

General Instructions

- (i) This booklet contains 29 questions, each provided with a complete, step-by-step solution.
- (ii) It comprises 25 single-correct multiple-choice questions.
- (iii) Attempt each question on your own before reviewing the given solution.

1.

Imagine a world in which artificial intelligence is entrusted with the highest moral responsibilities: sentencing criminals, allocating medical resources, and even mediating conflicts between nations. This might seem like the pinnacle of human progress: an entity unburdened by emotion, prejudice or inconsistency, making ethical decisions with impeccable precision. . . .

Yet beneath this vision of an idealised moral arbiter lies a fundamental question: can a machine understand morality as humans do, or is it confined to a simulacrum of ethical reasoning? AI might replicate human decisions without improving on them, carrying forward the same biases, blind spots and cultural distortions from human moral judgment. In trying to emulate us, it might only reproduce our limitations, not transcend them. But there is a deeper concern. Moral judgment draws on intuition, historical awareness and context qualities that resist formalisation. Ethics may be so embedded in lived experience that any attempt to encode it into formal structures risks flattening its most essential features. If so, AI would merely reflect human shortcomings; it would strip morality of the very depth that makes ethical reflection possible in the first place.

Still, many have tried to formalise ethics, by treating certain moral claims not as conclusions, but as starting points. A classic example comes from utilitarianism, which often takes as a foundational axiom the principle that one should act to maximise overall wellbeing. From this, more specific principles can be derived, for example, that it is right to benefit the greatest number, or that actions should be judged by their consequences for total happiness. As computational resources increase, AI becomes increasingly well-suited to the task of starting from fixed ethical assumptions and reasoning through their implications in complex situations.

But, what exactly, does it mean to formalise something like ethics? The

question is easier to grasp by looking at fields in which formal systems have long played a central role. Physics, for instance, has relied on formalisation for centuries. There is no single physical theory that explains everything. Instead, we have many physical theories, each designed to describe specific aspects of the Universe: from the behaviour of quarks and electrons to the motion of galaxies. These theories often diverge.

Aristotelian physics, for instance, explained falling objects in terms of natural motion toward Earth's centre; Newtonian mechanics replaced this with a universal force of gravity. These explanations are not just different; they are incompatible. Yet both share a common structure: they begin with basic postulates assumptions about motion, force or mass– and derive increasingly complex consequences. . . .

Ethical theories have a similar structure. Like physical theories, they attempt to describe a domain– in this case, the moral landscape. They aim to answer questions about which actions are right or wrong, and why. These theories also diverge, and even when they recommend similar actions, such as giving to charity, they justify them in different ways. Ethical theories also often begin with a small set of foundational principles or claims, from which they reason about more complex moral problems.

Correct Answer: —

• • •

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

(A) The appeal of an AI judge rests on immunity to bribery, partiality, and fatigue; yet the text questions whether procedural cleanliness amounts to moral understanding without lived context and interpretive depth.

(B) By analogy with physics, compact postulates can yield broad predictions across incompatible theories and ethics can likewise share structure while continuing to diverge rather than close on a single comprehensive framework.

(C) Encoding ethics into fixed structures risks stripping away intuition, history, and context and, if that occurs, the depth that enables reflective judgment disappears. So, machines would mirror our limits rather than exceed them.

(D) With fixed moral starting points and expanding computational resources, the argument forecasts convergence on one ethical system and treats contextual judgment as unnecessary once formal reasoning scales across domains and cultures.

Correct Answer: (D) With fixed moral starting points and expanding computational resources, the argument forecasts convergence on one ethical system and treats contextual judgment as unnecessary once formal reasoning scales across domains and cultures.

SOLUTION:

Approach (find-the-stance-violator): For an EXCEPT question, skip detailed matching and first ask: which option clashes with the author's two firmest commitments? Whatever violates the stance is the odd one, and the rest are automatically the supported three.

Step 1 — Pin the author's two commitments: (a) Plurality, not unity — the physics analogy insists there is “no single physical theory that explains everything,” only incompatible-but-structured theories, and

ethics mirrors this divergence. (b) Context is essential — intuition, history and lived experience “resist formalisation” and encoding risks “flattening” them.

Step 2 — Scan for a violator: Option 4 asserts “convergence on one ethical system” and that “contextual judgment” becomes “unnecessary.” That breaks *both* commitments at once — it demands unity where the author demands plurality, and discards context the author calls indispensable. Flag it.

Step 3 — Confirm the other three respect the stance: Option 1 echoes the doubt about “procedural cleanliness” vs real moral understanding (commitment b). Option 2 restates “shared structure, continued divergence” (commitment a). Option 3 restates “flattening depth → machines mirror our limits” (commitment b). All three sit comfortably inside the author’s view.

Step 4 — Lock the answer: Since the EXCEPT is the one that cannot be inferred, and only Option 4 contradicts the passage, it is the choice.

Final answer: Option 4.

Quick Tip: AI's ability to formalize ethics is debated, as reducing moral reasoning to fixed points may overlook essential human qualities.

• • •

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

(A) The passage highlights administrative gains from automation. It treats reproducing human moral judgment as progress and argues that, as computational resources increase, AI can be responsible for decision-making across varied institutional settings.

(B) The passage weighs the appeal of an impersonal AI judge against doubts about moral grasp. It warns that codification can erode case-sensitive judgment, allow axiom-led reasoning at scale, and use a physics analogy to model structured plurality.

