

General Instructions

- (i) This booklet contains 28 questions, each provided with a complete, step-by-step solution.
- (ii) It comprises 24 single-correct multiple-choice questions.
- (iii) Attempt each question on your own before reviewing the given solution.

1. Five jumbled 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 out and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.

- (A) Developments both technological and sociocultural have afforded us far greater freedom over death than we had in the past, and while we are still adapting ourselves to that freedom, we now appreciate the moral importance of this freedom.
- (B) But I believe that a type of freedom we can call freedom over death—that is, a freedom in which we shape the timing and circumstances of how we die—should be central to this conversation.
- (C) Legalising assisted dying is but a further step in realising this freedom over death.
- (D) Many people endorse, through their opinions or their choices, our freedom over death encompassing a right to medical assistance in hastening our deaths.

Correct Answer: (A) Developments both technological and sociocultural have afforded us far greater freedom over death than we had in the past, and while we are still adapting ourselves to that freedom, we now appreciate the moral importance of this freedom.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Watch the **resolution** of detail like a camera zoom.

Genetics writing zooms inward: organism → chromosome → gene → codon. Place the sentence at the zoom level it describes and the position falls out.

Step 1: Tag each existing sentence by zoom level. "1993 study" = wide. "Dutch family / syndrome" = the subjects. "Behaviours (arson, exhibitionism)" = phenotype. "Point mutation in MAOA exon, glutamine to stop codon" = the tightest, codon-level shot.

Step 2: The given sentence is at chromosome-region resolution (X, p11-12) – tighter than phenotype but wider than codon. So it must sit between the behaviour sentence and the codon sentence.

Step 3: That seam is blank (3): right after "impulsive aggression, arson and exhibitionism" and right before "a point mutation was identified... MAOA." The zoom stays monotonic: region then gene then codon.

Step 4: Any other slot makes the camera jump backward in zoom, which good expository writing avoids.

Answer: Option 3.

Quick Tip: To find the odd sentence in para-jumbles, look for breaks in: -
Concept introduction order - Logical progression - Thematic consistency A
sentence that introduces a concept too early or disrupts flow is usually the
odd one out.



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

Often the well intentioned music lover or the traditionally-minded professional composer asks two basic questions when faced with the electronic music phenomena: (1) . . . is this type of artistic creation music at all? and, (2) given that the product is accepted as music of a new type or order, is not such music “inhuman”? . . . As Lejaren Hiller points out in his book *Experimental Music* (co-author Leonard M. Isaacson), two questions which often arise when music is discussed are: (a) the substance of musical communication and its symbolic and semantic significance, if any, and (b) the particular processes, both mental and technical, which are involved in creating and responding to musical composition. The ever-present popular concept of music as a direct, open, emotional expression and as a subjective form of communication from the composer, is, of course still that of the nineteenth century, when composers themselves spoke of music in those terms . . . But since the third decade of our century many composers have preferred more objective definitions of music, epitomized in Stravinsky’s description of it as “a form of speculation in terms of sound and time”. An acceptance of this more characteristic twentieth-century view of the art of musical composition will of course immediately bring the layman closer to an understanding of, and sympathetic response to, electronic music, even if the forms, sounds and approaches it uses will still be of a foreign nature to him.

A communication problem however will still remain. The principal barrier that electronic music presents at large, in relation to the communication process, is that composers in this medium are employing a new language of forms . . . where terms like ‘densities’, ‘indefinite pitch relations’, ‘dynamic serialization’, ‘permutation’, etc., are substitutes (or remote equivalents) for the traditional concepts of harmony, melody, rhythm, etc. . . . When the new structural procedures of electronic music are at last fully understood by the listener the barriers between him and the work he faces

will be removed. . . .

The medium of electronic music has of course tempted many kinds of composers to try their hand at it . . . But the serious-minded composer approaches the world of electronic music with a more sophisticated and profound concept of creation. Although he knows that he can reproduce and employ melodic, rhythmic patterns and timbres of a traditional nature, he feels that it is in the exploration of sui generis languages and forms that the aesthetic magic of the new medium lies. And, conscientiously, he plunges into this search.

The second objection usually levelled against electronic music is much more innocent in nature. When people speak—sometimes very vehemently—of the ‘inhuman’ quality of this music they seem to forget that the composer is the one who fires the machines, collects the sounds, manipulates them, pushes the buttons, programs the computer, filters the sounds, establishes pitches and scales, splices tape, thinks of forms, and rounds up the over-all structure of the piece, as well as every detail of it.

Correct Answer: —

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2.1. The goal of the author over the course of this passage is to:

- (A) differentiate the modern composer from the nineteenth century composer.
- (B) differentiate between electronic music and other forms of music.
- (C) defend the “serious-minded composer” from Lejaren Hill and Stravinsky.
- (D) defend electronic music from certain common charges.

Correct Answer: (D) defend electronic music from certain common charges.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Use the "verb test." The main purpose almost always matches the strongest action verb that is true of the entire passage, so check the verb in each option against the passage's overall behaviour.

Step 1: The four verbs are differentiate, differentiate, defend, defend. The passage's structure is charge-then-rebuttal: it states an objection ('inhuman', 'not music') and then knocks it down. That is the behaviour of **defending**, not merely differentiating, so the answer lives among the two 'defend' options.

Step 2: Now decide what is being defended and from whom. The thing under attack throughout is electronic music; the attackers are unnamed common critics, not Stravinsky or Hill, who are actually cited to help the author's case. So 'defend the serious-minded composer from Hill and Stravinsky' has the wrong target and wrong opponents.

Step 3: That leaves 'defend electronic music from certain common charges,' which names the right defendant (electronic music) and the right attacker (the common objections raised at the start). Both halves match, so it is the answer.

Step 4: The two 'differentiate' options describe paragraph-level moves, not the umbrella purpose, and a contrast can serve a defence without being the goal, so they are correctly rejected.

Answer: defend electronic music from certain common charges.

Quick Tip: For “main goal” or “purpose” questions in reading comprehension, focus on:

the opening problem or question raised,
the author's repeated emphasis or defence, and
how the passage concludes.
These usually reveal what the author is {really} trying to do.

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2.2. What relation does the “communication problem” mentioned in paragraph 2 have to the questions that the author recounts at the beginning of the passage?

- (A) Unfamiliar forms and terms might get in the way of our seeing electronic music as music, but this can be overcome.
- (B) Its unfamiliar “language of forms” and novel terms mean that we cannot see electronic music as music since it does not employ traditional musical concepts.
- (C) None; they are unrelated to one another and form parts of different discussions.
- (D) The communication problem is what allows us to see electronic music as music because music must be difficult to understand.

Correct Answer: (A) Unfamiliar forms and terms might get in the way of our seeing electronic music as music, but this can be overcome.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Sort the four options by their attitude to the barrier, then keep only the one whose attitude matches the author's. Two axes decide it: is the relation present or absent, and is the barrier permanent or surmountable.

