

General Instructions

- (i) This booklet contains 24 questions, each provided with a complete, step-by-step solution.
- (ii) It comprises 24 single-correct multiple-choice questions.
- (iii) The questions are grouped under 4 reading comprehension / data sets; read each passage or data set before its questions.
- (iv) Attempt each question on your own before reviewing the given solution.

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

For early postcolonial literature, the world of the novel was often the nation. Postcolonial novels were usually [concerned with] national questions. Sometimes the whole story of the novel was taken as an allegory of the nation, whether India or Tanzania. This was important for supporting anti-colonial nationalism, but could also be limiting - land-focused and inward looking.

My new book "Writing Ocean Worlds" explores another kind of world of the novel: not the village or nation, but the Indian Ocean world. The book describes a set of novels in which the Indian Ocean is at the centre of the story. It focuses on the novelists Amitav Ghosh, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Lindsey Collen and Joseph Conrad [who have] centred the Indian Ocean world in the majority of their novels. . . Their work reveals a world that is outward-looking full of movement, border-crossing and south-south interconnection. They are all very different - from colonially inclined (Conrad) to radically anti-capitalist (Collen), but together draw on and shape a wider sense of Indian Ocean space through themes, images, metaphors and language. This has the effect of remapping the world in the

reader's mind, as centred in the interconnected global south. ... The Indian Ocean world is a term used to describe the very long-lasting connections among the coasts of East Africa, the Arab coasts, and South and East Asia. These connections were made possible by the geography of the Indian Ocean. For much of history, travel by sea was much easier than by land, which meant that port cities very far apart were often more easily connected to each other than to much closer inland cities. Historical and archaeological evidence suggests that what we now call globalisation first appeared in the Indian Ocean. This is the interconnected oceanic world referenced and produced by the novels in my book. For their part Ghosh, Gurnah, Collen and even Conrad reference a different set of histories and geographies than the ones most commonly found in fiction in English. Those [commonly found ones] are mostly centred in Europe or the US, assume a background of Christianity and whiteness, and mention places like Paris and New York. The novels in [my] book highlight instead a largely Islamic space, feature characters of colour and centralise the ports of Malindi, Mombasa, Aden, Java and Bombay. . . . It is a densely imagined, richly sensory image of a southern cosmopolitan culture which provides for an enlarged sense of place in the world. This remapping is particularly powerful for the representation of Africa. In the fiction, sailors and travellers are not all European. . . African, as well as Indian and Arab characters, are traders, nakhodas (dhow ship captains), runaways, villains, missionaries and activists. This does not mean that Indian Ocean Africa is romanticised. Migration is often a matter of force; travel is portrayed as abandonment rather than adventure, freedoms are kept from women and slavery is rife. What it does mean is that the African part of the Indian Ocean world plays an active role in its long, rich history and therefore in that of the wider world.

Correct Answer: —

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1.1. All of the following claims contribute to the "remapping" discussed by the passage, EXCEPT:

- (A) the global south, as opposed to the global north, was the first centre of globalisation.
- (B) cosmopolitanism originated in the West and travelled to the East through globalisation
- (C) Indian Ocean novels have gone beyond the specifics of national concerns to explore rich regional pasts
- (D) the world of early international trade and commerce was not the sole domain of white Europeans

Correct Answer: (B) cosmopolitanism originated in the West and travelled to the East through globalisation

SOLUTION:

The "Indian Ocean world" is defined as the interconnected oceanic region of the global south, encompassing East Africa, the Arab world's coasts, South and East Asia, and other territories. These enduring connections are facilitated by maritime traffic within the Indian Ocean.

Contrary to the belief that white Europeans exclusively engaged in early international trade, the passage asserts that the global south was the initial center of globalization, stating: "historical and archaeological evidence suggests that what we now call globalisation first appeared in the Indian Ocean".

The passage also criticizes prevalent global perspectives, noting: "Those [commonly found ones] are mostly centered in Europe or the US, assume a background of Christianity and whiteness, and mention places like Paris and New York."

In contrast, the novels discussed in the book emphasize an inherently Islamic space. Therefore, **Options A, C, and D** are correct.

Option B is incorrect because it conflicts with the passage's central message.



1.2. On the basis of the nature of the relationship between the items in each pair below, choose the odd pair out:

- (A) Postcolonial novels : Anti-colonial nationalism
- (B) Indian Ocean novels : Outward-looking
- (C) Indian Ocean world : Slavery
- (D) postcolonial novels : Border-crossing

Correct Answer: (D) postcolonial novels : Border-crossing

SOLUTION:

To identify the inconsistent pairing, an examination of each relationship's nature, as presented in the text, is required:

- **Postcolonial novels : Anti-colonial nationalism**

Early postcolonial novels are stated to be closely aligned with national concerns and often advocated for anti-colonial nationalism. This pairing is coherent.

- **Indian Ocean novels : Outward-looking**

The description of Indian Ocean novels emphasizes their outward-looking perspective, with a focus on trans-national and intercontinental linkages. This pairing is also well-matched.

- **Indian Ocean world : Slavery**

The text posits that slavery is a notable subject within the

portrayal of the Indian Ocean world, attributable to historical connectivity. Consequently, this pairing is also sensible.

- **Postcolonial novels : Border-crossing**

The text distinguishes postcolonial novels by their national focus, implying a greater emphasis on land and potentially an inward orientation. The characteristic of border-crossing is more directly linked to Indian Ocean novels. Therefore, this pairing is incongruous.

