

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.

The Positivists, anxious to stake out their claim for history as a science, contributed the weight of their influence to the cult of facts. First ascertain the facts, said the positivists, then draw your conclusions from them. . . . This is what may [be] called the common-sense view of history. History consists of a corpus of ascertained facts. The facts are available to the historian in documents, inscriptions, and so on . . . [Sir George Clark] contrasted the "hard core of facts" in history with the surrounding pulp of disputable interpretation forgetting perhaps that the pulpy part of the fruit is more rewarding than the hard core. . . . It recalls the favourite dictum of the great liberal journalist C. P. Scott: "Facts are sacred, opinion is free." . . . What is a historical fact? . . . According to the common-sense view, there are certain basic facts which are the same for all historians and which form, so to speak, the backbone of history—the fact, for example, that the Battle of Hastings was fought in 1066. But this view calls for two observations. In the first place, it is not with facts like these that the historian is primarily concerned. It is no doubt important to know that the great battle was fought in 1066 and not in 1065 or 1067, and that it was

fought at Hastings and not at Eastbourne or Brighton. The historian must not get these things wrong. But [to] praise a historian for his accuracy is like praising an architect for using well-seasoned timber or properly mixed concrete in his building. It is a necessary condition of his work, but not his essential function. It is precisely for matters of this kind that the historian is entitled to rely on what have been called the "auxiliary sciences" of history—archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics, chronology, and so forth. . . .

The second observation is that the necessity to establish these basic facts rests not on any quality in the facts themselves, but on an apriori decision of the historian. In spite of C. P. Scott's motto, every journalist knows today that the most effective way to influence opinion is by the selection and arrangement of the appropriate facts. It used to be said that facts speak for themselves. This is, of course, untrue. The facts speak only when the historian calls on them: it is he who decides to which facts to give the floor, and in what order or context. . . . The only reason why we are interested to know that the battle was fought at Hastings in 1066 is that historians regard it as a major historical event. . . . Professor Talcott Parsons once called [science] "a selective system of cognitive orientations to reality." It might perhaps have been put more simply. But history is, among other things, that. The historian is necessarily selective. The belief in a hard core of historical facts existing objectively and independently of the interpretation of the historian is a preposterous fallacy, but one which it is very hard to eradicate.

Correct Answer: —

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1.1. If the author of the passage were to write a book on the Battle of Hastings along the lines of his/her own reasoning, the focus of the historical account would be on:

- (A) producing a detailed timeline of the various events that led to the Battle.
- (B) providing a nuanced interpretation by relying on the auxiliary sciences.
- (C) exploring the socio-political and economic factors that led to the Battle.
- (D) deriving historical facts from the relevant documents and inscriptions.

Correct Answer: (C) exploring the socio-political and economic factors that led to the Battle.

SOLUTION:

The text suggests that while gathering foundational data is crucial, historians' main responsibility involves more than that. It underscores the selective and interpretive nature of historical writing, urging historians to delve deeper into the context and underlying causes of historical occurrences.

Option A: The author posits that a historian's core function transcends the mere establishment of basic chronological facts, irrespective of the significance of timelines.

Option B: The author stresses the historian's selective and imaginative function in depicting historical events, while recognizing the utility of ancillary disciplines. It also suggests that the historian's attention should extend beyond a sole reliance on these disciplines for foundational information.

Option C: This option supports the objective of presenting a sophisticated account by exploring the socio-political and economic elements that preceded the Battle of Hastings. This selection mirrors a more exhaustive and complete methodology in historical composition,

prioritizing an understanding of the fundamental reasons and influences that molded the historical event.

Option D: While valuing the importance of fundamental facts, the author contends that historians must engage in activities beyond simple information collection.



1.2. According to this passage, which one of the following statements best describes the significance of archaeology for historians?

- (A) Archaeology helps historians to ascertain factual accuracy.
- (B) Archaeology helps historians to carry out their primary duty.
- (C) Archaeology helps historians to interpret historical facts.
- (D) Archaeology helps historians to locate the oldest civilisations in history.

Correct Answer: (A) Archaeology helps historians to ascertain factual accuracy.

SOLUTION:

Historians may rely on disciplines such as archaeology to establish foundational truths, as indicated by the text. Specifically, the passage states:

"But [to] praise a historian for his accuracy is like praising an architect for using well-seasoned timber or properly mixed concrete in his building. It is a necessary condition of his work, but not his essential function. It is precisely for matters of this kind that the historian is entitled to rely on what have been called the 'auxiliary sciences' of history—archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics, chronology, and so forth."

The "auxiliary sciences," including archaeology, assist historians in confirming the veracity of fundamental facts. Archaeology contributes by providing evidence through artifacts, material remains, and other discoveries, thereby supporting historians in verifying factual accuracy.

Consequently, **Option A** correctly illustrates archaeology's role in assisting historians to achieve factual accuracy.



1.3. All of the following, if true, can weaken the passage's claim that facts do not speak for themselves, EXCEPT:

- (A) the truth value of a fact is independent of the historian who expresses it.
- (B) facts, like truth, can be relative: what is fact for person X may not be so for person Y.
- (C) a fact, by its very nature, is objective and universal, irrespective of the context in which it is placed.
- (D) the order in which a series of facts is presented does not have any bearing on the production of meaning.