(C) The passage weighs the appeal of an impersonal AI judge against doubts about moral grasp. It claims codified schemes retain case nuance at scale and uses a physics analogy to predict convergence on a unified framework.

(D) The passage rejects formal methods in principle. It holds that moral judgment cannot be expressed in disciplined terms and concludes that AI should not serve in courts, medicine, or diplomacy under any conditions.

Correct Answer: (B) The passage weighs the appeal of an impersonal AI judge against doubts about moral grasp. It warns that codification can erode case-sensitive judgment, allow axiom-led reasoning at scale, and use a physics analogy to model structured plurality.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Elimination first. In a summary question, the fastest route is to kill any option that is too extreme, too one-sided, or twists a stated fact — whatever survives is the answer.

Step 1 — Drop the one-sided option. Option 1 presents AI moral judgment purely as a gain and backs scaling it across institutions. A summary of a balanced, sceptical passage cannot be one-directional cheerleading. Eliminate.

Step 2 — Drop the extreme option. Option 4 uses absolute language — "rejects formal methods in principle," "under any conditions," "should not serve in courts, medicine, or diplomacy." CAT summaries almost never sit at such an absolute pole, and a discussion that weighs pros and cons is not a flat rejection. Eliminate.

Step 3 — Separate the near-twins. Options 2 and 3 share the same opening (appeal vs doubt) but split on two clauses. Option 3 says codified schemes *retain case nuance at scale* and that the physics analogy predicts *convergence on a unified framework*. Both are reversals of the passage's actual claims — codification *loses* nuance, and the physics image stands for many theories coexisting, not merging. A single distorted clause sinks the whole option.

Step 4 — Confirm the survivor. Option 2 carries the correct direction throughout: erosion of case-sensitive judgment, axiom-led reasoning at scale, and structured plurality. It is the only internally faithful choice.

Answer: Option 2.

Quick Tip: The passage focuses on the limitations of AI's formalization in ethics, stressing its risks over benefits.

• • •

1.3. The passage compares ethics to physics, where different theories apply to different aspects of a domain and says AI can reason from fixed starting points in complex cases. Which one of the assumptions below must hold for that comparison to guide practice?

- (A) Real cases never straddle different areas, so a case always fits exactly one framework without any overlap whatsoever.
- (B) Once formalised, all ethical frameworks yield the same recommendation in every case, so selection among them is unnecessary.
- (C) A single master framework replaces all others after translation into one code, so domain boundaries disappear in application.
- (D) There is a principled way to decide which ethical framework applies to which class of cases, so the system can select the relevant starting points before deriving a recommendation.

Correct Answer: (D) There is a principled way to decide which ethical framework applies to which class of cases, so the system can select the relevant starting points before deriving a recommendation.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Use the "negation test" — the true assumption is the one whose negation breaks the argument. Negate each option; whichever makes the physics-to-ethics comparison collapse is the assumption.

Step 1 — Negate Option 4. Suppose there is *no* principled way to decide which framework applies to which case. Then the AI cannot choose its fixed starting points, and "reasoning from fixed starting points in complex cases" never gets off the ground. The argument dies — so this is a genuine, load-bearing assumption.

Step 2 — Negate the others and watch them survive. Negate Option 1 (cases *do* straddle areas): the argument still works, because a principled selection rule could still assign a primary framework. Negate Option 2 (frameworks give *different* recommendations): fine — that is exactly why selection matters; the argument is unharmed, in

fact strengthened. Negate Option 3 (no single master framework): the analogy actually *prefers* multiple frameworks, so removing the master framework leaves the argument intact. None of these negations break anything, so none is the required assumption.

Step 3 — Cross-check the extremes. Options 1, 2 and 3 each over-claim — "never," "all... same recommendation," "single master framework replaces all." Necessary assumptions are usually modest; the modest, indispensable claim is Option 4.

Answer: Option 4.

Quick Tip: In AI-driven decision-making, selecting the appropriate ethical framework is essential for ensuring accurate recommendations.

• • •

1.4. Choose the one option below that comes closest to being the opposite of “utilitarianism”.

- (A) The committee adopted a non-egoist framework, ranking policies by their contribution to overall social welfare and treating self-interest as a derivative concern within institutional evaluation.
- (B) The council followed a prioritarian approach, assigning greater moral weight to improvements for the worst-off rather than to maximising total welfare across the affected population.
- (C) The authors advocated an absolutist stance, following exceptionless rules regardless of outcomes and evaluating choices by broadest societal benefit.
- (D) The policy was cast as deontological ethics, selecting the option that delivered the highest total benefit to citizens while presenting duty as a secondary consideration in public decision-making.

Correct Answer: (B) The council followed a prioritarian approach, assigning greater moral weight to improvements for the worst-off rather than to maximising total welfare across the affected population.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Trap-spotting. The question writer has scrambled the labels and the definitions on purpose. Read past the label, test each *definition* against the one-line rule "utilitarianism = maximise the total, outcomes only," and reject any option whose definition leans back toward that rule.

Step 1 — Flag the mislabels. Option 3 calls itself "absolutist" but then evaluates by "broadest societal benefit"; Option 4 calls itself "deontological" but then chases "the highest total benefit." Both definitions secretly endorse outcome-maximising, so neither can be the opposite of utilitarianism — they are decoys built to catch students who match on the label.

Step 2 — Clear the look-alike. Option 1 ranks policies by "overall social welfare" — that *is* the utilitarian move (maximise aggregate good). Same side of the fence, eliminate.