The inconsistent pair, according to this analysis, is:

Postcolonial novels : Border-crossing



1.3. All of the following statements, if true, would weaken the passage's claim about the relationship between mainstream English-language fiction and Indian Ocean novels EXCEPT:

- (A) the depiction of Africa in most Indian Ocean novels is driven by a postcolonial nostalgia for an idyllic past.
- (B) most mainstream English-language novels have historically privileged the Christian, white, male experience of travel and adventure.
- (C) the depiction of Africa in most Indian Ocean novels is driven by an Orientalist imagination of its cultural crudeness.
- (D) very few mainstream English-language novels have historically been set in American and European metropolitan centres.

Correct Answer: (B) most mainstream English-language novels have historically privileged the Christian, white, male experience of travel and adventure.

SOLUTION:

The assertion is that books set in the Indian Ocean and mainstream English-language fiction are separate entities, existing in different fictional realms.

Option B validates the passage's claim; if true, it emphasizes the divergence by demonstrating that mainstream English-language novels have historically prioritized the travel and adventure experiences of Christian, white males.

If accurate, no other statements bolster the passage's argument.

If the prevalent Orientalist view of Africa's cultural crudeness shapes most Indian Ocean novels' portrayals of the continent, then **Option C weakens** the passage's assertion by associating these works with mainstream fiction.

The text indicates that American and European urban centers have historically been the settings for the majority of mainstream English-language books. **Option D, if accurate, weakens** the contrast presented in the passage.

The passage contends that Africa is not depicted in an idealized manner in Indian Ocean novels. **Option A, if true, does not support the passage's distinction.**

Consequently, the **correct option is (B)**: the majority of mainstream English-language novels have historically privileged the travel and adventure experiences of Christian, white males.



1.4. Which one of the following statements is not true about migration in the Indian Ocean world?

- (A) The Indian Ocean world's migration networks were shaped by religious and commercial histories of the region.
- (B) Migration in the Indian Ocean world was an ambivalent experience
- (C) Geographical location rather than geographical proximity determined the choice of destination for migrants.
- (D) The Indian Ocean world's migration networks connected the global north with the global south.

Correct Answer: (D) The Indian Ocean world's migration networks connected the global north with the global south.

SOLUTION:

The chapter does not discuss or allude to the migration networks connecting the global north and south across the Indian Ocean region. Option D is not incorrect. Option C is accurate. For a significant period of history, maritime travel was more accessible than overland travel, resulting in greater connectivity between distant port cities than between those cities and nearby inland communities. Option A is also true. The Indian Ocean world, as described in the paragraph, encompasses distinct historical and geographical areas compared to the typical settings in English-language fiction, which often presuppose a background of Christianity and whiteness, referencing locations like Paris and New York. The networked cities of the global south are characterized by a predominantly Islamic presence. Option D is also accurate. The paragraph states regarding migration in the Indian Ocean region, "Migration is often a matter of force; travel is portrayed as abandonment rather than adventure, freedoms are kept from women, and slavery is rife." Consequently, Option D is the correct answer.

2. [Fifty] years after its publication in English [in 1972], and just a year since [Marshall] Sahlins himself died—we may ask: why did [his essay] "Original Affluent Society" have such an impact, and how has it fared since? ... Sahlins's principal argument was simple but counterintuitive: before being driven into marginal environments by colonial powers, huntergatherers, or foragers, were not engaged in a desperate struggle for meager survival. Quite the contrary, they satisfied their needs with far less work than people in agricultural and industrial societies, leaving them more time to use as they wished. Hunters, he quipped, keep bankers' hours. Refusing to maximize, many were "more concerned with games of chance than with chances of game." . . . The so-called Neolithic Revolution, rather than improving life, imposed a harsher work regime and set in motion the long history of growing inequality ...

Moreover, foragers had other options. The contemporary Hadza of Tanzania, who had long been surrounded by farmers, knew they had alternatives and rejected them. To Sahlins, this showed that foragers are not simply examples of human diversity or victimhood but something more profound: they demonstrated that societies make real choices. Culture, a way of living oriented around a distinctive set of values, manifests a fundamental principle of collective self-determination. . .

But the point [of the essay] is not so much the empirical validity of the data—the real interest for most readers, after all, is not in foragers either today or in the Paleolithic—but rather its conceptual challenge to contemporary economic life and bourgeois individualism. The empirical served a philosophical and political project, a thought experiment and stimulus to the imagination of possibilities.

With its title's nod toward *The Affluent Society* (1958), economist John Kenneth Galbraith's famously skeptical portrait of America's postwar prosperity and inequality, and dripping with New Left contempt for consumerism, "The Original Affluent Society" brought this critical

perspective to bear on the contemporary world. It did so through the classic anthropological move of showing that radical alternatives to the readers' lives really exist. If the capitalist world seeks wealth through ever greater material production to meet infinitely expansive desires, foraging societies follow "the Zen road to affluence": not by getting more, but by wanting less. If it seems that foragers have been left behind by "progress," this is due only to the ethnocentric self-congratulation of the West. Rather than accumulate material goods, these societies are guided by other values: leisure, mobility, and above all, freedom. . .

Viewed in today's context, of course, not every aspect of the essay has aged well. While acknowledging the violence of colonialism, racism, and dispossession, it does not thematize them as heavily as we might today. Rebuking evolutionary anthropologists for treating present-day foragers as "left behind" by progress, it too can succumb to the temptation to use them as proxies for the Paleolithic. Yet these characteristics should not distract us from appreciating Sahlins's effort to show that if we want to conjure new possibilities, we need to learn about actually inhabitable worlds.