Correct Answer: (B) facts, like truth, can be relative: what is fact for person X may not be so for person Y.

SOLUTION:

Option (B) is correct: **facts, akin to truth, can be relative; a fact for individual X might not be so for individual Y.**

Option B aligns with the passage's perspective that **fact representation is subjective** and influenced by other viewpoints. It supports the passage's argument—that historians are crucial for fact

selection and interpretation—by highlighting the judgmental nature of truth and facts.

The relativity of facts implies that **one individual's interpretation of a fact may differ from another's**. This concept reinforces the notion that a historian's interpretation and perspective significantly shape what is considered a fact.

Therefore, if Option B is valid, it **corroborates the passage's claim** that facts are not entirely objective and independent of the historian's viewpoint, rather than contradicting it.



1.4. All of the following describe the “common-sense view” of history, EXCEPT:

- (A) history can be objective like the sciences if it is derived from historical facts.
- (B) only the positivist methods can lead to credible historical knowledge.
- (C) real history can be found in ancient engravings and archival documents.
- (D) history is like science: a selective system of cognitive orientations to reality.

Correct Answer: (D) history is like science: a selective system of cognitive orientations to reality.

SOLUTION:

The query requires identification of the statement that deviates from the passage's portrayal of the "common-sense view" of history. This common-sense perspective, as outlined in the passage, conceives of history as an assembly of verifiable facts (a "hard core of facts").

Historians are understood to extract conclusions from these facts, striving for scientific objectivity through methods akin to those employed by positivists.

An examination of each option follows:

- **Option 1:** The capacity for history to achieve scientific objectivity hinges on its derivation from historical facts.
This statement aligns with the common-sense view, as it supports the notion of objective history based on facts.
- **Option 2:** Credible historical knowledge is attainable exclusively through positivist methodologies.
This reinforces the influence of positivism and the methods highlighted in the common-sense view.
- **Option 3:** Authentic history is discoverable within ancient engravings and archival documents.
This option supports the premise that historical facts exist independently in physical records, a component of the common-sense perspective.
- **Option 4:** History functions similarly to science as a selective framework of cognitive orientations toward reality.
This statement diverges from the common-sense view by prioritizing subjectivity and interpretation over the accumulation of objective facts.

Correct Answer: Option 4 — this option is inconsistent with the common-sense view of history.

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

Umberto Eco, an Italian writer, was right when he said the language of Europe is translation. Netflix and other deep-pocketed global firms speak it well. Just as the EU employs a small army of translators and interpreters to turn intricate laws or impassioned speeches of Romanian MEPs into the EU's 24 official languages, so do the likes of Netflix. It now offers dubbing in 34 languages and subtitling in a few more. . . .

The economics of European productions are more appealing, too. American audiences are more willing than before to give dubbed or subtitled viewing a chance. This means shows such as “Lupin”, a French crime caper on Netflix, can become global hits. . . . In 2015, about 75% of Netflix's original content was American; now the figure is half, according to Ampere, a media analysis company. Netflix has about 100 productions under way in Europe, which is more than big public broadcasters in France or Germany. . . .

Not everything works across borders. Comedy sometimes struggles. Whodunits and bloodthirsty maelstroms between arch Romans and uppity tribesmen have a more universal appeal. Some do it better than others. Barbarians aside, German television is not always built for export, says one executive, being polite. A bigger problem is that national broadcasters still dominate. Streaming services, such as Netflix or Disney+, account for about a third of all viewing hours, even in markets where they are well-established. Europe is an ageing continent. The generation of teens staring at phones is outnumbered by their elders who prefer to gawp at the box. In Brussels and national capitals, the prospect of Netflix as a cultural hegemon is seen as a threat. “Cultural sovereignty” is the watchword of European executives worried that the Americans will eat their lunch. To be fair, Netflix content sometimes seems stuck in an uncanny valley somewhere in the mid-Atlantic, with local quirks stripped out. Netflix originals tend to have fewer specific cultural references than shows produced by domestic rivals, according to Enders, a market analyst. The company used to have an imperial model of commissioning, with

executives in Los Angeles cooking up ideas French people might like. Now Netflix has offices across Europe. But ultimately the big decisions rest with American executives. This makes European politicians nervous.

They should not be. An irony of European integration is that it is often American companies that facilitate it. Google Translate makes European newspapers comprehensible, even if a little clunky, for the continent's non-polyglots. American social-media companies make it easier for Europeans to talk politics across borders. (That they do not always like to hear what they say about each other is another matter.) Now Netflix and friends pump the same content into homes across a continent, making culture a cross-border endeavour, too. If Europeans are to share a currency, bail each other out in times of financial need and share vaccines in a pandemic, then they need to have something in common—even if it is just bingeing on the same series. Watching fictitious northern and southern Europeans tear each other apart 2,000 years ago beats doing so in reality.

Correct Answer: —

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2.1. Based on information provided in the passage, all of the following are true, EXCEPT:

- (A) Netflix has been able to transform itself into a truly European entity.
- (B) national broadcasters dominate in the EU in terms of total television viewing hours.
- (C) European television productions have the potential to become global hits.
- (D) only half of Netflix's original programming in the EU is now produced in America.