Step 1: Option 3 says there is no relation. But the communication

problem and the opening doubt are about the same thing – whether electronic music reads as music – so they are clearly connected. Eliminate 3.

Step 2: Among the remaining three, the author's tone throughout is reassuring: objections are raised in order to be answered. So the correct option must treat the unfamiliar language as a problem that can be solved.

Step 3: Option 2 calls it a dead end ('we cannot see electronic music as music'); Option 4 makes difficulty a badge of honour ('music must be difficult'). Both are too strong and neither matches the author's hopeful stance. Option 1 alone keeps the barrier real but beatable – 'might get in the way ... but this can be overcome.'

Step 4: That phrasing mirrors the passage's whole method, so option 1 is the answer.

Answer: Unfamiliar forms and terms might get in the way of our seeing electronic music as music, but this can be overcome.

Quick Tip: When relating ideas across paragraphs, look for:

repeated themes,
restated concerns,
explanatory links that address earlier questions.
This helps identify how later sections resolve earlier doubts.



2.3. The mention of Stravinsky's description of music in the first paragraph does all the following EXCEPT:

- (A) help us determine which sounds are musical and which are not.
- (B) respond to and expand upon earlier understandings of music.
- (C) complicate our notion of what is communicated through music.
- (D) allow us to classify electronic music as music.

Correct Answer: (A) help us determine which sounds are musical and which are not.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Reframe the question as 'three of these are effects of Stravinsky's definition; one contradicts what such a definition is built to do.' Test each against the nature of an abstract definition.

Step 1: Stravinsky's phrase 'speculation in terms of sound and time' is an **including** definition — it widens the gate so unconventional sounds can enter. A definition that widens the gate cannot, at the same time, be a gatekeeper that rejects some sounds as non-musical.

Step 2: Option 1 asks the definition to act as that gatekeeper, deciding which sounds are musical and which are not. That is the opposite of what an inclusive definition does, so it is the false statement and the answer to this EXCEPT.

Step 3: Confirm the other three are genuine effects. It answers and stretches the old view (2); it unsettles the comfortable idea of what music expresses (3); and by being broad it licenses electronic music as music (4). All three sit naturally with an expansive definition, so none of them is the EXCEPT.

Answer: help us determine which sounds are musical and which are not.

Quick Tip: For “EXCEPT” questions, verify three options that the passage clearly supports. The remaining option—unsupported or contradicted—is the correct answer.

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2.4. From the context in which it is placed, the phrase “sui generis” in paragraph 3 suggests which one of the following?

- (A) Particular
- (B) Generic
- (C) Unaesthetic
- (D) Indescribable

Correct Answer: (A) Particular

SOLUTION:

Approach: Treat it as a near-synonym hunt anchored by an opposite. The cleanest way to crack a vocab-in-context option set is to spot the obvious antonym among the choices – the right answer is usually its mirror.

Step 1: One option, 'Generic,' means belonging to a whole class, common, not special. The sentence uses 'sui generis' to stress that electronic music's forms are NOT borrowed and NOT shared with traditional music. So the intended meaning must be the opposite of 'Generic.'

Step 2: The opposite of generic among the choices is 'Particular' — specific, of its own kind. That single contrast already locks the answer.

Step 3: Clear the distractors. 'Unaesthetic' speaks to beauty, an unrelated axis. 'Indescribable' is a trap: *sui generis* means unclassifiable-because-unique, yet the passage is busy describing these forms, so 'indescribable' contradicts the context. Only 'Particular' survives.

Answer: Particular

Quick Tip: To understand unfamiliar phrases, always rely on the surrounding explanation. Words like *sui generis* typically signal uniqueness, not vagueness or generality.



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

1. It can in fact be integrated into any function (education, medical treatment, production, punishment); it can increase the effect of this function, by being linked closely with it; it can constitute a mixed mechanism in which relations of power (and of knowledge) may be precisely adjusted, in the smallest detail, to the processes that are to be supervised; it can establish a direct proportion between 'surplus power' and 'surplus production'.

2. It's a case of 'it's easy once you've thought of it' in the political sphere.

3. The panoptic mechanism is not simply a hinge, a point of exchange between a mechanism of power and a function; it is a way of making power relations function in a function, and of making a function function through these power relations.

4. In short, it arranges things in such a way that the exercise of power is not added on from the outside, like a rigid, heavy constraint, to the functions it invests, but is so subtly present in them as to increase their efficiency by itself increasing its own points of contact.

(A) 3142

(B) 1432

(C) 4123

(D) 3241

Correct Answer: (A) 3142

SOLUTION:

Approach: Drive the sequence purely by opening words, which act like signposts: a full noun starts, 'In short' summarises, and a meta-

comment ends. Match each signpost to its slot.

Step 1: Scan first words. Sentence 3 is the only one that states the topic by name ('The panoptic mechanism'); 1, 2 and 4 all open with a back-pointer ('It can', 'It's a case', 'In short'). A back-pointer cannot lead, so 3 takes position one.

Step 2: 'In short' (sentence 4) is a summary tag, so it must come after the material it compresses – it cannot sit right after the bare definition in 3. The detailed body that 4 summarises is sentence 1, with its list of functions. So the body 1 precedes the summary 4, giving 3 then 1 then 4.

Step 3: Sentence 2 is a detached evaluation ('it's easy once you've thought of it'), the kind of line a writer drops only after the idea is on the table. It fits nowhere but the end.

Step 4: Reading 3-1-4-2 gives define, illustrate, summarise, comment – a clean shape, and it matches option 3142.

Answer: 3142

Quick Tip: For para-jumbles, look for:

the definition or introduction of the central idea (usually first),
examples or elaborations (middle),
summary markers like “in short” (near the end),
reflective comments or opinions (often last).



4. The given sentence is missing in the paragraph below. Decide where it best fits among the options 1, 2, 3, or 4 indicated in the paragraph.

Sentence: “Everything is old-world, traditional techniques from Mexico,” Ava emphasizes.

Paragraph:

The sisters embrace the ways their great-grandfather built and repaired instruments. ____ (1) _____. When crafting a Mexican guitarrón used in mariachi music, they use tacote wood for the top of the instrument. Once the wood is cut, they carve the neck and heel from a single block using tools like hand saws, chisels and sandpaper rather than modern power tools — and believe that this traditional method improves the tone of the instrument. ____ (2) _____.

Their store has a three-year waitlist for instruments that take months to create. ____ (3) _____.

The family's artisanship has attracted stars like Los Lobos, who own custom guitars made by all three generations of the Delgado family. ____ (4) _____. For the sisters, involvement in the family business started at an early age. They each built their first instruments at age 9.

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

Correct Answer: (A) Option 1

SOLUTION:

Approach: Classify every gap by topic and classify the orphan sentence by topic; the sentence drops into the gap whose topic matches. This converts a feel-based question into simple labelling.

Step 1: Label the orphan. Ava's quote 'Everything is old-world, traditional techniques from Mexico' is a **general statement about tradition/method** – sweeping, not technical.