Correct Answer: —

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2.1. The author of the passage mentions Galbraith's "The Affluent Society" to:

- (A) document the influence of Galbraith's cynical views on modern consumerism on Sahlins's analysis of pre-historic societies.
- (B) show how Galbraith's theories refute Sahlins's thesis on the contentment of pre huntergatherer communities.
- (C) show how Sahlins's views complemented Galbraith's criticism of the consumerism and inequality of contemporary society.
- (D) contrast the materialist nature of contemporary growth paths with the pacifist content ways of living among the foragers.

Correct Answer: (C) show how Sahlins's views complemented Galbraith's criticism of the consumerism and inequality of contemporary society.

SOLUTION:

The passage indicates that Sahlins's essay, "The Original Affluent Society," critiqued modern consumerism and inequality, aligning with themes in John Kenneth Galbraith's "The Affluent Society." Sahlins's work contrasts foraging societies' values with capitalism's pursuit of wealth, mirroring Galbraith's skeptical view of postwar affluence and its inherent inequality. **Therefore, Option C accurately reflects the passage's explanation** of how Sahlins's perspective supports Galbraith's critique of contemporary society.

Option B: The passage suggests compatibility between Galbraith's and Sahlins's theories, not contradiction.

Option D: The passage does not primarily compare forager lifestyles to Galbraith's views on modern development.

Option A: The passage emphasizes how Sahlins's essay supports Galbraith's critique of modern society, rather than detailing the influence of Galbraith's views on Sahlins's analysis.

Correct Option: (C) — Demonstrates how Sahlins's perspectives reinforced Galbraith's critique of contemporary society's consumerism and inequality.

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2.2. The author mentions Tanzania's Hadza community to illustrate:

- (A) how two vastly different ways of living and working were able to coexist in proximity for centuries.
- (B) how pre-agrarian societies did not hamper the emergence of more advanced agrarian practices in contiguous communities
- (C) that forager communities' lifestyles derived not from ignorance about alternatives, but from their own choice.
- (D) that hunter-gatherer communities' subsistence-level techniques equipped them to survive well into contemporary times.

Correct Answer: (C) that forager communities' lifestyles derived not from ignorance about alternatives, but from their own choice.

SOLUTION:

Option C is validated as the passage employs the Hadza community in Tanzania to illustrate that forager societies, exemplified by the Hadza, defy a simple dichotomy of human diversity or victimhood. Their lifestyle is a result of active decision-making. The text states that the Hadza, despite coexisting with agriculturalists, possessed knowledge of alternative lifestyles and consciously opted against them. This instance emphasizes that forager communities are not constrained by a lack of awareness regarding alternatives; their chosen way of life is a product of deliberate choices. Consequently, **Option C precisely encapsulates the Hadza example** presented in the text.

Option A: The passage's primary focus is not on the survival tactics of contemporary hunter-gatherer groups, but rather on their decision-making frameworks and rationale.

Option B: The passage does not link the Hadza community to the agricultural practices of neighboring populations, rendering this option extraneous to the provided example.

Option D: The passage does not suggest that the Hadza community coexisted with vastly dissimilar lifestyles and occupations over extended durations.

Correct Option: (C) — That forager communities' lifestyles derived not from ignorance about alternatives, but from their own choice.



2.3. The author of the passage criticises Sahlins's essay for its:

- (A) cursory treatment of the effects of racism and colonialism on societies.
- (B) failure to supplement its thesis with robust empirical data.
- (C) outdated values regarding present-day foragers versus ancient foraging communities.
- (D) critique of anthropologists who disparage the choices of foragers in today's society.

Correct Answer: (A) cursory treatment of the effects of racism and colonialism on societies.

SOLUTION:

This analysis scrutinizes Sahlins's essay, "*Original Affluent Society*," evaluating its content and lasting influence. The review commends Sahlins for questioning standard economic theories, recognizing

hunter-gatherer societies as a contrast to modern materialistic aspirations.

Nevertheless, it identifies weaknesses, particularly the **insufficient attention paid to the impacts of racism and colonialism**. The passage's conclusion, "*While acknowledging the violence of colonialism, racism, and dispossession, it does not thematize them as heavily as we might today,*" underscores the author's view of the essay's **superficial engagement with these subjects**.

Consequently, the criticism regarding Sahlins's handling of these matters corresponds to the first option: *cursory treatment of the effects of racism and colonialism on societies*. **Therefore, this option is the correct selection.**



2.4. We can infer that Sahlins's main goal in writing his essay was to:

- (A) hold a mirror to an acquisitive society, with examples of other communities that have chosen successfully to be non-materialistic.
- (B) highlight the fact that while we started off as a fairly contented egalitarian people, we have progressively degenerated into materialism.
- (C) counter Galbraith's pessimistic view of the inevitability of a capitalist trajectory for economic growth.
- (D) put forth the view that, despite egalitarian origins, economic progress brings greater inequality and social hierarchies.

Correct Answer: (A) hold a mirror to an acquisitive society, with examples of other communities that have chosen successfully to be non-materialistic.

SOLUTION:

Marshall Sahlins's essay was intended to **reflect the acquisitive nature of modern society**, characterized by bourgeois individualism and current economic practices. This is achieved by presenting examples of foraging societies that valued **autonomy, mobility, and ample free time** over material accumulation.

Sahlins contrasts the **capitalist drive for wealth** via production and consumption with the *Zen pursuit of abundance*, achieved by **minimizing desires**. Consequently, Sahlins aimed to **critique acquisitive societies** by showcasing communities that opted for non-materialistic lifestyles. **Therefore, Option A is the correct answer.**

Option B: The primary emphasis is on illustrating the values and decisions of foraging societies, rather than asserting a societal decline.

Option C: While Sahlins's essay critiques certain modern economic theories, its core purpose is to demonstrate alternative models through non-materialistic societies, not to directly disprove Galbraith's bleak outlook.