Step 3 — What's left must oppose the total. Option 2's definition — give extra weight to the worst-off instead of maximising total welfare — is the only one that rejects pure aggregation and brings in distribution/fairness. That is the genuine antithesis of "sum it up and maximise."

Answer: Option 2.

Quick Tip: Utilitarianism focuses on maximizing total welfare, while prioritarianism emphasizes benefiting the worst-off.



2.

In 1982, a raging controversy broke out over a forest act drafted by the Government of India. This act sought to strengthen the already extensive powers enjoyed by the forest bureaucracy in controlling the extraction, disposal and sale of forest produce. It also gave forest officials greater powers to strictly regulate the entry of any person into reserved forest areas. While forest officials justified the act on the grounds that it was necessary to stop the continuing deforestation, it was bitterly opposed by representatives of grassroots organisations, who argued that it was a major violation of the rights of peasants and tribals living in and around forest areas. . . .

The debate over the draft forest act fuelled a larger controversy over the orientation of state forest policy. It was pointed out, for example, that the draft act was closely modelled on its predecessor, the Forest Act of 1878. The earlier Act rested on a usurpation of rights of ownership by the colonial state which had little precedent in precolonial history. It was further argued that the system of forestry introduced by the British—and continued, with little modification, after 1947—emphasised revenue generation and commercial exploitation, while its policing orientation excluded villagers who had the most longstanding claim on forest resources. Critics called for a complete overhaul of forest administration, pressing the government to formulate policy and legislation more appropriate to present needs. . . .

That debate is not over yet. The draft act was shelved, though it has not as yet been formally withdrawn. Meanwhile, the 1878 Act (as modified by an amendment in 1927) continues to be in operation. In response to its critics, the government has made some important changes in forest policy, e.g., no longer treating forests as a source of revenue, and stopping ecologically hazardous practices such as the clearfelling of natural forests. At the same time, it has shown little inclination to meet the major demand of the critics

of forest policy—namely, abandoning the principle of state monopoly over forest land by handing over areas of degraded forests to individuals and communities for afforestation.

. . . [The] 1878 Forest Act itself was passed only after a bitter and prolonged debate within the colonial bureaucracy, in which protagonists put forward arguments strikingly similar to those being advanced today. As well known, the Indian Forest Department owes its origin to the requirements of railway companies. The early years of the expansion of the railway network, c. 1853 onwards, led to tremendous deforestation in peninsular India owing to the railway's requirements of fuelwood and construction timber. Huge quantities of durable timbers were also needed for use as sleepers across the new railway tracks. Inexperienced in forestry, the British called in German experts to commence systematic forest management. The Indian Forest Department was started in 1864, with Dietrich Brandis, formally a Lecturer in Botany, as the first Inspector General of Forests. The early years of the forest department, even as it grew, continued to meet the railway needs for timber and wood. These systems first emerged as part of the needs of the expanding empire.

Correct Answer: —

• • •

2.1. Which one of the following best encapsulates the reason for the “raging controversy” developing into a “larger controversy”?

- (A) The 1982 draft forest act further enabled the commercial exploitation of forest resources by the forest bureaucracy.
- (B) The 1982 draft forest act violated the rights of tribals and peasants who lived in and around forest areas.
- (C) The 1982 draft forest act replicated colonial measures of control and regulation of forest resources.
- (D) The 1982 draft forest act was unjustifiably defended by forest officials in the face of bitter opposition by grassroots organisations.

Correct Answer: (C) The 1982 draft forest act replicated colonial measures of control and regulation of forest resources.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Map the two-stage structure first, then pick the option that bridges stage one to stage two. Stage one = anger at the 1982 act (rights, powers). Stage two = a broad debate about "the orientation of state forest policy." The answer is the hinge between them.

Step 1 — Find the hinge sentence. The very sentence that opens the "larger controversy" is: the draft act "was closely modelled on its predecessor, the Forest Act of 1878." That modelling on a colonial statute is the hinge.

Step 2 — Eliminate options that sit on the wrong side of the hinge. Option 2 belongs to stage one (the initial grassroots anger over rights) — it cannot explain the move to stage two. Option 4 is a passing characterisation of officials, not a structural cause. Both fail the "bridge" test.

Step 3 — Choose between the survivors. Option 1 isolates

commercial exploitation — true of the old regime but too narrow to capture the full "control and regulation" critique that reopened the whole policy question. Option 3 captures the complete charge: the draft replicated colonial *control and regulation*, which is precisely what made critics call for overhauling the entire administration.

Answer: Option 3.

Quick Tip: The main cause of the larger controversy was the replication of colonial policies, particularly in forest control.

• • •

2.2. According to the passage, which one of the following reforms is yet to happen in India's forest policies?

- (A) Involving local people in cultivating forests.
- (B) Recognising the significance of forests to ecology.
- (C) A ban on deforestation.
- (D) Recognising the state's claim to forest land use.

Correct Answer: (A) Involving local people in cultivating forests.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Sort the four options into two bins — "already done / status quo" versus "still demanded." Exactly one lands in the second bin, and that is the answer.

Step 1 — Done bin. Option 2 (ecology recognised) is implied by halting clearfelling — done. Option 4 (state's claim to forest land) is the principle the government is actively *retaining*, so it is current

policy, not a reform-in-waiting.

Step 2 — Out-of-text bin. Option 3 (a ban on deforestation) is never granted in the passage as a completed or singled-out demanded reform; the text frames the issue as regulation and ending specific hazardous practices, so it doesn't qualify as the named pending reform.