Step 2: Label each gap by what surrounds it. Gap 1: general, about following the great-grandfather's ways = tradition. Gap 2: deep in the tacote-wood and hand-tool detail = specific technique. Gap 3: three-year waitlist = business. Gap 4: famous-client list = reputation.

Step 3: Only Gap 1 carries the same 'tradition' label as the orphan, and a general claim sits best beside another general claim, introducing the specifics that follow rather than splitting them. So the quote slots into Gap 1.

Step 4: A quick read-through confirms it: '...built and repaired instruments. Everything is old-world... When crafting a guitarron...' flows as principle-then-example.

Answer: Option 1

Quick Tip: When placing a missing sentence, check whether it provides:

a general statement → fits early,

an example or detail → fits after specifics,

a conclusion → fits near the end.

Match its function to the surrounding lines for smooth coherence.



5. The given sentence is missing in the paragraph below. Decide where it best fits among the options 1, 2, 3, or 4 indicated in the paragraph.

Sentence: Historically, silver has been, and still is, an important element in the business of 'show' visible in private houses, churches, government and diplomacy.

Paragraph:

____(1) _____. Timothy Schroder put it succinctly in suggesting that electric light and eating in the kitchen eroded this need. As he explained to the author, 'Silver, when illuminated by flickering candlelight, comes alive and almost dances before the eyes, but when lit by electric light it becomes flat and dead.' ____ (2) _____. Domestic and economic changes may have worked against the market, but the London silver trade remained buoyant, thanks to the competition of collectors seeking grand display silver at the top end, and the buyers of 'collectables', like spoons and wine labels and 'novelties', at the bottom. ____ (3) _____. Another factor that came into play was the systematic collection building of certain American museums over the period. Boston, Huntington Art Gallery and Williamsburg, among others, were largely supplied by London dealers. ____ (4) _____.

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

Correct Answer: (C) Option 3

SOLUTION:

Approach: Lean on a single connector. The sentence after Gap 3 begins 'Another factor...', and 'another' is a back-reference word – it demands a stated factor before it. Find which gap's insertion satisfies that demand.

Step 1: 'Another factor that came into play was the systematic collection building of American museums' presupposes a first factor for keeping silver important already named. Scan what precedes each gap to see where that first factor is supplied.

Step 2: If the orphan – silver 'has been, and still is, an important element in the business of show' – goes into Gap 3, it states silver's continuing importance right before the 'Another factor' sentence. Now 'Another' has something to be 'another' to. The chain reads: collectors keep the market buoyant, silver still matters for display (orphan), and another factor on top is American museum buying. Clean.

Step 3: Test the rivals. Gap 1 puts an 'it still matters' claim at the very start, immediately undercut by the electric-light erosion that follows – jarring. Gap 2 lands mid-flow in the decline-versus-survival discussion. Gap 4 is terminal, leaving the 'Another factor' sentence with no antecedent at all. Only Gap 3 makes the connector work.

Answer: Option 3

Quick Tip: When inserting a sentence, check for pronouns like “this need,” “such,” or “these,” which often refer back to the missing statement. This helps identify the correct position quickly.



6.

Understanding the key properties of complex systems can help us clarify and deal with many new and existing global challenges, from pandemics to poverty . . . A recent study in Nature Physics found transitions to orderly states such as schooling in fish (all fish swimming in the same direction), can be caused, paradoxically, by randomness, or ‘noise’ feeding back on itself. That is, a misalignment among the fish causes further misalignment, eventually inducing a transition to schooling. Most of us wouldn’t guess that noise can produce predictable behaviour. The result invites us to consider how technology such as contact-tracing apps, although informing us locally, might negatively impact our collective movement. If each of us changes our behaviour to avoid the infected, we might generate a collective pattern we had aimed to avoid higher levels of interaction between the infected and susceptible, or high levels of interaction among the asymptomatic.

Complex systems also suffer from a special vulnerability to events that don’t follow a normal distribution or ‘bell curve’. When events are distributed normally, most outcomes are familiar and don’t seem particularly striking. Height is a good example: it’s pretty unusual for a man to be over 7 feet tall; most adults are between 5 and 6 feet, and there is no known person over 9 feet tall. But in collective settings where contagion shapes behaviour – a run on the banks, a scramble to buy toilet paper – the probability distributions for possible events are often heavy-tailed. There is a much higher probability of extreme events, such as a stock market crash or a massive surge in infections. These events are still unlikely, but they occur more frequently and are larger than would be expected under normal distributions.

What’s more, once a rare but hugely significant ‘tail’ event takes place, this raises the probability of further tail events. We might call them second-order tail events; they include stock market gyrations after a big fall and

earthquake aftershocks. The initial probability of second-order tail events is so tiny it's almost impossible to calculate – but once a first-order tail event occurs, the rules change, and the probability of a second-order tail event increases.

The dynamics of tail events are complicated by the fact that they result from cascades of other unlikely events. When COVID-19 first struck, the stock market suffered stunning losses followed by an equally stunning recovery. Some of these dynamics are potentially attributable to former sports bettors, with no sports to bet on, entering the market as speculators rather than investors. The arrival of these new players might have increased inefficiencies and allowed savvy long-term investors to gain an edge over bettors with different goals. . . .

One reason a first-order tail event can induce further tail events is that it changes the perceived costs of our actions and changes the rules that we play by. This game-change is an example of another key complex systems concept: nonstationarity. A second, canonical example of nonstationarity is adaptation, as illustrated by the arms race involved in the coevolution of hosts and parasites [in which] each has to 'run' faster, just to keep up with the novel solutions the other one presents as they battle it out in evolutionary time.

Correct Answer: —

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6.1. All of the following inferences are supported by the passage EXCEPT that:

(A) examples like runs on banks and toilet paper scrambles illustrate how contagion can amplify local choices into system-wide cascades that surprise participants and lead to patterns they did not intend to create.

(B) learning can change the rules that actors face. So, a rare shock can alter payoffs and raise the odds of subsequent large disturbances within the same system, which supports the idea of second-order tail events.

(C) heavy-tailed events make extreme outcomes more frequent and larger than bell curve expectations. This complicates forecasting and risk management in collective settings shaped by contagion and copying behaviour.

(D) the text attributes the COVID-19 pandemic rebound in financial markets solely to displaced sports bettors and treats their entry as the overriding cause of the rapid recovery across assets and time horizons.

Correct Answer: (D) the text attributes the COVID-19 pandemic rebound in financial markets solely to displaced sports bettors and treats their entry as the overriding cause of the rapid recovery across assets and time horizons.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Instead of validating all four, run a quick "qualifier audit" — compare the strength of language in each option against the passage's own hedging. The option that is far more certain than the text is the unsupported one.

Step 1: The author's tone throughout the bettor passage is cautious: "Some of these dynamics are potentially attributable...", "might have increased inefficiencies," "might have... allowed savvy investors to gain an edge." Three soft qualifiers in two sentences. The author is floating a possibility, not asserting a cause.