Option D: Sahlins's essay primarily draws parallels between foraging societies and contemporary economic structures, despite acknowledging the increased inequality and social stratification resulting from the Neolithic Revolution.

Hence, the correct option is (A): to act as a reflection of acquisitive societies, featuring examples of other communities that have successfully adopted non-materialistic approaches.



3. RESIDENTS of Lozère, a hilly department in southern France, recite complaints familiar to many rural corners of Europe. In remote hamlets and villages, with names such as Le Bacon and Le Bacon Vieux, mayors

grumble about a lack of local schools, jobs, or phone and internet connections. Farmers of grazing animals add another concern: the return of wolves. Eradicated from France last century, the predators are gradually creeping back to more forests and hillsides. "The wolf must be taken in hand," said an aspiring parliamentarian, Francis Palombi, when pressed by voters in an election campaign early this summer. Tourists enjoy visiting a wolf park in Lozère, but farmers fret over their livestock and their livelihoods.

As early as the ninth century, the royal office of the Luparii-wolf-catchers-was created in France to tackle the predators. Those official hunters (and others) completed their job in the 1930s, when the last wolf disappeared from the mainland. Active hunting and improved technology such as rifles in the 19th century, plus the use of poison such as strychnine later on, caused the population collapse. But in the early 1990s the animals reappeared. They crossed the Alps from Italy, upsetting sheep farmers on the French side of the border. Wolves have since spread to areas such as Lozère, delighting environmentalists, who see the predators' presence as a sign of wider ecological health. Farmers, who say the wolves cause the deaths of thousands of sheep and other grazing animals, are less cheerful. They grumble that green activists and politically correct urban types have allowed the return of an old enemy.

Various factors explain the changes of the past few decades. Rural depopulation is part of the story. In Lozère, for example, farming and a once-flourishing mining industry supported a population of over 140,000 residents in the mid- 19th century. Today the department has fewer than 80,000 people, many in its towns. As humans withdraw, forests are expanding. In France, between 1990 and 2015, forest cover increased by an average of 102,000 hectares each year, as more fields were given over to trees. Now, nearly one-third of mainland France is covered by woodland of some sort. The decline of hunting as a sport also means more forests fall quiet. In the mid-to-late 20th century over 2m hunters regularly spent

winter weekends tramping in woodland, seeking boars, birds and other prey. Today the Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs, the national body, claims 1.1 m people hold hunting licences, though the number of active hunters is probably lower. The mostly protected status of the wolf in Europe-hunting them is now forbidden, other than when occasional culls are sanctioned by the state-plus the efforts of NGOs to track and count the animals, also contribute to the recovery of wolf populations.

As the lupine population of Europe spreads westwards, with occasional reports of wolves seen closer to urban areas, expect to hear of more clashes between farmers and those who celebrate the predators' return. Farmers' losses are real, but are not the only economic story. Tourist venues, such as parks where wolves are kept and the animals' spread is discussed, also generate income and jobs in rural areas.

Correct Answer: —

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3.1. Which one of the following has NOT contributed to the growing wolf population in Lozère?

- (A) The granting of a protected status to wolves in Europe.
- (B) A decline in the rural population of Lozère.
- (C) The shutting down of the royal office of the Luparii.
- (D) An increase in woodlands and forest cover in Lozère

Correct Answer: (C) The shutting down of the royal office of the Luparii.

SOLUTION:

The passage indicates that the royal office of the Luparii, established in the ninth century to manage wolves, became obsolete after the last

wolf was eliminated. Consequently, the reappearance of wolves cannot be attributed to the dissolution of this office.

Alternative explanations offer greater clarity:

Option A: The recovery of wolf populations is also facilitated by their protected status in Europe, which prohibits hunting except for authorized state culls, and by NGO initiatives for tracking and population monitoring.

Option B: Rural depopulation plays a role. For instance, in Lozère, the population has decreased from over 140,000 in the mid-19th century to under 80,000 currently due to the decline in agriculture and mining.

Option D: As human presence diminishes, forests are expanding. Between 1990 and 2015, France experienced an annual increase of 102,000 hectares in forest cover, with approximately one-third of mainland France now forested.

The correct option is (C): The closure of the royal Luparii office.

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3.2. The author presents a possible economic solution to an existing issue facing Lozère that takes into account the divergent and competing interests of:

- (A) politicians and farmers.
- (B) tourists and environmentalists
- (C) environmentalists and politicians.
- (D) farmers and environmentalists.

Correct Answer: (D) farmers and environmentalists.

SOLUTION:

"With the European wolf population expanding westward and wolves appearing near urban centers, anticipate increased conflict between agriculturalists and proponents of the predators' reintroduction. While farmers incur genuine losses, this is not the sole economic consideration. Tourist destinations, such as wolf parks and educational centers on wolf range expansion, also contribute to rural economies through revenue and employment."

The text indicates that farmers in Lozère are concerned about wolf resurgence and its impact on livestock. Conversely, conservationists view wolf presence as an indicator of ecosystem well-being. The suggested economic strategy proposes developing wolf-themed tourist facilities, such as parks. These initiatives aim to mitigate farmers' economic challenges by creating revenue streams and resonate with conservationists' objectives regarding wolf recovery. Consequently, **Option D** accurately encapsulates the cooperative approach between farmers and environmentalists in the proposed resolution.



3.3. The inhabitants of Lozère have to grapple with all of the following problems, EXCEPT:

- (A) decline in the number of hunting licences.
- (B) poor rural communication infrastructure.
- (C) livestock losses.
- (D) lack of educational facilities.

Correct Answer: (A) decline in the number of hunting licences.