Step 3 — The remaining one. Option 1 directly restates the "major demand" the government "has shown little inclination to meet" — handing degraded forests to individuals and communities for afforestation, i.e. involving local people in cultivating forests. By elimination and by direct textual support, it is the pending reform.

Answer: Option 1.

Quick Tip: One of the key reforms that is yet to happen is involving local communities more actively in the management of forests.

• • •

2.3. According to the passage, which one of the following is not common to the 1878 Forest Act and the 1982 draft forest act?

- (A) Both resulted in large scale deforestation.
- (B) Both sparked controversy and debate among the various stakeholders.
- (C) Both sought to establish the state's monopoly over forest resources.
- (D) Both reflect a colonial mindset.

Correct Answer: (A) Both resulted in large scale deforestation.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Flip the question — instead of hunting the difference, prove three options ARE common and let the fourth fall out. Anchor every "common" claim to a phrase in the passage.

Step 1 — Anchor Option 2. "Raging controversy" over the 1982 draft + "bitter and prolonged debate within the colonial bureaucracy" over 1878 — both sparked controversy. Common, eliminate as answer.

Step 2 — Anchor Option 3. 1878 "rested on a usurpation of rights of ownership by the colonial state"; the 1982 draft "sought to strengthen the already extensive powers... in controlling extraction, disposal and sale" and regulating entry — both assert state monopoly. Common, eliminate.

Step 3 — Anchor Option 4. The draft "was closely modelled on its predecessor, the Forest Act of 1878" — a shared colonial mindset. Common, eliminate.

Step 4 — The leftover. Option 1 (large-scale deforestation) has no anchor as a shared *result* of the Acts. Deforestation in the passage is caused by railway timber demand, and the 1982 draft aimed to curb deforestation rather than cause it. With the other three locked in as common, Option 1 is the one that is not.

Answer: Option 1.

Quick Tip: Both the 1878 Act and the 1982 draft forest act share colonial-era mindsets, though they differ in their environmental impacts.



2.4. All of the following, if true, would weaken the narrative presented in the passage EXCEPT that:

- (A) Before British rule, peasants and tribal groups were denied access to forest resources by Indian rulers and their administrations.
- (B) Certain tribal groups in India are responsible for climate change because their sustenance has historically depended on mass scale deforestation.
- (C) The timber requirement for railway works in nineteenth century India was met through import from China, in exchange for spices.
- (D) Nineteenth century German forestry experts were infamous for violating the rights of indigenous communities that lived in forest regions.

Correct Answer: (D) Nineteenth century German forestry experts were infamous for violating the rights of indigenous communities that lived in forest regions.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Read the question as a sorting task with two boxes - WEAKENS and SUPPORTS. An EXCEPT question has exactly one statement in the SUPPORTS box; that is the answer. Pick the box for each option in one phrase.

Sort option 1: Pre-colonial Indian rulers already barred access ⇒ the colonial-villain timeline breaks ⇒ WEAKENS box.

Sort option 2: Tribals themselves drove deforestation ⇒ victims become culprits ⇒ WEAKENS box.

Sort option 3: Railway timber came from China, not Indian forests ⇒ removes the stated engine of forest exploitation ⇒ WEAKENS box.

Sort option 4: German experts were notorious for trampling indigenous rights ⇒ exactly the kind of villainy the passage attributes to the colonial forestry project ⇒ SUPPORTS box.

Only option 4 lands in SUPPORTS, so it is the one statement that does not weaken. The shortcut: in a weaken-EXCEPT, the answer is usually the option whose tone matches the author's own argument - here, the one that paints the colonial system as harmful.

Answer: Option 4.

Quick Tip: The narrative is primarily focused on the consequences of colonial forest policies, so information supporting this is consistent with the passage.

• • •

2.5. 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: In each of the affected males, the genetic defect was located to the X chromosome in the region of p11-12.

Paragraph: The first suggested evidence of a human genetic mutation associated with aggressive behaviour came from a study in 1993. ____

(1) ____ . Genetic and metabolic studies were conducted on a large Dutch family in which several of the males has a syndrome of borderline mental retardation and abnormal behaviour. ____ (2) ____ . The undesirable behaviour included impulsive aggression, arson and exhibitionism. ____

(3) ____ . A point mutation was identified in the eighth exon of the monoamine oxidase A (MAOA) structural gene which changes glutamine to a termination codon. ____ (4) ____ .

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

Correct Answer: (C) Option 3

Quick Tip: Inserting sentences in a logical order connects ideas and helps maintain the flow of information.

• • •

3. 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: In each of the affected males, the genetic defect was located to the X chromosome in the region of p11-12.

Paragraph: The first suggested evidence of a human genetic mutation associated with aggressive behaviour came from a study in 1993. ____ (1)____. Genetic and metabolic studies were conducted on a large Dutch family in which several of the males has a syndrome of borderline mental retardation and abnormal behaviour. ____ (2)____. The undesirable behaviour included impulsive aggression, arson and exhibitionism. ____ (3)____. A point mutation was identified in the eighth exon of the monoamine oxidase A (MAOA) structural gene which changes glutamine to a termination codon. ____ (4)____.

(A)

Option 1

(B)

Option 2

(C)

Option 3

(D)

Option 4

Correct Answer: (C)

Option 3

Quick Tip: Inserting sentences in a logical order connects ideas and helps maintain the flow of information.

• • •

4. 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) About half of all the oxygen we breathe is made near the surface of the ocean by phytoplankton that photosynthesize just like land-dwelling plants.