Correct Answer: (A) Netflix has been able to transform itself into a truly European entity.

SOLUTION:

All options except A are factually supported by the passage.

Option B is directly supported by the statement: "A bigger problem is that national broadcasters still dominate." Streaming services, including Netflix and Disney+, constitute almost a third of all viewing hours even in mature markets.

The statement "The economics of European productions are more appealing, too" validates **Option C**. American audiences are increasingly receptive to dubbed or subtitled content. This suggests that French Netflix original crime drama "Lupin" could achieve global popularity.

Option D is also substantiated: "According to media analysis firm Ampere, roughly 75% of Netflix's original content was produced in the United States in 2015; that percentage is now only half."

The inaccuracy in **Option A** lies in the claim that Netflix has become a truly European entity. While Netflix maintains European offices, ultimate decision-making power rests with American CEOs.

The correct option is (A): Netflix has been able to transform itself into a truly European entity.



2.2. The author sees the rise of Netflix in Europe as:

- (A) a unifying force.
- (B) a looming cultural threat.
- (C) an economic threat
- (D) filling an entertainment gap.

Correct Answer: (A) a unifying force.

SOLUTION:

Within the given comprehension text, the author examines Netflix's influence in Europe, considering both the difficulties and advantages of its operations. The passage states that:

- Netflix provides content dubbed and subtitled in multiple languages, fostering international cultural cohesion.
- There has been a notable rise in European productions featured on Netflix, elevating local content globally.
- Concerns voiced by European executives about cultural preservation contrast with Netflix's function in promoting European integration. The passage implies that American firms like Netflix contribute to increased cross-cultural interaction and comprehension within Europe.
- The author concludes that shared entertainment, exemplified by Netflix series, can unite Europeans by establishing shared cultural references.

Consequently, the author's view on Netflix's expansion in Europe is predominantly favorable, emphasizing its capacity to unite, despite apprehensions regarding cultural dominance.

Hence, the accurate response is: **a unifying force.**



2.3. Which one of the following research findings would weaken the author's conclusion in the final paragraph?

- (A) Research shows that older women across the EU enjoy watching romantic comedies on Netflix, whereas younger women prefer historical fiction dramas.
- (B) Research shows there is a wide variance in the popularity and viewing of Netflix shows across different EU countries.
- (C) Research shows that Netflix hits produced in France are very popular with North American audiences.
- (D) Research shows that Netflix has been gradually losing market share to other streaming television service providers.

Correct Answer: (B) Research shows there is a wide variance in the popularity and viewing of Netflix shows across different EU countries.

SOLUTION:

Option A: While this outcome highlights viewer preferences, it does not directly substantiate the author's assertion regarding Netflix's role in fostering cross-border European integration.

Option C: The author's assertion that Netflix serves as a unifying element across Europe is not directly supported by this finding.

Option D: Despite the author's conclusion regarding the potential business implications of this finding, it fails to directly address the issue of cultural unification.

The author's concluding statement in the final paragraph posits Netflix as a force for European unity, recharacterizing culture as a "cross-border endeavor." The author's claim that Netflix is popular across Europe and offers a shared experience for Europeans is weakened if there are substantial disparities in the popularity and viewership duration of Netflix series among different EU member states. The appropriate choice is **option B**.

The author's conclusion in the final paragraph is unrelated to any of the preceding options.

The correct option is (B): Empirical data reveals significant differences in Netflix show popularity and viewing patterns across various EU countries.



2.4. Based only on information provided in the passage, which one of the following hypothetical Netflix shows would be most successful with audiences across the EU?

- (A) A murder mystery drama set in North Africa and France.
- (B) A trans-Atlantic romantic drama set in Europe and America.
- (C) An original German TV science fiction production.
- (D) An Italian comedy show hosted by an international star.

Correct Answer: (A) A murder mystery drama set in North Africa and France.

SOLUTION:

The paragraph evaluates show appeal, noting that "Not everything works across borders." Comedy's popularity fluctuates. Murderous mayhem and whodunit narratives featuring ancient Romans and stern barbarians hold greater appeal. Consequently, the text suggests a murder mystery set in France and North Africa would likely resonate with viewers across the European Union.

Option D can be readily dismissed based on the preceding information.

Option C is also eliminated because the text explicitly states, "German television is not always built for export." The primary focus of the

passage is the successful adaptation of European content.

Option B is irrelevant to this discussion. The passage does not comment on the appeal of romantic dramas, and the transatlantic comparison may not accurately reflect the success of certain themes within Europe.

The correct option is (A): A murder mystery drama set in North Africa and France.