SOLUTION:

Residents in the rural, hilly region of Lozère, southern France, express common local grievances. In isolated hamlets such as Le Bacon and Le Bacon Vieux, mayors report shortages of schools, employment opportunities, and telecommunications infrastructure. Farmers are also apprehensive due to the resurgence of wolves, which, after being eliminated from France in the past century, are now re-establishing themselves in the woodlands and uplands. Francis Palombi, a parliamentary candidate, highlighted this concern during his election campaign, stating, "**The wolf must be managed.**" Although tourists find a wolf sanctuary in Lozère appealing, farmers fear for their livestock and economic stability.

Options B, C, and D are directly supported by the provided text:

- **Option B:** Rural depopulation is implicated, as the stated local issues include a scarcity of jobs and essential services.
- **Option C:** The reintroduction of wolves is generating anxiety among agricultural producers.
- **Option D:** An expansion of wooded environments is suggested by the return of wolves to increased forest and hillside coverage.

The text also notes that despite many individuals possessing hunting permits, active hunting participation is low. Consequently, **Option A**, asserting a reduction in the quantity of hunting licenses, is deemed **inaccurate**.



3.4. Which one of the following statements, if true, would weaken the author's claims?

- (A) Unemployment concerns the residents of Lozère.
- (B) The old mining sites of Lozère are now being used as grazing pastures for sheep.
- (C) Having migrated out in the last century, wolves are now returning to Lozère.
- (D) Wolf attacks on tourists in Lozère are on the rise

Correct Answer: (D) Wolf attacks on tourists in Lozère are on the rise

SOLUTION:

To challenge the author's argument, we must find a statement that contradicts the passage's assertions or implications. The author addresses the reintroduction of wolves in Lozère, stating:

1. Concerns exist among farmers regarding livestock predation.
2. The wolf's return has intensified disputes between conservationist and agricultural factions.
3. Despite these difficulties, wolves might enhance regional tourism.

A potent method to discredit these points is to present outcomes of the wolf's return that oppose the author's sanguine perspective, particularly concerning tourism. The assertion, "**Wolf attacks on tourists in Lozère are on the rise**", directly refutes the third point. If wolves represent a threat to tourists, this would likely discourage visitors, resulting in **adverse economic and social repercussions**, and consequently **undermining the author's favorable depiction of tourism prospects**.

Conclusion: This statement introduces a significant issue that the author neglects, positioning it as a robust means to weaken the overall argument.

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

Many human phenomena and characteristics - such as behaviors, beliefs, economies, genes, incomes, life expectancies, and other things - are influenced both by geographic factors and by non-geographic factors. Geographic factors mean physical and biological factors tied to geographic location, including climate, the distributions of wild plant and animal species, soils, and topography. Non-geographic factors include those factors subsumed under the term culture, other factors subsumed under the term history, and decisions by individual people.... [T]he differences between the current economies of North and South Korea ... cannot be attributed to the modest environmental differences between [them] ... They are instead due entirely to the different [government] policies ... At the opposite extreme, the Inuit and other traditional peoples living north of the Arctic Circle developed warm fur clothes but no agriculture, while equatorial lowland peoples around the world never developed warm fur clothes but often did develop agriculture. The explanation is straightforwardly geographic, rather than a cultural or historical quirk unrelated to geography. . . . Aboriginal Australia remained the sole continent occupied only by hunter/gatherers and with no indigenous farming or herding ... [Here the] explanation is biogeographic: the Australian continent has no domesticable native animal species and few domesticable native plant species. Instead, the crops and domestic animals that now make Australia a food and wool exporter are all nonnative (mainly Eurasian) species such as sheep, wheat, and grapes, brought to Australia by overseas colonists. Today, no scholar would be silly enough to deny that culture, history, and individual choices play a big role in many human phenomena. Scholars don't react to cultural, historical, and individual-agent explanations by denouncing "cultural determinism," "historical determinism," or "individual

determinism," and then thinking no further. But many scholars do react to any explanation invoking some geographic role, by denouncing "geographic determinism" ... Several reasons may underlie this widespread but nonsensical view. One reason is that some geographic explanations advanced a century ago were racist, thereby causing all geographic explanations to become tainted by racist associations in the minds of many scholars other than geographers. But many genetic, historical, psychological, and anthropological explanations advanced a century ago were also racist, yet the validity of newer non-racist genetic etc. explanations is widely accepted today. Another reason for reflex rejection of geographic explanations is that historians have a tradition, in their discipline, of stressing the role of contingency (a favorite word among historians) based on individual decisions and chance. Often that view is warranted . . . But often, too, that view is unwarranted. The development of warm fur clothes among the Inuit living north of the Arctic Circle was not because one influential Inuit leader persuaded other Inuit in 1783 to adopt warm fur clothes, for no good environmental reason. A third reason is that geographic explanations usually depend on detailed technical facts of geography and other fields of scholarship ... Most historians and economists don't acquire that detailed knowledge as part of the professional training.

Correct Answer: —

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4.1. The author criticises scholars who are not geographers for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- (A) the importance they place on the role of individual decisions when studying human phenomena.
- (B) their outdated interpretations of past cultural and historical phenomena.
- (C) their labelling of geographic explanations as deterministic.
- (D) their rejection of the role of biogeographic factors in social and cultural phenomena.

Correct Answer: (B) their outdated interpretations of past cultural and historical phenomena.