Step 2: Options 1, 2 and 3 each carry matching tentativeness or are flat descriptions of mechanisms the passage states as fact (cascades from contagion, rule-changing shocks raising later-disturbance odds, heavy tails making extremes more frequent and larger). None of them outruns the text.

Step 3: Option 4 swaps every qualifier for certainty: "solely," "the overriding cause," applied "across assets and time horizons." A reader could not derive "the single, dominant cause of the recovery" from "some dynamics are potentially attributable." The strength mismatch alone disqualifies it.

Step 4: Since the question asks which inference is NOT supported, the over-strong option is the one we want.

Answer: Option 4.

Quick Tip: For EXCEPT questions, identify three options clearly grounded in the text. The remaining choice will either overstate, distort, or add claims the passage never makes.



6.2. Which one of the options below best summarises the passage?

(A) The passage explains how social outcomes generally follow normal distributions. So, extreme events are negligible, and policy should stabilise averages rather than learn from large shocks in fast-changing collective settings.

(B) The passage explains how noise can create order, then shows why complex systems with contagion are vulnerable to heavy-tailed cascades. It also explains why early shocks change rules through nonstationarity with a market illustration during the COVID-19 disruption.

(C) The passage explains how speculative entrants always produce inefficiency after health shocks. Therefore, long-term investors invariably profit when new participants push prices away from fundamentals under pandemic conditions and comparable crises.

(D) The passage explains how nonstationarity works in evolutionary biology and rejects applications in markets or public health because adaptation is exclusive to parasite-host systems and cannot arise in technology-mediated social dynamics.

Correct Answer: (B) The passage explains how noise can create order, then shows why complex systems with contagion are vulnerable to heavy-tailed cascades. It also explains why early shocks change rules through nonstationarity with a market illustration during the COVID-19 disruption.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Use the "coverage and contradiction" filter. A correct summary must (i) include the opening idea and the closing idea, and (ii) never assert something the passage denies. Score each option on both.

Step 1: Note the passage's bookends. It opens with noise producing order (fish schooling) and closes on nonstationarity / adaptation

(host-parasite arms race, COVID market rule-change). Any summary that ignores either bookend is incomplete.

Step 2: Option 1 fails the contradiction test instantly — it says extreme events are negligible and outcomes are normal, while the whole middle of the passage is about heavy tails. Eliminated.

Step 3: Option 3 and option 4 both fail coverage: each clamps onto one slice (option 3 on the better/inefficiency aside; option 4 on the biology example) and then over-generalises it into an "always / never" rule. Neither captures the noise-to-order opening, and both add claims the text hedges or denies. Eliminated.

Step 4: Only option 2 carries both bookends — noise creating order at the start, nonstationarity with the COVID market illustration at the end — with the heavy-tailed cascade as the connective middle. Full coverage, zero contradiction.

Answer: Option 2.

Quick Tip: A good summary option captures all major themes without exaggerating or omitting key ideas. Reject choices that distort or overgeneralise examples used briefly in the passage.



6.3. Which one of the following observations would most strengthen the passage's claim that a first-order tail event raises the probability of further tail events in complex systems?

- (A) In epidemic networks, initial super-spreading episodes are isolated spikes after which outbreak sizes match the baseline distribution from independent contact models across comparable cities with no rise in the frequency or size of later extreme clusters.
- (B) River discharge records show water levels fit a normal distribution with thin tails that match laboratory data, regardless of storms or floods.
- (C) After a major equity crash, researchers find dense clusters of large daily moves for several weeks, with extreme days occurring far more often than in normal circumstances for assets with customarily low volatility profiles.
- (D) Following large earthquakes, regional seismic activity returns to baseline within hours with no aftershock sequence once data are adjusted for reporting effects, which suggests independence across events rather than any elevation in subsequent tail probabilities.

Correct Answer: (C) After a major equity crash, researchers find dense clusters of large daily moves for several weeks, with extreme days occurring far more often than in normal circumstances for assets with customarily low volatility profiles.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Sort the four options by a single yes/no test — "Does a big event here make later big events MORE likely?" Only a "yes" can strengthen. Three options answer "no" (independence or thin tails); the survivor is the answer.

Step 1: The passage's mechanism is positive feedback in time: a shock changes the rules and seeds more shocks (aftershocks, post-crash gyrations). So I am looking specifically for temporal clustering of extremes.

Step 2: Scan for the word that signals clustering versus the words that signal independence. Option 1 = "match the baseline... no rise" (independence, no). Option 4 = "returns to baseline... no aftershock sequence... independence" (no). Option 2 = "normal distribution... thin tails" (no extremes at all, no).

Step 3: Option 3 alone says "dense clusters of large daily moves for several weeks" right after a crash, with extreme days "far more often than in normal circumstances." That is the only "yes" — the first big move is followed by a cluster of further big moves.

Step 4: A strengthener for an empirical claim is the option that reproduces the claimed pattern in fresh data. Option 3 reproduces "tail event raises probability of further tail events" precisely.

Answer: Option 3.

Quick Tip: To strengthen a claim about second-order tail events, look for evidence that extreme events cluster — that one big shock increases the likelihood of more shocks.



6.4. The passage suggests that contact-tracing apps could inadvertently raise risky interactions by altering local behaviour. Which one of the assumptions below is most necessary for that suggestion to hold?

(A) Most users uninstall apps within a week, which leaves only highly exposed individuals participating. This neutralises any systematic bias in routing decisions and prevents any predictable change in aggregate contact patterns.

(B) Individuals base movement choices partly on observed infections and on the behaviour of others. So, local responses interact, which turns many small adjustments into large scale patterns that can frustrate the intended aim of risk reduction.

(C) App alerts always include precise location to within one metre and deliver real time updates for all users, which ensures that the data feed is perfectly accurate regardless of privacy settings, power limits, or network conditions.

(D) Urban networks have uniform traffic conditions at all hours, which allows perfectly predictable routing independent of personal choices, social signals, or crowd reactions and, therefore, makes interdependence negligible in city movement decisions.

Correct Answer: (B) Individuals base movement choices partly on observed infections and on the behaviour of others. So, local responses interact, which turns many small adjustments into large scale patterns that can frustrate the intended aim of risk reduction.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Treat it as a load-bearing-brick test. Remove each option from under the argument; the one whose removal makes the conclusion fall is the necessary assumption. The conclusion is "apps could raise risky interactions by altering local behaviour."

Step 1: The hidden requirement behind any "local change produces an unwanted collective outcome" claim is coupling — one person's

adjustment must influence or collide with others'. Without coupling, you just get many private, non-interacting changes and no emergent backfire.

Step 2: Option 2 states exactly this coupling: choices depend on observed infections and on others, so responses interact and many small adjustments aggregate into a large-scale pattern. Pull this brick out and the conclusion has nothing to stand on. That makes it the assumption.