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

Over the past four centuries liberalism has been so successful that it has driven all its opponents off the battlefield. Now it is disintegrating, destroyed by a mix of hubris and internal contradictions, according to Patrick Deneen, a professor of politics at the University of Notre Dame. . . . Equality of opportunity has produced a new meritocratic aristocracy that has all the aloofness of the old aristocracy with none of its sense of noblesse oblige. Democracy has degenerated into a theatre of the absurd. And technological advances are reducing ever more areas of work into meaningless drudgery. “The gap between liberalism’s claims about itself and the lived reality of the citizenry” is now so wide that “the lie can no longer be accepted,” Mr Deneen writes. What better proof of this than the vision of 1,000 private planes whisking their occupants to Davos to discuss the question of “creating a shared future in a fragmented world”? . . . Deneen does an impressive job of capturing the current mood of disillusionment, echoing left-wing complaints about rampant commercialism, right-wing complaints about narcissistic and bullying students, and general worries about atomisation and selfishness. But when he concludes that all this adds up to a failure of liberalism, is his argument

convincing? . . . He argues that the essence of liberalism lies in freeing individuals from constraints. In fact, liberalism contains a wide range of intellectual traditions which provide different answers to the question of how to trade off the relative claims of rights and responsibilities, individual expression and social ties. . . . liberals experimented with a range of ideas from devolving power from the centre to creating national education systems.

Mr Deneen's fixation on the essence of liberalism leads to the second big problem of his book: his failure to recognise liberalism's ability to reform itself and address its internal problems. The late 19th century saw America suffering from many of the problems that are reappearing today, including the creation of a business aristocracy, the rise of vast companies, the corruption of politics and the sense that society was dividing into winners and losers. But a wide variety of reformers, working within the liberal tradition, tackled these problems head on. Theodore Roosevelt took on the trusts. Progressives cleaned up government corruption. University reformers modernised academic syllabuses and built ladders of opportunity. Rather than dying, liberalism reformed itself.

Mr Deneen is right to point out that the record of liberalism in recent years has been dismal. He is also right to assert that the world has much to learn from the premodern notions of liberty as self-mastery and self-denial. The biggest enemy of liberalism is not so much atomisation but old-fashioned greed, as members of the Davos elite pile their plates ever higher with perks and share options. But he is wrong to argue that the only way for people to liberate themselves from the contradictions of liberalism is "liberation from liberalism itself". The best way to read "Why Liberalism Failed" is not as a funeral oration but as a call to action: up your game, or else.

Correct Answer: —

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3.1. All of the following statements are evidence of the decline of liberalism today, EXCEPT:

- (A) “‘The gap between liberalism’s claims about itself and the lived reality of the citizenry’ is now so wide that ‘the lie can no longer be accepted,’ . . .”
- (B) “And technological advances are reducing ever more areas of work into meaningless drudgery.”
- (C) “. . . the creation of a business aristocracy, the rise of vast companies . . .”
- (D) “Democracy has degenerated into a theatre of the absurd.”

Correct Answer: (B) “And technological advances are reducing ever more areas of work into meaningless drudgery.”

SOLUTION:

To identify the statement that does not demonstrate the decline of liberalism, we must assess if each option supports the decline mentioned in the passage. An analysis of each statement follows:

1. **“‘The gap between liberalism’s claims about itself and the lived reality of the citizenry’ is now so wide that ‘the lie can no longer be accepted,’ . . .”** This statement points to the divergence between liberalism's stated ideals and the population's actual experiences, signifying a negative perception and thus indicating a decline.
2. **“And technological advances are reducing ever more areas of work into meaningless drudgery.”** This statement addresses the impact of technological progress on work, leading to repetitive and unfulfilling jobs. While it describes a societal problem, it does not directly criticize liberalism as being at fault; rather, it identifies a consequence of technological development, which could occur irrespective of the prevailing political or economic system.

3. “. . . the creation of a business aristocracy, the rise of vast companies . . .” This indicates concerns about an entrenched elite controlling economic systems, suggesting a failure of liberalism to ensure equity and thereby supporting its decline.

4. “Democracy has degenerated into a theatre of the absurd.” This describes democracy, a fundamental aspect of liberalism, as nonsensical, clearly highlighting a perceived decline in liberalism.

Statement 2 stands apart, as it only notes a consequence of technological advancement without attributing this issue to a failure of liberalism. Consequently, the correct statement is:

“And technological advances are reducing ever more areas of work into meaningless drudgery.”

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3.2. The author of the passage is likely to disagree with all of the following statements, EXCEPT:

(A) if we accept that liberalism is a dying ideal, we must work to find a viable substitute.

(B) liberalism was the dominant ideal in the past century, but it had to reform itself to remain so.

(C) claims about liberalism’s disintegration are exaggerated and misunderstand its core features.

(D) the essence of liberalism lies in greater individual self-expression and freedoms.

Correct Answer: (B) liberalism was the dominant ideal in the past century, but it had to reform itself to remain so.

SOLUTION:

To solve the question "the author of the passage is likely to disagree with all of the following statements, EXCEPT," we need to identify the author's view on liberalism as presented in the text. Let's examine each statement:

1. **If we accept that liberalism is a dying ideal, we must work to find a viable substitute.** The author refutes the idea that liberalism is dying, indicating disagreement with this statement.

2. **Liberalism was the dominant ideal in the past century, but it had to reform itself to remain so.** The passage acknowledges liberalism's capacity for reform, suggesting the author agrees with this point and making it the exception.

3. **Claims about liberalism's disintegration are exaggerated and misunderstand its core features.** While the passage discusses liberalism's challenges, the author's perspective on its adaptability might lead to disagreement with this broad claim.

4. **The essence of liberalism lies in greater individual self-expression and freedoms.** The author appears to question simplistic definitions of liberalism's core, implying disagreement with this statement.