SOLUTION:

The query requires identifying the option that does not constitute a reason for the author's criticism of non-geographer scholars. An analysis of the provided options follows:

- Option 1:
the significance they assign to individual decisions in the study of human phenomena.
The author critiques non-geographers for overemphasizing individual choices and randomness. The text notes historians' customary focus on contingency derived from individual decisions, which is occasionally unjustified.
- Option 2:
their antiquated interpretations of historical and cultural events.
This option is the correct selection because the passage does not assert that non-geographers hold outdated perspectives on cultural and historical phenomena. The author's criticism pertains to their reaction to geographic explanations, not their understanding of past events.
- Option 3:

their characterization of geographic explanations as deterministic. The author criticizes scholars for unjustly labeling geographic explanations as determinism, while refraining from applying this label to explanations based on cultural, historical, or individual agency.

- Option 4:

their dismissal of the influence of biogeographic factors on social and cultural phenomena.

The passage criticizes scholars for their automatic rejection of geographic explanations, encompassing biogeographic factors.

Consequently, option 2 is the accurate choice as it does not represent a basis for the author's criticism of non-geographers.



4.2. The examples of the Inuit and Aboriginal Australians are offered in the passage to show:

(A) that despite geographical isolation, traditional societies were self-sufficient and adaptive.

(B) how physical circumstances can dictate human behaviour and cultures.

(C) how environmental factors lead to comparatively divergent paths in livelihoods and development.

(D) human resourcefulness across cultures in adapting to their surroundings.

Correct Answer: (B) how physical circumstances can dictate human behaviour and cultures.

SOLUTION:

Option B is supported by the passage's use of examples, such as the Inuit and Aboriginal Australians, to illustrate how environmental factors influence human behavior and cultural norms. The passage details the development of insulated fur clothing among the Inuit in response to Arctic conditions and the lack of indigenous agriculture in Aboriginal Australia due to the absence of domesticable local species. These examples highlight the impact of physical conditions on human actions and cultural adaptations. Therefore, Option B accurately reflects the central theme presented by the passage's examples.

Option D is not explicitly emphasized in the passage, which prioritizes the effect of environmental factors on behavior and cultures.

Option A: The passage does not focus on self-sufficiency, but rather on how specific environmental factors shape societal development.

Option C is partially correct but less precise than Option B in capturing the passage's emphasis on physical conditions dictating human behavior and cultures, as demonstrated by the examples.

Correct Answer: Option B: how physical circumstances can dictate human behaviour and cultures.



4.3. All of the following can be inferred from the passage EXCEPT:

- (A) several academic studies of human phenomena in the past involved racist interpretations.
- (B) agricultural practices changed drastically in the Australian continent after it was colonised.
- (C) individual dictat and contingency were not the causal factors for the use of fur clothing in some very cold climates
- (D) while most human phenomena result from culture and individual choice, some have biogeographic origins.

Correct Answer: (D) while most human phenomena result from culture and individual choice, some have biogeographic origins.

SOLUTION:

Option A: The author states that some geographical explanations from 100 years ago contained racial bias, causing many scholars to view all geographical theories as tainted by racism.

Option B: The author discusses Australia's current agricultural methods, noting that its main exports of food and wool come from non-native species (mostly Eurasian) brought by settlers. This implies a shift from Australia's original plants and animals.

Option C: The author explains the development of insulated fur clothing among the Inuit living north of the Arctic Circle, attributing it to environmental influences rather than specific historical events or individual choices in 1783.

Option D: This cannot be inferred from the text. The passage discusses the influence of geographical factors (like biogeography) and non-geographical factors (like culture, history, and individual decisions) on human phenomena, but it does not state that "most human phenomena stem from culture and individual choice."

Correct Answer: Option C

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4.4. All of the following are advanced by the author as reasons why non-geographers disregard geographic influences on human phenomena EXCEPT their:

- (A) belief in the central role of humans, unrelated to physical surroundings, in influencing phenomena.
- (B) dismissal of explanations that involve geographical causes for human behaviour.
- (C) lingering impressions of past geographic analyses that were politically offensive.
- (D) disciplinary training which typically does not include technical knowledge of geography

Correct Answer: (B) dismissal of explanations that involve geographical causes for human behaviour.

SOLUTION:

Option B is not directly stated by the author as a reason why non-geographers dismiss geographical influences. The author suggests that scholars tend to react negatively to geographical explanations by labeling them "geographic determinism." However, the concept of "dismissal" itself is not explicitly articulated in the text.

Conversely, the other options can be inferred from the text:

Option A is supported by the following statement: "Another reason for reflex rejection of geographic explanations is that historians have a tradition, in their discipline, of stressing the role of contingency (a

favorite word among historians) based on individual decisions and chance."

Option C can be inferred from the excerpt: "One reason is that some geographic explanations advanced a century ago were racist, thereby causing all geographic explanations to become tainted."

Option D is evident from the final paragraph: "Geographic explanations usually depend on detailed technical facts of geography and other fields of scholarship... Most historians and economists don't acquire that detailed knowledge as part of the professional training."

Therefore, the correct option is (B): the dismissal of explanations that attribute human behavior to geographical causes.



5. There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide where (option 1,2,3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: The discovery helps to explain archeological similarities between the Paleolithic peoples of China, Japan, and the Americas.

Paragraph: The researchers also uncovered an unexpected genetic link between Native Americans and Japanese people. (1)__. During the deglaciation period, another group branched out from northern coastal China and travelled to Japan.

(2) __. "We were surprised to find that this ancestral source also contributed to the Japanese gene pool, especially the indigenous Ainus," says Li. (3) __. They shared similarities in how they crafted stemmed projectile points for arrowheads and spears.