(B) A team of scientists that includes Boston University experts has discovered they also produce oxygen on the seafloor.

(C) The research team used deep-sea chambers that land on the seafloor and enclose the seawater, sediment, polymetallic nodules, and living organisms.

(D) The discovery is a surprise considering oxygen is typically created by plants and organisms with help from the sun—not by rocks on the ocean floor.

Correct Answer: (C) The research team used deep-sea chambers that land on the seafloor and enclose the seawater, sediment, polymetallic nodules, and living organisms.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Use the connector test. Coherent sentences leave fingerprints - pronouns, contrasts, definitions that point at a neighbour. The sentence with no such link to the discovery storyline is the intruder.

Trace the fingerprints: Sentence 2 says scientists found 'they also produce oxygen on the seafloor' - 'also' and 'they' lean on Sentence 1's surface phytoplankton, so 1 → 2 is locked. Sentence 4 calls 'the discovery' a surprise - that 'the discovery' is the seafloor oxygen of Sentence 2, so 2 → 4. Sentence 5 introduces 'the deep-sea rocks, called polymetallic nodules' and says they 'don't only host sea critters' - the 'not only' sets up that these rocks do something more, namely make oxygen, sealing 4 → 5.

Now check Sentence 3: It explains the apparatus - chambers landing on the seafloor enclosing seawater and sediment. It carries no pronoun or connector tying it to the surprise-and-source narrative; it is a stand-alone methods note.

Since 1, 2, 4, 5 form an interlocked discovery story and Sentence 3 only reports technique, Sentence 3 is the outlier.

Answer: 3.

Quick Tip: Look for sentences that introduce or explain the main topic, while others support it or provide additional details.

• • •

5.

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) When I ask the distinguished LGBTQ activist and writer Cherie Moraga whether she uses Latinx to refer to herself, she tells me, ‘I worked too hard for the “a” in Latina to give it up! I refer to myself as Xicana.’

(2) Of our accumulated ethnic population, only a third use Hispanic to identify themselves, a mere 14 percent use Latino, and less than 2 percent recognize Latinx.

(3) They have done this, although gender in languages is grammatical, not sociological or sexual, and found in linguistic families throughout the world, from French to Russian to Japanese.

(4) More recently, activists seeking to render our name gender neutral, out of respect for our LGBTQmembers, have devised yet another name for us: Latinx.

(A) 1432

(B) 3412

(C) 1243

(D) 4312

Correct Answer: (D) 4312

SOLUTION:

Approach: Eliminate using one decisive link, then confirm. Find the single most forced connection and use it to kill options; this is faster than ranking all four sentences.

The decisive link: Sentence 3 begins 'They have done this' - a pure back-reference. It needs an immediately prior sentence naming an actor ('they') and an action ('this'). Sentence 4 supplies both: activists who devised 'Latinx'. So the pair 4 → 3 must be adjacent and in that order.

Screen the options against 4 → 3: Option 1243 separates them - fails. Option 1432 has 4 then 3 adjacent - survives. Option 3412 puts 3 before 4 - fails. Option 4312 has 4 then 3 adjacent - survives.

Break the tie (1432 vs 4312): Sentence 4 introduces 'Latinx' for the first time, so it cannot sit after Sentence 1, which already assumes the term is in play (Moraga is reacting to it). The paragraph must open with the introduction, so 4 leads.

That eliminates 1432 and leaves 4312, with the statistic in Sentence 2 sealing the paragraph.

Answer: 4312.

Quick Tip: Sequencing sentences logically is key to understanding the flow of ideas. In this case, starting with the personal anecdote, followed by the statistics, and the evolution of the term, works best.



6.

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: Productivity gains, once expected to feed through to broader living standards, now primarily serve to enhance returns to wealth.

Paragraph: Economists now argue that inequality is no longer a by-product of growth but a condition of it. ____ (1) _____. Unlike wages, wealth reflects not just income but also access to assets, favourable institutional conditions—such as low interest rates—and public policies like low taxes and housing shortages. ____ (2) _____. In other words, wealth depends on political choices in ways that income currently does not. It's not just the inequality itself that is the issue but the erosion of mechanisms that once constrained it. ____ (3) _____. Wealth and income inequality are linked, but where wages have stagnated and collective bargaining has weakened, capital income—derived from profits, rents and interest—has been boosted by design. ____ (4) _____.

(A) Option 1

(B) Option 2

(C) Option 3

(D) Option 4

Correct Answer: (C) Option 3

SOLUTION:

Approach: Match the time-frame. The given sentence has a distinctive 'once X, now Y' structure. Find the blank whose surrounding text also runs on that once-versus-now axis; that is where it belongs.

Read the sentence's clock: 'Productivity gains, once expected to feed through to broader living standards, now primarily serve to enhance returns to wealth' - past expectation defeated, present reality favouring wealth.

Audit each blank for the same clock: Around Blank 1 the discussion is definitional (inequality as a condition of growth) - no past/present pivot. Around Blank 2 the text lists what wealth depends on - static description, no time contrast. Around Blank 3 the sentence right before reads 'the erosion of mechanisms that once constrained it' (note the word 'once') and the sentence right after says capital income 'has been boosted by design' (the present outcome). This is precisely the once-then-now movement the insert carries. Around Blank 4 capital income has already been explained, so the insert would only repeat.

Blank 3 is the only spot whose neighbours share the once-to-now logic, so the productivity sentence slots there as the concrete example of the eroded mechanism.

Answer: Option 3.