Step 3: The other three are not bricks under this argument; they are wrecking balls. Option 1 (mass uninstalls neutralise aggregate change), option 3 only adds data accuracy which is beside the point, and option 4 (uniform traffic makes interdependence negligible) each remove or ignore the coupling. They weaken or fail to support the very claim.

Step 4: The brick whose absence topples the argument is option 2.

Answer: Option 2.

Quick Tip: For “necessary assumption” questions, look for the option without which the argument collapses. Here, the claim relies on interdependent behaviour—small local decisions must scale into collective patterns.



7. 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. But man, woman or otherwise, there is no denying that the quality of our life and character will be significantly shaped by the way we handle our anger.

2. Once the taboos have been broken, women usually experience letting their fists fly as intensely liberating.

3. Though this might seem a stereotype, women—unlike men, who are frequently applauded for unbridled aggression—are often socialized to keep a lid on their ire.

4. Many of them are so at odds with their aggressive feelings that, as a coach, I often have to stop them from pulling their punches and encourage them to extend their arms so their blows might actually reach their fleshy target.

(A) 3142

(B) 3241

(C) 4123

(D) 3241

Correct Answer: (B) 3241

SOLUTION:

Approach: Lock the two ends first — the sentence that can only open and the sentence that can only close — then the middle falls into place. This boxes the answer faster than testing full permutations.

Step 1: Identify the closer. Sentence 1 starts with the contrast-and-summary "But man, woman or otherwise, there is no denying..." It

deliberately widens from "women" to "all of us" and delivers a moral about handling anger — the natural last line. Fix 1 at the end.

Step 2: Identify the opener. Among 2, 3, 4: sentence 2 needs the "taboos" to already exist, and sentence 4's "Many of them" needs an antecedent. Only sentence 3 sets up the women-versus-men socialisation context with no back-reference. Fix 3 first.

Step 3: Order the middle pair 2 and 4. Sentence 2 marks the turning point ("Once the taboos have been broken"), and sentence 4 ("Many of them... as a coach, I often have to stop them from pulling their punches") elaborates the behaviour after that turn. So 2 precedes 4.

Step 4: Assemble: 3 (setup) - 2 (breaking taboos) - 4 (coach elaborates) - 1 (universal close). Sequence 3241.

Answer: 3241.

Quick Tip: In para-jumbles, look for:

the sentence that introduces the main topic (usually first),
examples or elaborations (middle),
broad generalisations or moral conclusions (usually last).

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

Zombie cells may contribute to age-related chronic inflammation: this finding could help scientists understand more about the aging process and why the immune system becomes less effective as we get older. Zombie or “senescent” cells are damaged cells that can no longer divide and grow like normal cells. Scientists think that these cells can contribute to chronic health problems when they accumulate in the body. In younger people, the immune system is more effective at clearing senescent cells from the body through a process called apoptosis, but as we age this process becomes less efficient. As a result, there is an accumulation of senescent cells in different organs in the body, either through increased production or reduced clearance by the immune system. The zombie cells continue to use energy though they do not divide, and often secrete chemicals that cause inflammation, which if persistent for longer periods of time can damage healthy cells leading to chronic diseases.

- (A) Senescent “zombie” cells are inactive or malfunctioning cells that can be found throughout the body.
- (B) A younger person’s immune system is healthy and is able to clear the damaged cells, but as people age, the zombie cells resist apoptosis, and start accumulating in the body.
- (C) Aging leads to less effective apoptosis, and therefore zombie cells start to accumulate in the body, causing inflammation, which accelerates aging and leads to chronic diseases.
- (D) Dead cells accelerate chronic inflammation weakening the immune system and lead to aging.

Correct Answer: (C) Aging leads to less effective apoptosis, and therefore zombie cells start to accumulate in the body, causing inflammation, which accelerates aging and leads to chronic diseases.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Score each option on two non-negotiables — does it name the cells correctly (senescent, alive-but-non-dividing) and does it carry the chain all the way to chronic disease? Anything failing either is out, and only one passes both.

Step 1: Fix the two filters. Filter A: the cells are alive, not dead (the passage says they "continue to use energy"). Filter B: the endpoint is chronic disease via inflammation, not merely accumulation.

Step 2: Apply Filter A. Option 4 says "dead cells" — fails immediately. Drop it.

Step 3: Apply Filter B to the rest. Option 1 stops at "found throughout the body" (no inflammation, no disease) — fails B. Option 2 stops at "accumulating in the body" (no inflammation, no disease) and smuggles in "resist apoptosis," which the text does not say — fails B. Both out.

Step 4: Option 3 passes A (treats them as accumulating zombie cells, not dead) and passes B (accumulation, then inflammation, then accelerated aging and chronic disease). It is the only option that survives both filters.

Answer: Option 3.

Quick Tip: When selecting summaries, choose the option that captures the full causal sequence presented in the passage without adding new claims or omitting key steps.

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

How can we know what someone else is thinking or feeling, let alone prove it in court? In his 1863 book, *A General View of the Criminal Law of England*, James Fitzjames Stephen, among the most celebrated legal thinkers of his generation, was of the opinion that the assessment of a person's mental state was an inference made with "little consciousness." In a criminal case, jurors, doctors, and lawyers could watch defendants—scrutinizing clothing, mannerisms, tone of voice— but the best they could hope for were clues. . . . Rounding these clues up to a judgment about a defendant's guilt, or a defendant's life, was an act of empathy and imagination. . . . The closer the resemblance between defendants and their judges, the easier it was to overlook the gap that inference filled.

Conversely, when a defendant struck officials as unlike themselves, whether by dint of disease, gender, confession, or race, the precariousness of judgments about mental state was exposed. In the nineteenth century, physicians who specialized in the study of madness and the care of the insane held themselves out as experts in the new field of mental science. Often called alienists or mad doctors, they were the predecessors of modern psychiatrists, neurologists, and psychologists. . . . The opinions of family and neighbors had once been sufficient to sift the sane from the insane, but a growing belief that insanity was a subtle condition that required expert, medical diagnosis pushed physicians into the witness box. . . . Lawyers for both prosecution and defense began to recruit alienists to assess defendants' sanity and to testify to it in court.

Irresponsibility and insanity were not identical, however. Criminal responsibility was a legal concept and not, fundamentally, a medical one. Stephen explained: "The question 'What are the mental elements of responsibility?' is, and must be, a legal question. It cannot be anything else, for the meaning of responsibility is liability to punishment." . . . Nonetheless, medical and legal accounts of what it meant to be mentally

sound became entangled and mutually referential throughout the nineteenth century. Lawyers relied on medical knowledge to inform their opinions and arguments about the sanity of their clients. Doctors commented on the legal responsibility of their patients. Ultimately, the fields of criminal law and mental science were both invested in constructing an image of the broken and damaged psyche that could be contrasted with the whole and healthy one. This shared interest, and the shared space of the criminal courtroom, made it nearly impossible to consider responsibility without medicine, or insanity without law. . . . Physicians and lawyers shared more than just concern for the mind. Class, race, and gender bound these middle-class, white, professional men together, as did family ties, patriotism, Protestantism, business ventures, the alumni networks of elite schools and universities, and structures of political patronage. But for all their affinities, men of medicine and law were divided by contests over the borders of criminal responsibility, as much within each profession as between them. Alienists steadily pushed the boundaries of their field, developing increasingly complex and capacious definitions of insanity. Eccentricity and aggression came to be classified as symptoms of mental disease, at least by some.