Based on the passage and the author's expressed views, statement 2, **"Liberalism was the dominant ideal in the past century, but it had to reform itself to remain so,"** is the exception the author is most likely to agree with.



3.3. The author of the passage refers to “the Davos elite” to illustrate his views on:

- (A) the fact that the rise in liberalism had led to a greater interest in shared futures from unlikely social classes.
- (B) the hypocrisy of the liberal rich, who profess to subscribe to liberal values while cornering most of the wealth.
- (C) the unlikelihood of a return to the liberalism of the past as long as the rich continue to benefit from the decline in liberal values.
- (D) the way the debate around liberalism has been captured by the rich who have managed to insulate themselves from economic hardships.

Correct Answer: (B) the hypocrisy of the liberal rich, who profess to subscribe to liberal values while cornering most of the wealth.

SOLUTION:

The author's commentary on the "Davos elite" states: "As members of the Davos elite pile their plates ever higher with perks and share options, the biggest enemy of liberalism is not so much atomization but old-fashioned greed." **Option B** is correct as it alone addresses the avarice of the Davos elite.

Option A is incorrect. The passage critiques the hypocrisy of the Davos elite, not an increased interest in shared futures among disparate socioeconomic classes due to liberalism.

Option C is inaccurate. The paragraph discusses internal inconsistencies and arrogance, not a direct causal link between the rich profiting and the decline of liberal values.

Option D is incorrect. The passage focuses on the actions of the Davos elite, not on how the wealthy and powerful manipulate liberal discourse.

The correct option is (B): the hypocrisy of wealthy liberals who espouse liberal values while accumulating a disproportionate share of

wealth.



3.4. The author of the passage faults Deneen's conclusions for all of the following reasons, EXCEPT:

- (A) its very narrow definition of liberalism limited to individual freedoms.
- (B) its failure to note historical instances in which the process of declining liberalism has managed to reverse itself.
- (C) its repeated harking back to premodern notions of liberty.
- (D) its extreme pessimism about the future of liberalism today and predictions of an ultimate decline.

Correct Answer: (C) its repeated harking back to premodern notions of liberty.

SOLUTION:

The provided text outlines criticisms of Deneen's conclusions on liberalism. To identify the exception, each point is examined against the passage's content.

- A restricted understanding of liberalism, focusing solely on individual liberties: The passage critiques Deneen's singular focus on the core of liberalism, suggesting it narrowly defines it by individual freedoms and neglects its varied intellectual history. This is presented as a criticism.
- The omission of historical examples of liberalism's self-correction: The author highlights historical periods where liberalism adapted and reformed, implying Deneen overlooks these instances. This constitutes another criticism.

- A recurring reliance on pre-Enlightenment concepts of freedom: While the passage acknowledges the value of concepts like self-governance from earlier eras, it does not directly fault Deneen for referencing them. Instead, this is framed positively. Therefore, this is the exception to the criticisms.
- An excessively bleak outlook on liberalism's present and its eventual downfall: The passage acknowledges Deneen's pessimistic outlook, indicating this view is subject to criticism.

Following this evaluation, the correct exception is:

its repeated harking back to premodern notions of liberty.



4. 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.

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

The Second Hand September campaign, led by Oxfam . . . seeks to encourage shopping at local organisations and charities as alternatives to fast fashion brands such as Primark and Boohoo in the name of saving our planet. As innocent as mindless scrolling through online shops may seem, such consumers are unintentionally—or perhaps even knowingly—contributing to an industry that uses more energy than aviation. . . .

Brits buy more garments than any other country in Europe, so it comes as no shock that many of those clothes end up in UK landfills each year: 300,000 tonnes of them, to be exact. This waste of clothing is destructive to our planet, releasing greenhouse gasses as clothes are burnt as well as bleeding toxins and dyes into the surrounding soil and water. As ecologist Chelsea Rochman bluntly put it, “The mismanagement of our waste has even come back to haunt us on our dinner plate.”

It’s not surprising, then, that people are scrambling for a solution, the most common of which is second-hand shopping. Retailers selling consigned clothing are currently expanding at a rapid rate . . . If everyone bought just one used item in a year, it would save 449 million lbs of waste, equivalent to the weight of 1 million Polar bears. “Thrifting” has increasingly become a trendy practice. London is home to many second-hand, or more commonly coined ‘vintage’, shops across the city from Bayswater to Brixton.

So you’re cool and you care about the planet; you’ve killed two birds with one stone. But do people simply purchase a second-hand item, flash it on

Instagram with #vintage and call it a day without considering whether what they are doing is actually effective?

According to a study commissioned by Patagonia, for instance, older clothes shed more microfibres. These can end up in our rivers and seas after just one wash due to the worn material, thus contributing to microfibre pollution. To break it down, the amount of microfibres released by laundering 100,000 fleece jackets is equivalent to as many as 11,900 plastic grocery bags, and up to 40 per cent of that ends up in our oceans. . . . So where does this leave second-hand consumers? [They would be well advised to buy] high-quality items that shed less and last longer [as this] combats both microfibre pollution and excess garments ending up in landfills. . . .