Quick Tip: The key is understanding the flow of economic arguments, where political decisions about wealth are critical to understanding inequality.

• • •

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

The return to the tailor is the juxtaposition of three key things for the mindful Indian shopper. The first is the conscious shift away from the homogeneity of fast fashion, the idea of a hundred other people owning exactly the same Zara trench coat or H & M pleated skirt. The second is an actual understanding of the waste behind the fast fashion market, and wanting not to contribute to that anymore. The last is the shift toward customisation and fit—the idea of having imaginations brought to life and to have them fit exactly; without paying exorbitant rates for that bespoke tailoring. For the individual with a keen fashion sense and a genuine desire to move away from the waste and uniformity of fast fashion without paying the premium for it that indie brands would invariably demand, the tailor is the perfect crossover.

(A) The mindful Indian shopper is shifting away from convenience and uniformity of clothing, and waste in fashion, to customisation and less exorbitantly priced clothing.

(B) In the Indian retail market, people believe that expensive branded clothes are wasteful and, therefore, are returning to the neighbourhood tailor.

(C) The mindful Indian shoppers are returning to the tailor with a genuine desire to wear clothes which are less expensive, fit them well and are yet fashionable.

(D) All Indian shoppers are opting for customisation and a shift away from homogeneity over expensive clothing brands like Zara and H & M.

Correct Answer: (A) The mindful Indian shopper is shifting away from convenience and uniformity of clothing, and waste in fashion, to customisation and less exorbitantly priced clothing.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Run a checklist-and-defect scan. Treat the passage's three drivers as boxes to tick; the right summary ticks all and adds no false claim. Reject any option that misses a box or smuggles in a distortion.

The three boxes: [uniformity escaped] [waste rejected] [custom fit at fair price].

Scan Option 4 first for defects: It says 'All Indian shoppers' - the passage limits itself to the mindful shopper, so this is an over-generalisation. Reject on the distortion alone.

Scan Option 2: Ticks waste and price but misses uniformity and fit. Two boxes empty - reject.

Scan Option 3: Ticks price and fit and fashionable, but never mentions the fashion-waste concern the passage explicitly raises. One box empty - reject.

Scan Option 1: 'Away from convenience and uniformity' ticks box 1, 'and waste in fashion' ticks box 2, 'to customisation and less exorbitantly priced clothing' ticks box 3, and scope stays on the mindful shopper. All boxes ticked, no distortion.

Only Option 1 clears the checklist without a defect, so it is the best summary.

Answer: Option 1.

Quick Tip: When summarising a passage, focus on the key actions and shifts discussed, and not on generalised statements.

• • •

8. 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 profound emotional impact of music has inspired ongoing research into its relationship with emotions.

(B) Music is a universal phenomenon that utilizes a myriad brain resources.

(C) This inherent connection to musical expression is deeply intertwined with human identity and experience.

(D) The proclivity to create and appreciate music is ubiquitous among humans, permeating daily life across diverse societies.

Correct Answer: (A) The profound emotional impact of music has inspired ongoing research into its relationship with emotions.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Use the keyword-cluster method. Tag each sentence with its core noun; four tags will overlap and one will stand alone. The lone tag is the misfit.

Tag every sentence: Option 2 (music universal, many brain resources) - tag: universality + cognition. Option 4 (proclivity ubiquitous across societies) - tag: universality. Option 5 (most cognitively demanding, across cultures) - tag: cognition + universality. Option 3 (connection

intertwined with human identity) - tag: universality + identity. Option 1 (emotional impact inspiring research into emotions) - tag: emotion + research.

Compare clusters: Four sentences cluster tightly around universality / cognition / identity - one consistent essay about why music is a defining human trait. Only the emotion-and-research sentence sits outside that cluster, raising a fresh topic (the study of music's emotional effects) that none of the others develop or refer back to.

Because the emotion-research sentence is the single tag with no partner among the rest, it is the one that cannot join the paragraph. The 'This inherent connection' opener of the identity sentence also confirms the other four chain together without it.

Answer: 1.

Quick Tip: When identifying the odd sentence, look for information that doesn't directly fit the core topic or concept discussed.



9.

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

(1) The effigy of a candidate establishes a personal link between him and the voters; the candidate does not only offer a programme for judgement, he suggests a physical climate, a set of daily choices expressed in a morphology, a way of dressing, a posture.

(2) Some candidates for Parliament adorn their electoral prospectus with a portrait; this presupposes that photography has a power to convert which must be analysed.

(3) Inasmuch as photography is an ellipse of language and a condensation of an 'ineffable' social whole, it constitutes an anti-intellectual weapon and tends to spirit away 'politics' (that is to say a body of problems and solutions) to the advantage of a 'manner of being', a socio-moral status.

(4) Photography tends to restore the paternalistic nature of elections, whose elitist essence has been disrupted by proportional representation and the rule of parties (The Right seems to use it more than the Left).

(A) 1432

(B) 2143

(C) 1243

(D) 4312

Correct Answer: (B) 2143

SOLUTION:

Approach: Order by ladder of abstraction. Campaign para-jumbles often climb from a concrete observation up to a theoretical claim. Rank the sentences from most concrete to most abstract and read off

the order.

Rank each rung: Sentence 2 is the most concrete and also self-announcing - a plain fact (candidates use portraits) plus 'must be analysed', the classic topic-sentence move. Sentence 1 is next - it describes the felt effect on voters (a personal link, a posture, a way of dressing): still concrete, about the individual candidate. Sentence 4 climbs to the institutional level - photography restoring the 'paternalistic', 'elitist' character of elections against proportional representation. Sentence 3 is the most abstract - photography as an 'anti-intellectual weapon' that replaces 'politics' with a 'manner of being'.

