our lineage, and not shared with other branches of our group such as primates. We also have no definitive evidence that any species other than Homo sapiens ever had language. However, it must be noted straightaway that 'language' is not a monolithic entity, but rather a complex bundle of traits that must have evolved over a significant time frame.... Moreover, language crucially draws on aspects of cognition that are long established in the primate lineage, such as memory: the language faculty as a whole comprises more than just the uniquely linguistic features.

- A. Language, a derived trait found only in humans, has evolved over time and involves memory.
- B. Language is a distinctively human feature as there is no evidence of the existence of language in any other species.
- C. Language evolved with linguistic features building on features of cognition such as memory.**
- D. Language is not a single, uniform entity but the end result of a long and complex process of linguistic evolution.

### Option C

The key idea of the passage is that language, which is unique to humans, is more than just linguistic features. It is a complex bundle of traits evolved over time that crucially draws on important cognitive aspects such as memory.

Option 3 is the only option that mentions the idea of language drawing upon aspects of cognition, such as memory. This is mentioned as a crucial feature in the paragraph and must hence feature in the summary.

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

Social movement organizations often struggle to mobilize supporters from allied movements in their efforts to achieve critical mass. Organizations with hybrid identities—those whose organizational identities span the boundaries of two or more social movements, issues, or identities—are vital to mobilizing these constituencies. Studies of the post-9/11 U.S. antiwar movement show that individuals with past involvement in non-anti-war movements are more likely to join hybrid organizations than are individuals without involvement in non-anti-war movements. In addition, they show that organizations with hybrid identities occupy relatively more central positions in inter-organizational contact networks within the antiwar movement and thus recruit significantly more participants in demonstrations than do nonhybrid organizations.

- A. Post 9/11 studies show that people who are involved in non anti-war movements are likely to join hybrid organizations.
- B. Hybrid organizations attract individuals that are deeply involved in anti-war movements.
- C. Movements that work towards social change often find it difficult to mobilize a critical mass of supporters.
- D. Organizations with hybrid identities are able to mobilize individuals with different points of view.**

Detailed explanation

## Q28 Detailed solution:

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

Social movement organizations often struggle to mobilize supporters from allied movements in their efforts to achieve critical mass. Organizations with hybrid identities—those whose organizational identities span the boundaries of two or more social movements, issues, or identities—are vital to mobilizing these constituencies. Studies of the post-9/11 U.S. antiwar movement show that individuals with past involvement in non-anti-war movements are more likely to join hybrid organizations than are individuals without involvement in non-anti-war movements. In addition, they show that organizations with hybrid identities occupy relatively more central positions in inter-organizational contact networks within the antiwar movement and thus recruit significantly more participants in demonstrations than do nonhybrid organizations.

- A. Post 9/11 studies show that people who are involved in non anti-war movements are likely to join hybrid organizations.
- B. Hybrid organizations attract individuals that are deeply involved in anti-war movements.
- C. Movements that work towards social change often find it difficult to mobilize a critical mass of supporters.
- D. Organizations with hybrid identities are able to mobilize individuals with different points of view.**

### Option D

The main idea of the paragraph is that hybrid organizations are more powerful and have higher ability to achieve critical mass as individuals with past involvement in other movements are more likely to join hybrid organizations. Option 4 captures the key ideas of the paragraph best.

Note here that though the paragraph cites the example of studies of the post-9/11 U.S. anti-war movement, this is not the focus of the passage. The example simply illustrates the idea that individuals with different points of view are more likely to join hybrid organisations.

## Q29 solution:

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

1. To the uninitiated listener, atonal music can sound like chaotic, random noise.
2. Atonality is a condition of music in which the constructs of the music do not 'live' within the confines of a particular key signature, scale, or mode.
3. After you realize the amount of knowledge, skill, and technical expertise required to compose or perform it, your tune may change, so to speak.
4. However, atonality is one of the most important movements in 20th century music.

Answer: **2143**

Detailed explanation



## Q29 Detailed solution:

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

1. To the uninitiated listener, atonal music can sound like chaotic, random noise.
2. Atonality is a condition of music in which the constructs of the music do not 'live' within the confines of a particular key signature, scale, or mode.
3. After you realize the amount of knowledge, skill, and technical expertise required to compose or perform it, your tune may change, so to speak.
4. However, atonality is one of the most important movements in 20th century music.