Correct Answer: —

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9.1. The last paragraph of the passage refers to “middle-class, white, professional men”. Which one of the following qualities best describes the connection among them?

- (A) The borders of criminal responsibility.
- (B) The opinions of family and neighbours.
- (C) Eccentricity and aggression.
- (D) Empathy and imagination.

Correct Answer: (A) The borders of criminal responsibility.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Treat this as a scope-matching question. Each option points to a different paragraph of the passage; pick the one whose scope is the men in the final paragraph and the subject that unites both their professions.

Step 1: Tag each option to its home in the text. Family and neighbours belongs to paragraph 2 (the old way of sifting sane from insane). Empathy and imagination belongs to paragraph 1 (how officials judge a defendant). Eccentricity and aggression belongs to the last lines (symptoms alienists added). Only the borders of criminal responsibility is the running theme that both doctors and lawyers actually contest together.

Step 2: Apply a one-line filter, which concept could a physician and a lawyer both claim as their shared business? Not a juror's empathy, not the gossip of neighbours, not a symptom label. The one professional territory they jointly occupy is where responsibility begins and ends, that is, its borders.

Step 3: The passage even states they were divided by contests over these borders, which confirms this is the common ground they all stood on, even while disagreeing. Shared battlefield equals connection.

Answer: Option 1.

Quick Tip: When no option matches the passage perfectly, choose the one least contradicted by the text — but make sure you can justify why the others

are clearly incorrect.

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9.2. According to the passage, who or what was an “alienist”?

- (A) Professionals who pushed the boundaries of their fields till they became unrecognisable in the nineteenth century.
- (B) Physicians who specialised in the study of madness and the care of the insane in the nineteenth century.
- (C) Physicians and lawyers who were responsible for the condition of immigrants or ‘aliens’ in the nineteenth century.
- (D) Physicians and lawyers who were responsible for examining accounts of extraterrestrials or ‘aliens’ in the nineteenth century.

Correct Answer: (B) Physicians who specialised in the study of madness and the care of the insane in the nineteenth century.

SOLUTION:

Approach: When a term sounds like a familiar word (alien), examiners plant two decoys built on that false meaning. Spot and kill the false-friend options first, then choose between what remains.

Step 1: Options 3 and 4 both rest on reading alien as foreigner or extraterrestrial. The passage is about madness and the law, so both are off-topic by theme alone. Strike them without even checking detail.

Step 2: That leaves Option 1 versus Option 2. Use a definition-versus-description test. A definition tells you what the thing IS; a description tells you what it DOES. Option 1 describes an action (pushing boundaries) and overstates it (unrecognisable). Option 2 states an identity, a kind of physician. The question asks who or what an alienist

was, so it wants the identity.

Step 3: Option 2 also lines up exactly with the passage phrase study of madness and the care of the insane. Identity match plus theme match equals answer.

Answer: Option 2.

Quick Tip: For definition-based questions, rely on explicit statements from the passage; avoid options that infer or distort beyond what the text says.

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9.3. Study the following sets of concepts and identify the set that is conceptually closest to the concerns and arguments of the passage.

- (A) Empathy, Prosecution, Knowledge, Business.
- (B) Judgement, Belief, Accounts, Patronage.
- (C) Assessment, Empathy, Prosecution, Patriotism.
- (D) Judgement, Insanity, Punishment, Responsibility.

Correct Answer: (D) Judgement, Insanity, Punishment, Responsibility.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Score each set numerically. Give every word 1 if it is central to the passage and 0 if it is incidental, then pick the set with the highest, ideally perfect, total.

Step 1: Central vocabulary of the passage, drawn straight from Stephen's claim that responsibility means liability to punishment and from the focus on insanity in court: judgement, insanity, responsibility,

punishment all score 1. Peripheral words that appear only in the social-ties list, business, patronage, patriotism, accounts, belief, score 0.

Step 2: Tally the sets. Option 1 = empathy(1) + prosecution(0) + knowledge(0) + business(0) = 1. Option 2 = judgement(1) + belief(0) + accounts(0) + patronage(0) = 1. Option 3 = assessment(1) + empathy(1) + prosecution(0) + patriotism(0) = 2. Option 4 = judgement(1) + insanity(1) + punishment(1) + responsibility(1) = 4.

Step 3: Option 4 alone scores a perfect 4, every word load-bearing.

Answer: Option 4.

Quick Tip: When matching conceptual sets to a passage, look for the ideas that appear repeatedly and form the backbone of the argument—not merely incidental references.

• • •

9.4. “Conversely, when a defendant struck officials as unlike themselves, whether by dint of disease, gender, confession, or race, the precariousness of judgments about mental state was exposed.” Which one of the following best describes the use of the word “confession” in this sentence?

- (A) Referring to the practice of ‘confession’ in some faiths, here it is a metaphor for the religion of the defendant.
- (B) Referring to the gender, race or disease claimed as a defence by the defendant, here it is a synonym for ‘professing’ a gender, race, or disease.
- (C) Referring to the defendant’s confession of his or her crime as false, because ‘dint’ is an archaic form of ‘didn’t’ or ‘did not’.
- (D) The defendants struck out at the officials and then confessed to the act.

Correct Answer: (A) Referring to the practice of ‘confession’ in some faiths, here it is a metaphor for the religion of the defendant.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Use the parallelism rule. In a list joined by or, all items share one grammatical and semantic role. Identify that role from the safe items, then force confession into it.

Step 1: The safe items are disease, gender, race, each a fixed attribute that can make a person seem unlike the officials. So the missing slot, confession, must also be such an attribute, a thing a person IS or HAS, not a thing a person DOES in court.

Step 2: This instantly kills the action-based readings. Option 3 (false confession of crime) and Option 4 (struck out, then confessed) both treat confession as a courtroom act, breaking the parallel. Out. Option 2 makes confession mean professing gender or race, which duplicates items already in the list, so it carries no new meaning. Out.

Step 3: Only Option 1 keeps confession as a personal attribute, namely religious affiliation (confession of faith), which slots cleanly beside

disease, gender, and race and matches the passage's stress on Protestantism.

Answer: Option 1.

Quick Tip: In older English, confession often referred to religious denomination. Always consider historical usage when interpreting words in historical passages.

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10. Five jumbled 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 out and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.

(A) The Bayeux tapestry was, therefore, an obvious way to tell people about the downfall of the English and the rise of the Normans.

(B) So if we take expert in Anglo-Saxon culture Gale Owen-Crocker's idea that the tapestry was originally hung in a square with certain scenes facing each other, people would have stood in the centre.