Assemble bottom-up: announcement → individual effect → institutional effect → philosophical verdict gives 2 → 1 → 4 → 3. The opener test confirms it: only Sentence 2 reads as an introduction, while Sentence 3's sweeping judgement reads as a closing line.

The abstraction ladder lands on 2143.

Answer: 2143.

Quick Tip: Sequencing sentences logically allows the ideas to flow, connecting related concepts and providing a coherent argument.



10.

Over the course of the twentieth century, humans built, on average, one large dam a day, hulking structures of steel and concrete designed to control flooding, facilitate irrigation, and generate electricity. Dams were also lucrative contracts, large-scale employers, and the physical instantiation of a messianic drive to conquer territories and control nature. Some of the results of that drive were charismatic mega-infrastructure—the Hoover on the Colorado River or the Aswan on the Nile—but most of the tens of thousands of dams that dot the Earth’s landscape have drawn little attention. These are the smaller, though not inconsequential, barriers that today impede the flow of water on nearly two-thirds of the world’s large waterways. Chances are, what your map calls a “lake” is actually a reservoir, and that thin blue line that emerges from it once flowed very differently.

Damming a river is always a partisan act. Even when explicit infrastructure goals—irrigation, flood control, electrification—were met, other consequences were significant and often deleterious. Across the world, river control displaced millions of people, threatening livelihoods, foodways, and cultures. In the western United States, dams were often an instrument of colonialism, used to dispossess Indigenous people and subsidize settler agriculture. And as dams slowed the flow of water, inhibited the movement of nutrients, and increased the amount of toxic algae and other parasites, they snuffed out entire river ecologies. Declining fish populations are the most evident effect, but dams also threaten a host of other animals—from birds and reptiles to fungi and plants—with extinction. Every major dam, then, is also a sacrifice zone, a place where lives, livelihoods, and ways of life are eliminated so that new sorts of landscapes can support water-intensive agriculture and cities that sprout downstream of new reservoirs.

Such sacrifices have been justified as offerings at the temples of modernity.

Justified by—and for—whom, though? Over the course of the twentieth century, rarely were the costs and benefits weighed thoughtfully and decided democratically. As Kader Asmal, chair of the landmark 2000 World Commission on Dams, concluded, “There have been precious few, if any, comprehensive, independent analyses as to why dams came about, how dams perform over time, and whether we are getting a fair return from our 2 trillion Dollar investment.” A quarter-century later, Asmal’s words ring ever truer. A litany of dams built in the mid-twentieth century are approaching the end of their expected lives, with worrying prospects for their durability. Droughts, magnified and multiplied by the effects of climate change, have forced more and more to run below capacity. If ever there were a time to rethink the mania for dams, it would be now. There is some evidence that a combination of opposition, alternative energy sources, and a lack of viable projects has slowed the construction of major dams. But a wave of recent and ongoing construction, from India and China to Ethiopia and Canada, continues to tilt the global balance firmly in favor of water impoundment.

Correct Answer: —

• • •

10.1. What does the author wish to communicate by referring to the Hoover and Aswan dams in the first paragraph?

- (A) The Colorado and Nile rivers may be seen as thin blue lines on a map.
- (B) The designers and builders of these mega-structures were highly charismatic individuals.
- (C) The drive to control nature is evident not only in mega-infrastructures like the Hoover and Aswan dams, but in smaller dams as well.
- (D) By building dams like the Hoover and Aswan dams, large-scale employers became messianic figures.

Correct Answer: (C) The drive to control nature is evident not only in mega-infrastructures like the Hoover and Aswan dams, but in smaller dams as well.

SOLUTION:

Different angle (the contrast test): This is a purpose question, so the trick is to locate the sentence the examples are pointing toward. Read what immediately follows the examples, and the author's intent becomes obvious.

Step 1: Hoover and Aswan are flagged as "charismatic mega-infrastructure." Right after, the author says most dams are smaller and have "drawn little attention." The word "but" signals a contrast between famous-large and obscure-small.

Step 2: Why set up that contrast? To show the underlying "messianic drive to conquer territories and control nature" is not limited to the headline dams. It operates everywhere, including the thousands of small barriers on two-thirds of the world's large waterways.

Step 3 (option scan by keyword): The only option that captures both ends of the contrast (big example AND small example, unified by the drive to control nature) is the one saying the drive shows in mega-dams "as well as" smaller ones. The other three each latch onto one stray word — rivers, charisma, or messianic — and bend it away from the author's actual contrast.

Answer: Option 3.

Quick Tip: Pay attention to how the author relates smaller and larger examples to the same overarching concept.

• • •

10.2. The word “instantiation” is used in the first paragraph. Which one of the following pairs of terms would be the best substitute for it in the context of its usage in the paragraph?

- (A) Exemplification and manifestation
- (B) Development and construction
- (C) Durability and timeliness
- (D) Concreteness and viability

Correct Answer: (A) Exemplification and manifestation

SOLUTION:

Different angle (root + pair-integrity): Two tricks settle this fast. First, decode the word from its root; second, reject any pair where even one word fails, since both must fit.

Step 1 (root): "Instantiate" shares its root with "instance" — a single concrete case of a general type. A dam is therefore a concrete instance of the abstract "drive to control nature." The meaning we want is example/embodiment.