Luxury brands would rather not circulate their latest season stock around the globe to be sold at a cheaper price, which is why companies like ThredUP, a US fashion resale marketplace, have not yet caught on in the UK. There will always be a market for consignment but there is also a whole generation of people who have been taught that only buying new products is the norm; second-hand luxury goods are not in their psyche. Ben Whitaker, director at Liquidation Firm B-Stock, told Prospect that unless recycling becomes cost-effective and filters into mass production, with the right technology to partner it, “high-end retailers would rather put brand before sustainability.”

Correct Answer: —

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5.1. According to the author, companies like ThredUP have not caught on in the UK for all of the following reasons EXCEPT that:

- (A) luxury brands want to maintain their brand image.
- (B) luxury brands do not like their product to be devalued
- (C) the British don't buy second-hand clothing.
- (D) recycling is currently not financially attractive for luxury brands

Correct Answer: (C) the British don't buy second-hand clothing.

SOLUTION:

To address the question, we must determine why companies like ThredUP have not succeeded in the UK, excluding one incorrect option. The provided text analyzes UK consumer habits and business approaches concerning pre-owned apparel.

The passage outlines the following potential reasons:

- Luxury brands are hesitant to globally distribute their newest inventory to prevent price depreciation, aiming to protect their brand image.
- High-end retailers prioritize brand prestige over environmental concerns unless recycling becomes economically viable, highlighting their reluctance to diminish product value.
- A societal tendency to favor new purchases over pre-owned items is noted, but it does not assert that Britons refrain from buying second-hand clothing.
- For luxury brands to embrace recycling, it must become financially beneficial and technologically compatible.

The provided options are:

1. Maintaining brand image is a priority for luxury brands.
2. Luxury brands aim to prevent their products from losing value.
3. Britons do not purchase second-hand clothing.

4. Recycling is presently not cost-effective for luxury brands.

Evaluating these points against the passage reveals that the assertion "the British don't buy second-hand clothing" lacks substantiation. The text acknowledges a preference for new items while also noting an increasing adoption of second-hand shopping, implying that Britons do indeed buy pre-owned apparel.

Therefore, the correct answer is: **the British don't buy second-hand clothing.**

• • •

5.2. The act of "thrifting", as described in the passage, can be considered ironic because it:

- (A) is an anti-consumerist attitude.
- (B) has created environmental problems.
- (C) is not cost-effective for retailers.
- (D) offers luxury clothing at cut-rate prices.

Correct Answer: (B) has created environmental problems.

SOLUTION:

The paradoxical nature of "thrifting," as presented, stems from its **unforeseen detrimental environmental consequences**. The text describes the Second Hand September initiative, which advocates for second-hand purchasing as environmentally sound, contrasting it with fast fashion's energy consumption, which surpasses that of air travel.

While thrifting endeavors to mitigate textile waste and its associated ecological damage, it inadvertently generates environmental problems

due to **microfibers released from older garments**, thereby polluting water bodies.

Consequently, the irony lies in this supposedly sustainable practice **contributing to environmental degradation**, which corresponds to the conclusion: **environmental issues have been generated**.



5.3. The central idea of the passage would be undermined if:

- (A) customers bought all their clothes online.
- (B) Primark and Boohoo recycled their clothes for vintage stores
- (C) second-hand stores sold only high-quality clothes.
- (D) clothes were not thrown and burnt in landfills.

Correct Answer: (C) second-hand stores sold only high-quality clothes.

SOLUTION:

The text advocates for **sustainable shopping**, especially second-hand purchasing, to lessen fashion's environmental damage. It stresses consumer awareness of clothing's environmental effects and recommends choosing durable items that shed fewer microfibers.

While acknowledging microfiber pollution from second-hand clothing, the text posits this could be resolved if these items were consistently high-quality. Consumers buying durable, low-shedding items address both microfiber pollution and landfill waste. Thus, **Option C is correct**.

Option A focuses on the buying process, not clothing attributes, and doesn't contradict the main point.

Option B could support sustainability and the main idea, not

undermine it.

Option D supports the main point by promoting reduced environmental harm via sustainable shopping.

Therefore, the correct option is (C): second-hand stores sold only high-quality clothes.



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: And probably much earlier, moving the documentation for kissing back 1,000 years compared to what was acknowledged in the scientific community.

Paragraph: Research has hypothesised that the earliest evidence of human lip kissing originated in a very specific geographical location in South Asia 3,500 years ago. ___ (1) ___. From there it may have spread to other regions, simultaneously accelerating the spread of the herpes simplex virus 1. According to Dr Troels Pank Arbøll and Dr Sophie Lund Rasmussen, who in a new article in the journal Science draw on a range of written sources from the earliest Mesopotamian societies, kissing was already a well-established practice 4,500 years ago in the Middle East. ___ (2) ___. In ancient Mesopotamia, people wrote in cuneiform script on clay tablets. ___ (3) ___. Many thousands of these clay tablets have survived to this day, and they contain clear examples that kissing was considered a part of romantic intimacy in ancient times. ___ (4) ___. "Kissing could also have been part of friendships and family members' relations," says Dr Troels Pank Arbøll, an expert on the history of medicine in Mesopotamia.

