



Daily Article (Bharath's Reading list) - Answers and Explanations 01.11.2023

Article link :[Link](#) (Scientist, after decades of study, concludes: We don't have free will)

1. According to the article, the reason Robert Sapolsky wrote his new book, "Determined: A Science of Life Without Free Will" is:

- A. To start an argument on the limits of personal responsibility
- B. To increase compassion, so that people do not push for harsh punishments
- C. To argue that change is not possible as all behaviour is controlled by biology
- D. All the above

Explanation : B

Refer to the lines, 'His true hope, he says, is to increase compassion. Maybe if people understand how thoroughly an early history of trauma can rewire a brain, they'll stop lust for harsh punishments.'

2. The "one last thread" that Sapolsky cannot resolve relates to his view that:

- A. Though we are machines, he would like to believe that it is good if people feel less pain and more happiness
- B. As we are machines, we cannot be blamed for our failures as it is pointless to hate machines
- C. Though we are machines, we have the ability to perceive our own experiences and feel emotions about them
- D. Though we do not have free will, it may be dangerous to tell people that they don't have free will

Explanation: A

Refer to the last line of the article.

3. According to the Sapolsky, among the more compelling critiques of his work is the argument that:

- A. Without a sense of personal agency, we won't want to do anything
- B. The risk of abandoning free will is that we'll want to do morally irresponsible things
- C. Life without belief in free will is neither believable nor possible
- D. Disbelief in free will lead to more aggression and less helpfulness

Explanation: A

Note the lines, 'The more compelling critique, he says, is eloquently articulated in the short story "What's Expected of Us," by speculative fiction writer Ted Chiang. The narrator describes a new technology that convinces users their choices are predetermined, a discovery that saps them of their will to live'.