Answer: **2143**

2143

Sentence 2 introduces the idea of 'atonality' in music. So, it is the best sentence to start the paragraph. Sentence 1 adds to 2, explaining that atonal music may seem like noise to the uninitiated listener. 2 leads to 4, which states that atonality is one of the most important movements in 20th century music. 3 adds to 4, explaining that a lot of knowledge, skill, and technical expertise required to compose or perform atonal music. 2143 is the logical 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. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. A particularly interesting example of inference occurs in many single panel comics.
2. It's the creator's participation and imagination that makes the single-panel comic so engaging and so rewarding.
3. Often, the humor requires you to imagine what happened in the instant immediately before or immediately after the panel you're being shown.
4. To get the joke, you actually have to figure out what some of these missing panels must be.
5. It is as though the cartoonist devised a series of panels to tell the story and has chosen to show you only one – and typically not even the funniest.

Answer: **2**

Detailed explanation

## Q30 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. A particularly interesting example of inference occurs in many single panel comics.
2. It's the creator's participation and imagination that makes the single-panel comic so engaging and so rewarding.
3. Often, the humor requires you to imagine what happened in the instant immediately before or immediately after the panel you're being shown.
4. To get the joke, you actually have to figure out what some of these missing panels must be.
5. It is as though the cartoonist devised a series of panels to tell the story and has chosen to show you only one – and typically not even the funniest.

Answer: **2**

Option 2

While sentences 1, 3, 4 and 5 relate to the *reader* of the single panel comic and the importance of the *reader's ability* to infer what happened before and after, sentence 2 is about the *creator* of the comics. So, 2 is the odd one out.

## Q31 solution:

Five sentences related to a topic are given below in a jumbled order. Four of them form a coherent and unified paragraph. Identify the odd sentence that does not go with the four. Key in the number of the option that you choose.

1. Socrates told us that ‘the unexamined life is not worth living’ and that to ‘know thyself’ is the path to true wisdom.
2. It suggests that you should adopt an ancient rhetorical method favored by the likes of Julius Caesar and known as ‘illeism’ – or speaking about yourself in the third person.
3. Research has shown that people who are prone to rumination also often suffer from impaired decision making under pressure and are at a substantially increased risk of depression.
4. Simple rumination – the process of churning your concerns around in your head – is not the way to achieve self-realization.
5. The idea is that this small change in perspective can clear your emotional fog, allowing you to see past your biases.

Answer: **1**

Detailed explanation

## Q31 Detailed solution:

Five sentences related to a topic are given below in a jumbled order. Four of them form a coherent and unified paragraph. Identify the odd sentence that does not go with the four. Key in the number of the option that you choose.

1. Socrates told us that ‘the unexamined life is not worth living’ and that to ‘know thyself’ is the path to true wisdom.
2. It suggests that you should adopt an ancient rhetorical method favored by the likes of Julius Caesar and known as ‘illeism’ – or speaking about yourself in the third person.
3. Research has shown that people who are prone to rumination also often suffer from impaired decision making under pressure and are at a substantially increased risk of depression.
4. Simple rumination – the process of churning your concerns around in your head – is not the way to achieve self-realization.
5. The idea is that this small change in perspective can clear your emotional fog, allowing you to see past your biases.

Answer: **1**

Option 1

Option 1 is about the importance of self-examination and rumination. All other sentences argue against rumination. The sentence order 4325 makes a coherent paragraph about illeism or speaking about oneself in the third person.

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. Ocean plastic is problematic for a number of reasons, but primarily because marine animals eat it.
2. The largest numerical proportion of ocean plastic falls in small size fractions.
3. Aside from clogging up the digestive tracts of marine life, plastic also tends to adsorb pollutants from the water column.
4. Plastic in the oceans is arguably one of the most important and pervasive environmental problems today.
5. Eating plastic has a number of negative consequences such as the retention of plastic particles in the gut for longer periods than normal food particles.

Answer: **2**

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. Ocean plastic is problematic for a number of reasons, but primarily because marine animals eat it.
2. The largest numerical proportion of ocean plastic falls in small size fractions.
3. Aside from clogging up the digestive tracts of marine life, plastic also tends to adsorb pollutants from the water column.
4. Plastic in the oceans is arguably one of the most important and pervasive environmental problems today.
5. Eating plastic has a number of negative consequences such as the retention of plastic particles in the gut for longer periods than normal food particles.