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

Correct Answer: (D) Option 2

SOLUTION:

The sentence is most appropriate for Blank 2, as its placement enhances the timeline's detail and questions current scientific perspectives, thereby ensuring logical paragraph progression. It is unsuitable for Blank 1 because it fails to build upon the preceding sentence. Inclusion in Blank 3 or Blank 4 would impede the paragraph's coherence due to the established relationship between the sentences surrounding those blanks.

Consequently, the optimal choice is (D): option 2.



7. 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: Dualism was long held as the defining feature of developing countries in contrast to developed countries, where frontier technologies and high productivity were assumed to prevail.

Paragraph: ____ (1) ____ . At the core of development economics lies the idea of 'productive dualism': that poor countries' economies are split between a narrow 'modern' sector that uses advanced technologies and a larger 'traditional' sector characterized by very low productivity. ____ (2) ____ . While this distinction between developing and advanced economies may have

made some sense in the 1950s and 1960s, it no longer appears to be very relevant. A combination of forces have produced a widening gap between the winners and those left behind.____(3)____. Convergence between poor and rich parts of the economy was arrested and regional disparities widened.____(4)____. As a result, policymakers in advanced economies are now grappling with the same questions that have long preoccupied developing economies: mainly how to close the gap with the more advanced parts of the economy.

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

Correct Answer: (B) Option 2

SOLUTION:

This statement best fits Blank 2, as it expands on the concept of 'productive dualism' previously mentioned. It provides additional details on the distinction between the "modern" and "traditional" sectors in the economies of underdeveloped countries, highlighting a historical perspective that contrasts developing and developed nations. This sentence sets the stage for the subsequent discussion on the importance of this distinction in the current context.

Therefore, the correct choice is (B): Option 2



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) Self-care particularly links to loneliness, behavioural problems, and negative academic outcomes.

(B) “Latchkey children” refers to children who routinely return home from school to empty homes and take care of themselves for extended periods of time.

(C) Although self-care generally points to negative outcomes, it is important to consider that the bulk of research has yet to track long-term consequences.

(D) In research and practice, the phrase “children in self-care” has come to replace latchkey in an effort to more accurately reflect the nature of their circumstances.

Correct Answer: (C) Although self-care generally points to negative outcomes, it is important to consider that the bulk of research has yet to track long-term consequences.

SOLUTION:

Sentence 3 is distinct as it offers a contrasting perspective. Sentence 3 underscores the importance of acknowledging that most studies have not yet assessed long-term impacts, while other statements discuss negative consequences associated with children engaging in self-care. This assertion provides a more equitable or balanced viewpoint, diverging from the primary focus of prior sentences, which highlight the disadvantages of child self-care.

The remaining sentences (one, two, four, and five) can be integrated to form a coherent paragraph addressing the concept of self-care concerning children, particularly those identified as "latchkey children."

The accurate choice is (C): While self-care typically leads to unfavorable results, it is crucial to recognize that the majority of studies have not yet documented long-term effects.



9. 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) The banning of Northern Lights could be considered a precursor to censoring books for “moral”, world view or religious reasons.

(B) Attempts to ban books are attempts to silence authors who have summoned immense courage in telling their stories.

(C) Now the banning and challenging of books in the US has escalated to an unprecedented level.

(D) The widely acclaimed fantasy novel Northern Lights was banned in some parts of the US, and was the second most challenged book in the US.

Correct Answer: (B) Attempts to ban books are attempts to silence authors who have summoned immense courage in telling their stories.

SOLUTION:

Sentence 2 is distinct as it addresses the broader concept of prohibiting books and suppressing authors, unlike the other sentences which specifically focus on book banning and challenges within the US. Sentences 1, 3, 4, and 5 together form a coherent paragraph discussing the prohibition of "Northern Lights" and the rise in book challenges in the US. Sentence 2, however, offers a separate viewpoint

that does not directly contribute to the narrative of the specific events and trends described in the other sentences.

Therefore, the accurate choice is (B): Efforts to ban books are efforts to silence authors who have demonstrated great courage in sharing their narratives.



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. Like the ants that make up a colony, no single neuron holds complex information like self-awareness, hope or pride.
2. Although the human brain is not yet understood enough to identify the mechanism by which emergence functions, most neurobiologists agree that complex interconnections among the parts give rise to qualities that belong only to the whole.
3. Nonetheless, the sum of all neurons in the nervous system generate complex human emotions like fear and joy, none of which can be attributed to a single neuron.
4. Human consciousness is often called an emergent property of the human brain.

- (A) 4132
- (B) 3214.
- (C) 2431
- (D) 4231

Correct Answer: (A) 4132

SOLUTION:

Sentence 4 establishes the premise that human consciousness is typically viewed as an emergent property of the brain, providing foundational context. Sentences 1 and 3 are considered. Sentence 1 states that no individual neuron stores complex information like self-awareness or emotions. Sentence 3 elaborates, postulating that the collective neuronal activity within the nervous system produces complex human emotions. Therefore, Sentence 3 logically follows Sentence 1 and supports the concept of emergent properties from component interactions. Sentence 2 concludes the paragraph by acknowledging that although the exact mechanism of emergence in the brain is not fully understood, neurobiologists agree that intricate interconnections between brain components result in emergent qualities. This sentence concludes the discourse and reinforces the idea presented in Sentence 4.