(C) Art historian Linda Neagley has argued that pre-Renaissance people interacted with art visually, kinaesthetically (sensory perception through bodily movement) and physically.

(D) That would make it an 11th-century immersive space with scenes corresponding and echoing each other, drawing the viewer's attention, playing on their senses and understanding of the story they thought they knew.

Correct Answer: (A) The Bayeux tapestry was, therefore, an obvious way to tell people about the downfall of the English and the rise of the Normans.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Sort the five sentences by theme into two buckets. The bucket with four sentences is the paragraph; the lone sentence in the other bucket is the odd one out.

Step 1: Read for subject matter. Sentence 3 (people interacted with art physically), Sentence 5 (hung at eye level to enable this), Sentence 2 (hung in a square, viewers in the centre), and Sentence 4 (an immersive space playing on the senses) all describe the same theme, the physical, sensory experience of viewing the tapestry. Sentence 1 talks about something else entirely, the tapestry as a tool to broadcast the downfall of the English and the rise of the Normans, that is, its political or propaganda purpose.

Step 2: Four versus one. The experience bucket holds 3, 5, 2, 4; the propaganda bucket holds only 1.

Step 3: Confirm with connectors, the experience four link cleanly through this, So if, and That would make it, while Sentence 1's therefore has no cause to attach to in that chain. Both theme and logic isolate the same sentence.

Answer: Sentence 1.

Quick Tip: For “odd sentence out” questions, first build the strongest possible mini-paragraph with four sentences; the one that doesn’t fit that structure—by topic or logical flow—is your answer.



11. Studies showing that income inequality plays a positive role in economic growth are largely based on three arguments. The first argument focuses on investment indivisibilities wherein large sunk costs are required when implementing new fundamental innovations. Without stock markets and financial institutions to mobilize large sums of money, a high concentration of wealth is needed for individuals to undertake new industrial activities accompanied by high sunk costs.

One study shows the relation between economic growth and income inequality for 45 countries during 1966–1995. (It was found) that the increase in income inequality has a significant positive relationship with economic growth in the short and medium term. Using system GMM, another study estimated the relation between income inequality and economic growth for 106 countries during 1965–2005 period. The results show that income inequality has a positive impact on economic growth in the short run, but a two or more negatively correlated in the long run. The second argument is related to moral hazard and incentives. Because economic performance is determined by the unobservable level of effort that agents make, paying compensations without taking into account the economic performance achieved would reduce the overall optimum effort from the agents. Thus, certain income inequalities contribute to growth by enhancing worker motivation and by giving motivation to innovators and entrepreneurs. Finally, some points out that the concentration of wealth or stock ownership in relation to corporate governance contributes to growth. If stock ownership is distributed and owned by a large number of shareholders, it is not easy to make quick decisions due to the conflicting interests among shareholders, and this may also cause a free-rider problem in terms of monitoring and supervising managers and workers.

Various studies have examined the relationships between income inequality and economic growth, and most of these assert that a negative correlation exists between the two. Analyzing 159 countries for 1980–2012, they conclude that there exists a negative relation between income

inequality and economic growth; when the income share of the richest 20% of population increases by 1%, the GDP decreases by 0.8%; whereas when the income share of the poorest 20% of population increases by 1%, the GDP increases by 0.38%. Some studies find that inequality has a negative impact on growth due to poor human capital accumulation and low fertility rates, while others point out that inequality creates political instability, resulting in lower investment. Some economists argue that widening income inequality has a negative impact on economic growth because it negatively affects social consensus or social capital formation. One important research topic is the correlation between democratization and income redistribution. Some scholars explain that social pressure for income redistribution rises as income inequality increases in a democratic society. In other words, democratization extends suffrage to wider class of people; the increased political power of low- and middle-income voters results in broader support for income redistribution and social welfare expansion. However, if the rich have more political influence than the poor, the democratic system actually worsens income inequality rather than improving it.

Correct Answer: —

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11.1. Which one of the options below best summarises the passage?

(A) The passage claims that evaluating the effect of income inequality on economic growth without considering both short- and long-term consequences is misguided.

(B) The passage confines its discussion to financing gaps and corporate control while undercutting cross-country evidence and overlooking the significance of concerns regarding human capital accumulation, fertility rates, and income redistribution under democratisation.

(C) The passage argues that income inequality accelerates economic growth while also emphasising the significance of concerns regarding human capital accumulation, fertility rates, and political instability.

(D) The passage outlines investment, incentive, and governance channels through which income inequality may support economic growth and reports short-term gains while noting long-term drawbacks.

Correct Answer: (D) The passage outlines investment, incentive, and governance channels through which income inequality may support economic growth and reports short-term gains while noting long-term drawbacks.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Run a two-axis filter \u2013 **scope** (does it cover the whole passage?) and **stance** (does it keep the author's neutral, two-sided tone?). The winner must pass both; each wrong option fails one axis in a way you can name.

Stance check first. The passage never declares inequality good or bad; it presents pro-growth mechanisms and then long-run costs. So any option asserting inequality "accelerates growth" overcommits the author \u2013 that eliminates **Option 3** immediately on tone.

Scope check next. A faithful summary must include the first-half machinery (investment / incentives / governance) and the second-half time split. **Option 1** mentions only short- vs long-term "consequences" and frames it as a critique of how people evaluate the issue \u2013 it amputates the three channels, so it under-covers. **Option 2** uses the trap word "confines": it claims the discussion is limited to financing gaps and corporate control while "overlooking" human capital, fertility and redistribution \u2013 yet those very items are **in** the passage, so the option misreports coverage.

What remains. *Option*

4 is the only one that lists the investment, incentive and governance channels and reports "short-term gains ... long-term drawbacks." It is wide enough (full scope) and balanced enough (neutral stance) to be the summary.

Answer: Option 4.

Quick Tip: A good summary must reflect the full balance of a passage—both the supporting mechanisms and the limitations or counterarguments.

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11.2. The passage refers to "democratization". Choose the one option below that comes closest to the opposite of this process.

- (A) After the emergency decree, the regime shifted toward authoritarianism as suffrage narrowed and opposition parties were deregistered.
- (B) Corporate donations were capped and parties received public funding which was portrayed as establishing an oligarchy.
- (C) Municipalities adopted participatory budgeting and recall elections which a press release called totalitarianism.
- (D) The coalition imposed term limits and strengthened judicial review in order to further entrench autocratic rule.

Correct Answer: (A) After the emergency decree, the regime shifted toward authoritarianism as suffrage narrowed and opposition parties were deregistered.

SOLUTION:

Approach: This is a vocabulary-in-context question disguised as an example-matching trap. The exam writer pairs **democratic actions with anti-democratic labels** (and vice versa) to see if you read the verbs or fall for the noun. Strip every option down to "what was actually done" and ignore the editorializing label.

Step 1 \u2013 Reduce each option to its action. Opt 1: **narrow suffrage + ban opposition**. Opt 2: cap corporate money + public party funding. Opt 3: participatory budgeting + recall elections. Opt 4: term limits + stronger judicial review.