Answer: **2**

Option 2

Sentences 1, 3, 4 and 5 relate to plastic in oceans affecting marine life, producing pervasive environmental problems. On the other hand, option 2 talks of the 'largest numerical proportion' of ocean plastic 'falling in small size fractions' – an unrelated idea.

## Q33 solution:

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

1. Such a belief in the harmony of nature requires a purpose presumably imposed by the goodness and wisdom of a deity.
2. These parts, all fit together into an integrated, well-ordered system that was created by design.
3. Historically, the notion of a balance of nature is part observational, part metaphysical, and not scientific in any way.
4. It is an example of an ancient belief system called teleology, the notion that what we call nature has a predetermined destiny associated with its component parts.

Answer: **3421**

Detailed explanation



## Q33 Detailed solution:

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

1. Such a belief in the harmony of nature requires a purpose presumably imposed by the goodness and wisdom of a deity.
2. These parts, all fit together into an integrated, well-ordered system that was created by design.
3. Historically, the notion of a balance of nature is part observational, part metaphysical, and not scientific in any way.
4. It is an example of an ancient belief system called teleology, the notion that what we call nature has a predetermined destiny associated with its component parts.

Answer: **3421**

3421

Of the given sentences, sentence 3 is the best opening statement. 3 leads on to 4, which defines teleology and the idea of nature as having a predetermined destiny with component parts. 2, which starts off with "these parts" clearly follows 4. 1 sums up the paragraph. So, 3421 is the correct order.

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

Privacy-challenged office workers may find it hard to believe, but open-plan offices and cubicles were invented by architects and designers who thought that to break down the social walls that divide people, you had to break down the real walls, too. Modernist architects saw walls and rooms as downright fascist. The spaciousness and flexibility of an open plan would liberate homeowners and office dwellers from the confines of boxes. But companies took up their idea less out of a democratic ideology than a desire to pack in as many workers as they could. The typical open-plan office of the first half of the 20th century was a white-collar assembly line. Cubicles were interior designers' attempt to put some soul back in.

- A. Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out as desired and therefore cubicles came into being.
- B. Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out the way their utopian inventors intended, as they became tools for exploitation of labor.**
- C. Wall-free office spaces could have worked out the way their utopian inventors intended had companies cared for workers' satisfaction.
- D. Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out as companies don't believe in democratic ideology.

Detailed explanation

# Q34 Detailed solution:

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

Privacy-challenged office workers may find it hard to believe, but open-plan offices and cubicles were invented by architects and designers who thought that to break down the social walls that divide people, you had to break down the real walls, too. Modernist architects saw walls and rooms as downright fascist. The spaciousness and flexibility of an open plan would liberate homeowners and office dwellers from the confines of boxes. But companies took up their idea less out of a democratic ideology than a desire to pack in as many workers as they could. The typical open-plan office of the first half of the 20th century was a white-collar assembly line. Cubicles were interior designers' attempt to put some soul back in.

- A. Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out as desired and therefore cubicles came into being.
- B. Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out the way their utopian inventors intended, as they became tools for exploitation of labor.**
- C. Wall-free office spaces could have worked out the way their utopian inventors intended had companies cared for workers' satisfaction.
- D. Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out as companies don't believe in democratic ideology.

## Option B

The paragraph given explains that while open-plan offices were created with the idea of liberating workers, things did not work to plan, as companies used these spaces to cram in as many workers as they could, in a soul-less "white-collar assembly line".

Option C states that wall-free spaces 'could have worked out' had companies cared for workers' satisfaction. But the paragraph given merely talks of *why* the idea of wall-free office spaces failed: 3 is hence not a satisfactory summary of the paragraph.

Option D is incorrect as it goes too far. The paragraph says companies took up the idea of wall-free spaces *less* out of a democratic ideology than a desire to pack in workers. This does not imply that companies don't believe in democratic ideology.

Options A and B are close, but 2 is a better option than 1 as it brings in the points about the 'utopian' (idealistic) intentions of the inventors of wall-free offices and the way cramming of workers became a means of invading their privacy and exploiting them.

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