The logical sequence is (A): 4132



11. 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. Contemporary African writing like ‘The Bottled Leopard’ voices this theme using two children and two backgrounds to juxtapose two varying cultures.
2. Chukwuemeka Ike explores the conflict, and casts the Western tradition as condescending, enveloping and unaccommodating towards local African practice.
3. However, their views contradict the reality, for a rich and sustaining

local African cultural ethos exists for all who care, to see and experience.

4. Western Christian concepts tend to deny or feign ignorance about the existence of a genuine and enduring indigenous African tradition.

(A) 4132

(B) 4312

(C) 2431

(D) 4231

Correct Answer: (B) 4312

SOLUTION:

The correct sequence is 4-3-1-2.

Sentence 4 introduces the conflict between indigenous African culture and Western Christian ideals, setting the context for subsequent discussion.

Sentence 3 commences with "However," indicating a contradiction of Sentence 4 by asserting the existence of a rich indigenous African cultural ethos. Therefore, Sentence 3 must follow Sentence 4.

Sentence 2 provides additional context by introducing Chukwuemeka Ike and elaborating on his analysis of the conflict. Sentence 1 presents a work of modern African literature that explores this struggle, logically preceding detailed elaboration.

Sentence 1 introduces the book, assuming Ike is the author.

Consequently, Sentence 2 should follow Sentence 1.

The correct sequence is option (B): 4321



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

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

Heatwaves are becoming longer, frequent and intense due to climate change. The impacts of extreme heat are unevenly experienced; with older people and young children, those with pre-existing medical conditions and on low incomes significantly more vulnerable. Adaptation to heatwaves is a significant public policy concern. Research conducted among at-risk people in the UK reveals that even vulnerable people do not perceive themselves as at risk of extreme heat; therefore, early warnings of extreme heat events do not perform as intended. This suggests that understanding how extreme heat is narrated is very important. The news media play a central role in this process and can help warn people about the potential danger, as well as about impacts on infrastructure and society.

(A) Heatwaves pose an enormous risk; the media plays a pivotal role in alerting people to this danger.

(B) People are vulnerable to heatwaves caused due to climate change, measures taken are ineffective.

(C) Protection from heat waves is important but current reports and public policies seem ineffective.

(D) News stories help in warning about heatwaves, but they have to become more effective.

Correct Answer: (A) Heatwaves pose an enormous risk; the media plays a pivotal role in alerting people to this danger.

SOLUTION:

The text discusses the increasing frequency and intensity of heatwaves due to climate change, disproportionately impacting vulnerable groups. It emphasizes the need to adapt to heatwaves as a key public policy issue. Research shows vulnerable individuals may not perceive

their susceptibility to extreme heat, highlighting the importance of understanding how extreme heat risks are communicated. The passage specifically points to the news media's critical role in warning the public about heatwave dangers and their societal and infrastructural consequences.

Option (A) suggests general protection importance without highlighting the media's role in warning about heatwave dangers.

Option (B) recognizes heatwave vulnerability but omits the media's alerting function, instead criticizing general measures.

Option (C) accurately captures the main point: heatwaves are a significant risk, and the media is vital in warning the public.

Option (D) notes the need for better news reporting but doesn't emphasize the media's primary role in alerting the public to heatwave risks, as presented in the passage.

Therefore, option (C) is correct: Heatwaves pose a substantial risk, and the media plays a crucial role in alerting the public to this danger.



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

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

People spontaneously create counterfactual alternatives to reality when they think “if only” or “what if” and imagine how the past could have been different. The mind computes counterfactuals for many reasons.

Counterfactuals explain the past and prepare for the future, they implicate various relations including causal ones, and they affect intentions and decisions. They modulate emotions such as regret and relief, and they support moral judgments such as blame. The ability to create counterfactuals develops throughout childhood and contributes to reasoning about other people's beliefs, including their false beliefs.

- (A) Counterfactuals help people to prepare for the future by understanding intentions and making decisions.
- (B) People create counterfactual alternatives to reality for various reasons, including reasoning about other people's beliefs.
- (C) Counterfactual alternatives to reality are created for a variety of reasons and is part of one's developmental process.
- (D) Counterfactual thinking helps to reverse past and future actions and reason out false beliefs.

Correct Answer: (C) Counterfactual alternatives to reality are created for a variety of reasons and is part of one's developmental process.

SOLUTION:

This paragraph examines counterfactual thinking, wherein individuals construct hypothetical scenarios divergent from reality to serve multiple objectives. These objectives encompass elucidating historical occurrences, strategizing for future endeavors, comprehending interpersonal dynamics and causal relationships, evoking emotional responses, and substantiating ethical judgments. The capacity for generating such counterfactuals emerges in childhood and facilitates the comprehension of others' beliefs. Option C effectively and accurately encapsulates these core concepts.

Option A primarily addresses future preparation, omitting the broader motivations behind counterfactual alternative development.

Option B fails to emphasize the developmental dimension and the diverse motivations for creation.

Option D presents an oversimplified view of counterfactual functions, erroneously suggesting that counterfactual reasoning aids in reversing past and future actions, which deviates from the passage's central theme.

The accurate option is (C): The construction of counterfactual alternatives to reality is undertaken for diverse reasons and is integrated into one's developmental progression.