Step 2 \u2013 Sort by direction. Actions 2, 3 and 4 all **expand** fairness, participation, or accountability \u2013 they push toward democracy, regardless of the "oligarchy / totalitarianism / autocracy" labels stapled on them. Only Action 1 **contracts** the franchise and

removes competitors.

Step 3 \u2013 Match to the antonym. Since democratization = widening participation, its opposite = contracting it. Action 1 is the lone contraction.

Answer: Option 1.

Quick Tip: Always match the “opposite process” to the definition provided in the passage, not to misleading labels used in the answer options.

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11.3. The primary function of the three-part case for a positive income inequality–economic growth link in the first half of the passage is to show that:

- (A) inequality boosts growth in every period and type of economy, regardless of finance or governance conditions.
- (B) mature stock markets make wealth concentration unnecessary, yet they might still be harmful to investment.
- (C) inequality can aid short-term growth in settings with high sunk costs, incentive alignment, and concentrated ownership.
- (D) dispersed ownership speeds corporate decision-making and removes free rider problems.

Correct Answer: (C) inequality can aid short-term growth in settings with high sunk costs, incentive alignment, and concentrated ownership.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Treat the four options as a "completeness vs. distortion" sieve. The correct function-statement must (a) cover **all three** sub-arguments and (b) preserve the passage's qualifier that the benefit is **conditional and short-term**. Any option that over-generalizes or flips a detail is out.

Step 1 \u2013 Completeness test. The trio names three enabling conditions: high sunk costs, incentive alignment, concentrated ownership. Scan for the option that lists exactly these \u2013 that is

Option

3.

Step 2 \u2013 Distortion test on the rest. Option 1 strips away every condition with "in every period ... regardless of finance or governance" \u2013 it converts a hedged claim into an absolute one. Option 2 introduces "mature stock markets make wealth concentration unnecessary," which inverts the passage's point that **thin** markets are why concentration helps. Option 4 swaps the sign on governance: it credits **dispersed** ownership, whereas the passage credits **concentrated** ownership for smoother decisions and less free-riding.

Step 3 \u2013 Conclude. Only Option 3 is both complete and faithful; the others each break on either over-generalization or a flipped detail.

Answer: Option 3.

Quick Tip: When a passage lists mechanisms, ask: "What overarching claim are these mechanisms designed to support?" Here, the mechanisms support conditional and short-term benefits of inequality.

11.4. According to the incentive or moral hazard argument, which one of the designs below is most consistent with the claim that some inequality can raise growth?

- (A) Pay rewards on verifiable performance for highly productive workers.
- (B) Rents protected by market power that enlarge top incomes without linking pay to results.
- (C) Wages are determined by tenure rather than output to ensure equity.
- (D) A regime that concentrates stock ownership in relation to corporate governance.

Correct Answer: (A) Pay rewards on verifiable performance for highly productive workers.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Find the single feature the moral-hazard argument depends on and use it as a yes/no gate: **is the higher pay caused by verifiable productivity?** Only the design that answers "yes" qualifies.

Step 1 \u2013 The gate. Moral hazard exists because effort is unobservable. The fix is to make compensation track an observable signal of output, so workers self-select into higher effort. Reward *propto* measured performance is the requirement.

Step 2 \u2013 Apply the gate. Option 2: pay rises from protected rents "without linking pay to results" \u2013 gate fails (no performance link). Option 3: pay set by tenure, not output \u2013 gate fails (link deliberately severed). Option 4: concentrating ownership is about corporate governance and decision-making, not about an individual's effort-to-pay link \u2013 wrong argument, gate

not even relevant. Option 1: pay rewards verifiable performance
gate passes cleanly.

Step 3 Conclude. Exactly one design routes higher income through measured productivity, which is precisely how "some inequality raises growth" under this argument.

Answer: Option 1.

Quick Tip: For incentive-based arguments, look for designs where pay follows performance, not tenure, power, or unrelated advantages.

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

In the dynamic realm of creativity, artists often find themselves at the crossroads between drawing inspiration from diverse cultures and inadvertently crossing into the territory of cultural appropriation.

Inspiration is the lifeblood of creativity, driving artists to create works that resonate across borders. In a globalized era of the modern world, artists draw from a vast array of cultural influences. When approached respectfully, inspiration becomes a bridge, fostering understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. However, the line between inspiration and cultural appropriation can be thin and easily blurred.

Cultural appropriation occurs when elements from a particular culture are borrowed without proper understanding, respect, or acknowledgment. This leads to the commodification of sacred symbols, the reinforcement of stereotypes, and the erasure of the cultural context from which these elements originated. It is essential to recognize that the impact of cultural appropriation extends beyond the realm of artistic expression, influencing societal perceptions and perpetuating power imbalances.

- (A) Artists in a globalised world must navigate between drawing inspiration from diverse cultures respectfully and cultural appropriation that involves borrowing without proper acknowledgement which has broader societal impacts including perpetuating power imbalances.
- (B) In today's world of creativity, artists have to decide between respectfully acknowledging works that are inspired by diverse cultures and appropriating elements without respect for their contexts.
- (C) In a globalised world, artists must draw from diverse cultural influences to create works that appeal to all, and this results in instances of both inspiration and cultural appropriation.
- (D) Artists must navigate the thin line between inspiration and cultural appropriation, where respectful inspiration fosters cultural understanding whereas appropriation involves borrowing without acknowledgement leading to commodification and reinforcement of stereotypes.

Correct Answer: (A) Artists in a globalised world must navigate between drawing inspiration from diverse cultures respectfully and cultural appropriation that involves borrowing without proper acknowledgement which has broader societal impacts including perpetuating power imbalances.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Score each option on a two-item checklist drawn from the passage's arc \u2013 (1) the artist's tension between respectful inspiration and appropriation, (2) appropriation's reach **beyond art** into society and power imbalances. The summary that scores on both wins; the runner-up will miss item 2.

Step 1 \u2013 Why item 2 is decisive. The passage doesn't end inside the studio. Its last move widens the lens: appropriation

"influenc[es] societal perceptions and perpetuat[es] power imbalances." A summary that ignores this clips the author's main escalation.

Step 2 \u2013 Checklist scoring. Option 2 \u2013 item 1 yes, item 2 no (stops at artistic context). Option 3 \u2013 fails item 1: it says diverse influence "results in both inspiration and cultural appropriation," treating harm as automatic, which misstates the passage. Option 4 \u2013 item 1 yes, item 2 only partial: it reaches "commodification and reinforcement of stereotypes" but not the societal power-imbalance level. Option 1 \u2013 item 1 yes, item 2 yes ("broader societal impacts including perpetuating power imbalances").

Step 3 \u2013 Conclude. Only *Option 1* clears both boxes, so it best captures the essence.

Answer: Option 1.

Quick Tip: For summary questions, choose the option that includes all central themes without adding extra details or omitting key implications.