__(4)__. "This suggests that the Pleistocene connection among the Americas, China, and Japan was not confined to culture but also to

genetics," says senior author Qing-Peng Kong, an evolutionary geneticist at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

- (A) Option 3
- (B) Option 1
- (C) Option 4
- (D) Option 2

Correct Answer: (A) Option 3

SOLUTION:

Option 3 is the optimal choice for sentence integration. The preceding sentence details a key finding: the identification of an ancestral source impacting the Japanese gene pool. Furthermore, the following sentence references "archaeological similarities" across Paleolithic populations in China, Japan, and the Americas. Consequently, Option 3 is the correct selection.

Thus, the correct option is (A) : Option 3.



6. There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide where (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: This philosophical cut at one's core beliefs, values, and way of life is difficult enough.

Paragraph: The experience of reading philosophy is often disquieting. When reading philosophy, the values around which one has heretofore organised one's life may come to look provincial, flatly wrong, or even evil. __ (1) __. When beliefs previously held as truths are rendered implausible, new beliefs, values, and ways of living may be required. _ (2) . What's

worse, philosophers admonish each other to remain unsutured until such time as a defensible new answer is revealed or constructed. Sometimes philosophical writing is even strictly critical in that it does not even attempt to provide an alternative after tearing down a cultural or conceptual citadel. (3). The reader of philosophy must be prepared for the possibility of this experience. While reading philosophy can help one clarify one's values, and even make one self-conscious for the first time of the fact that there are good reasons for believing what one believes, it can also generate un-remediated doubt that is difficult to live with.

- (A) Option 4
- (B) Option 2
- (C) Option 1
- (D) Option 3

Correct Answer: (B) Option 2

SOLUTION:

The sentence "This philosophical cut at one's core beliefs, values, and way of life is difficult enough." is best placed in Option 2. Here's how the paragraph should read:

The experience of reading philosophy is often disquieting. When reading philosophy, the values around which one has heretofore organised one's life may come to look provincial, flatly wrong, or even evil.

When beliefs previously held as truths are rendered implausible, new beliefs, values, and ways of living may be required. **The profound personal challenge of critically examining one's fundamental beliefs, values, and lifestyle is inherently difficult.** What's worse, philosophers admonish each other to remain unsutured until such time as a defensible new answer is revealed or constructed. Sometimes

philosophical writing is even strictly critical in that it does not even attempt to provide an alternative after tearing down a cultural or conceptual citadel. The reader of philosophy must be prepared for the possibility of this experience. While reading philosophy can help one clarify one's values, and even make one self-conscious for the first time of the fact that there are good reasons for believing what one believes, it can also generate un-remediated doubt that is difficult to live with. This enhancement provides a logical flow as it directly follows the notion of destabilized beliefs, emphasizing the difficulty of facing such a profound personal challenge.



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

(A) Having an appreciation for the workings of another person's mind is considered a prerequisite for natural language acquisition, strategic social interaction, reflexive thought, and moral judgment.

(B) It is a 'theory of mind' though some scholars prefer to call it 'mentalizing' or 'mindreading', which is important for the development of one's cognitive abilities

(C) Though we must speculate about its evolutionary origin, we do have indications that the capacity evolved sometime in the last few million years.

(D) This capacity develops from early beginnings in the first year of life to the adult's fast and often effortless understanding of others' thoughts, feelings, and intentions.

Correct Answer: (B) It is a 'theory of mind' though some scholars prefer to call it 'mentalizing' or 'mindreading', which is important for the development of one's cognitive abilities

SOLUTION:

Option B is extraneous because it shifts focus to the terminology used for comprehending others' mental states. Unlike the other sentences, which elaborate on this ability, Option B engages in a meta-discussion concerning scholarly choices between terms like "mentalizing" and "mindreading." It does not directly advance the core discussion of interpreting others' behavior through their mental states.

Consequently, within the framework of constructing a cohesive paragraph, Option B stands out as inconsistent.

Therefore, the correct selection is (B): It constitutes a 'theory of mind,' although certain academics favor the terms 'mentalizing' or 'mindreading,' a concept crucial for cognitive development.



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

- (A) In English, there is no systematic rule for the naming of numbers; after ten, we have "eleven" and "twelve" and then the teens: "thirteen", "fourteen", "fifteen" and so on.
- (B) Even more confusingly, some English words invert the numbers they refer to: the word "fourteen" puts the four first, even though it appears last.
- (C) It can take children a while to learn all these words, and understand that "fourteen" is different from "forty".
- (D) For multiples of 10, English speakers switch to a different pattern: "twenty", "thirty", "forty" and so on.

Correct Answer: (C) It can take children a while to learn all these words, and understand that "fourteen" is different from "forty".

SOLUTION:

Sentence 3 is an outlier, deviating from the primary subject of the other sentences. The remaining sentences examine the naming conventions of numbers in English, emphasizing inconsistencies and variations. In contrast, sentence 3 focuses on children's learning process and their understanding of number distinctions, such as between "fourteen" and "forty." The other sentences collectively discuss the intricacies of English number nomenclature, making sentence 3 somewhat tangential to the paragraph's central theme.

Therefore, the accurate choice is (C): It can take children a while to learn all these words, and understand that "fourteen" is different from "forty".



9. The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3 and 4) given below, when properly sequenced, would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper

sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer.

1. What precisely are the "unusual elements" that make a particular case so attractive to a certain kind of audience?
2. It might be a particularly savage or unfathomable level of depravity, very often it has something to do with the precise amount of mystery involved.
3. Unsolved, and perhaps unsolvable cases offer something that "ordinary" murder doesn't.
4. Why are some crimes destined for perpetual re-examination and others locked into permanent obscurity?

- (A) 4123
- (B) 4321
- (C) 1432
- (D) 2314

Correct Answer: (A) 4123

SOLUTION:

Sentence 4 questions the enduring appeal of specific crimes and the reason for their repeated examination.

Sentence 1 elaborates on this inquiry, identifying "unusual elements" that engage a specific audience, thereby refining the scope.

Sentence 2 suggests contributing factors to the appeal of these cases, such as extreme depravity or mysterious circumstances.

Sentence 3 then expands the scope, proposing that unresolved cases, which may resist resolution, possess an appeal distinct from "ordinary" murder cases, emphasizing the persistent fascination with unsolved mysteries in criminal contexts.

Therefore, the correct option is (A): 4123

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

1. Algorithms hosted on the internet are accessed by many, so biases in AI models have resulted in much larger impact, adversely affecting far larger groups of people.
2. Though "algorithmic bias" is the popular term, the foundation of such bias is not in algorithms, but in the data; algorithms are not biased, data is, as algorithms merely reflect persistent patterns that are present in the training data.
3. Despite their widespread impact, it is relatively easier to fix AI biases than human-generated biases, as it is simpler to identify the former than to try to make people unlearn behaviors learnt over generations.
4. The impact of biased decisions made by humans is localised and geographically confined, but with the advent of AI, the impact of such decisions is spread over a much wider scale.

- (A) 4123
(B) 4321
(C) 1432
(D) 2314

Correct Answer: (A) 4123

SOLUTION:

Sentence 4 establishes that while human biases have localized consequences, AI, represented by AI, amplifies these impacts globally, setting the stage for subsequent points.

Sentences 1 and 2 address AI bias. Sentence 1 details how online algorithms accessible to many magnify biased decision effects on larger populations. Sentence 2 defines "algorithmic bias" as originating from training data, not algorithms, explaining that algorithms replicate data patterns. Thus, Sentence 2 logically supports Sentence 1.

Sentence 3 observes that AI biases, despite their reach, are easier to fix than human biases because algorithmic flaws are more readily identified and corrected than ingrained human behaviors. This follows logically from Sentence 2's explanation.

Consequently, the correct order is (A): 4123



11. The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries.

Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

Colonialism is not a modern phenomenon. World history is full of examples of one society gradually expanding by incorporating adjacent territory and settling its people on newly conquered territory. In the sixteenth century, colonialism changed decisively because of technological developments in navigation that began to connect more remote parts of the world. The modern European colonial project emerged when it became possible to move large numbers of people across the ocean and to maintain political control in spite of geographical dispersion. The term colonialism is used to describe the process of European settlement, violent dispossession and political domination over the rest of the world, including the Americas, Australia, and parts of Africa and Asia.

(A) Colonialism surged in the 16th century due to advancements in navigation, enabling British settlements abroad and global dominance. (B) As a result of developments in navigation technology, European colonialism, led to the displacement of indigenous populations and global political changes in the 16th century. (C) Colonialism, conceptualized in the 16th century, allowed colonizers to expand their territories, establish settlements, and exercise political power. (D) Technological advancements in navigation in the 16th century, transformed colonialism, enabling Europeans to establish settlements and exert political dominance over distant regions.

Correct Answer: (D) Technological advancements in navigation in the 16th century, transformed colonialism, enabling Europeans to establish settlements and exert political dominance over distant regions.

SOLUTION:

Option A is too specific, focusing on British settlements rather than the broader scope of European colonialism presented in the text.

Option B centers on indigenous displacement, which is not the passage's main subject.

Option C touches upon territorial expansion and political power but omits the crucial role of navigation technology.

Option D accurately captures the passage's core theme: 16th-century navigation advancements fundamentally altered colonialism. These improvements facilitated European settlement and political control across regions like the Americas, Australia, and parts of Africa and Asia.

Therefore, the correct choice is (D): 16th-century navigation technology advancements revolutionized colonialism, empowering

Europeans to establish settlements and exert political authority over faraway territories.

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12. The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries.

Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

Manipulating information was a feature of history long before modern journalism established rules of integrity. A record dates back to ancient Rome, when Antony met Cleopatra and his political enemy Octavian launched a smear campaign against him with "short, sharp slogans written upon coins." The perpetrator became the first Roman Emperor and "fake news had allowed Octavian to hack the republican system once and for all". But the 21st century has seen the weaponization of information on an unprecedented scale. Powerful new technology makes the fabrication of content simple, and social networks amplify falsehoods peddled by States, populist politicians, and dishonest corporate entities. The platforms have become fertile ground for computational propaganda, 'trolling' and 'troll armies'.

(A) People need to become critical of what they read, since historically, weaponization of information has led to corruption.

(B) Octavian used fake news to manipulate people and attain power and influence, just as people do today

(C) Disinformation, which is mediated by technology today, is not new and has existed since ancient times.

(D) Use of misinformation for attaining power, a practice that is as old as the Octavian era, is currently fueled by technology.

Correct Answer: (D) Use of misinformation for attaining power, a practice that is as old as the Octavian era, is currently fueled by technology.

SOLUTION:

This text examines the historical use of political misinformation, starting with Octavian's campaign against Antony in ancient Rome. It highlights the 21st century's unprecedented weaponization of information, amplified by technology and social media. Option D accurately reflects the continuous use of misinformation for political influence throughout history, now intensified by modern technology, making it the correct choice. **Option A:** This option focuses on critical reading but does not explicitly address the historical context or information weaponization for power. **Option B:** This option omits the broad historical and contemporary context of using misinformation for political aims. **Option C:** Although the passage mentions historical disinformation, it stresses the 21st century's unmatched scale, which this option does not convey.

The correct option is (D): The use of misinformation to gain power, a practice dating back to Octavian's era, is presently amplified by technology.