Step 2 (pair-integrity filter): Each option is a pair, so both halves must work.

Option 2: "development" and "construction" both mean building — process, not representation. Reject.

Option 3: "durability," "timeliness" – neither relates to being an instance. Reject.

Option 4: "concreteness" is plausible but "viability" (workability) is off, and one bad half kills the pair. Reject.

Step 3: Option 1 survives cleanly: "exemplification" (being an example – matches "instance") and "manifestation" (a physical showing of something abstract – matches "physical instantiation"). Both halves lock in.

Answer: Option 1.

Quick Tip: "Instantiation" often refers to the process of making something concrete or manifest.

• • •

10.3. All of the following statements may be considered valid inferences from the passage EXCEPT that:

- (A) Despite increasing evidence of opposition to dams as well as alternatives to them, they continue to be built.
- (B) Dam-building has proved to be an extremely costly enterprise that may not be justifiable.
- (C) Processes of colonisation have used dam-building to make people vacate their territories.
- (D) Smaller, though not inconsequential, dams are safer than large dam projects.

Correct Answer: (D) Smaller, though not inconsequential, dams are safer than large dam projects.

SOLUTION:

Different angle (source-line tagging): For an EXCEPT inference question, try to attach each option to a specific line in the passage. Whichever option you cannot anchor to any line is your answer.

Step 1 (tag them):

Option 1 → "a wave of recent and ongoing construction... continues to tilt the global balance." Anchored.

Option 2 → Asmal's "2 trillion Dollar investment" and doubt over a "fair return." Anchored.

Option 3 → "dams were often an instrument of colonialism, used to dispossess Indigenous people." Anchored.

Step 2 (the unanchorable one): Option 4 needs a line that ranks small dams as safer than large ones. Scan the passage: small dams are described as numerous and impactful ("not inconsequential"), never as safer. No anchor exists.

Step 3 (watch the trap): "Not inconsequential" tempts you toward a size comparison, but it means small dams still matter – the opposite of saying they are safe. So option 4 is the inference the passage does not license.

Answer: Option 4.

Quick Tip: Inferences should align directly with the passage's discussion and not introduce unsupported claims.

• • •

10.4. Which one of the following sets of terms is closest to mapping the key arguments of the passage?

- (A) Mega-infrastructure – Sacrifice zone – Worshipping modernity – Water impoundment
- (B) Partisan act – Threatened livelihoods – Toxic algae – Quarter century
- (C) Lucrative contracts – Sacrifice zone – Expected lives – Global balance
- (D) Physical instantiation – Partisan act – Decided democratically – Alternative energy

Correct Answer: (A) Mega-infrastructure – Sacrifice zone – Worshipping modernity – Water impoundment

SOLUTION:

Different angle (detail-word veto): Instead of judging the best set, eliminate any set that contains even one term which is a mere detail rather than a main argument. The set that survives wins.

Step 1 (flag detail-words):

Option 2 contains "toxic algae" (a single example) and "quarter century" (a time marker) – both are details. Veto.

Option 3 contains "expected lives" (an aside about ageing dams) and "lucrative contracts" (one feature mentioned once) – details. Veto.

Option 4 contains "decided democratically" and "alternative energy," each appearing only in passing — details. Veto.

Step 2 (the survivor): Option 1's four terms — mega-infrastructure, sacrifice zone, worshipping modernity, water impoundment — are each thesis-level ideas, one per paragraph, none of them stray detail.

Step 3 (sanity check): Read the four in sequence and they retell the passage: huge structures, built at great human/ecological cost, justified as worship of modernity, fueling a worldwide drive to impound water. That is the argument itself.

Answer: Option 1.

Quick Tip: Focus on key thematic terms when mapping the main arguments of a passage.



11.

Once a society accepts a secular mode of creativity, within which the creator replaces God, imaginative transactions assume a self-conscious form. The tribal imagination, on the other hand, is still to a large extent dreamlike and hallucinatory. It admits fusion between various planes of existence and levels of time in a natural and artless manner. In tribal stories, oceans fly in the sky as birds, mountains swim in water as fish, animals speak as humans and stars grow like plants. Spatial order and temporal sequence do not restrict the narrative. This is not to say that tribal creations have no conventions or rules, but simply that they admit the principle of association between emotion and the narrative motif. Thus stars, seas, mountains, trees, men and animals can be angry, sad or happy. It might be said that tribal artists work more on the basis of their racial and sensory memory than on the basis of a cultivated imagination. In order to understand this distinction, we must understand the difference between imagination and memory. In the animate world, consciousness meets two immediate material realities: space and time. We put meaning into space by perceiving it in terms of images. The image-making faculty is a genetic gift to the human mind—this power of imagination helps us understand the space that envelops us. With regard to time, we make connections with the help of memory; one remembers being the same person today as one was yesterday.

The tribal mind has a more acute sense of time than the sense of space. Somewhere along the history of human civilization, tribal communities seem to have realized that domination over territorial space was not their lot. Thus, they seem to have turned almost obsessively to gaining domination over time. This urge is substantiated in their ritual of conversing with their dead ancestors: year after year, tribals in many parts of India worship terracotta or carved-wood objects representing their ancestors, aspiring to enter a trance in which they can converse with the

dead. Over the centuries, an amazingly sharp memory has helped tribals classify material and natural objects into a highly complex system of knowledge. . .

One of the main characteristics of the tribal arts is their distinct manner of constructing space and imagery, which might be described as 'hallucinatory'. In both oral and visual forms of representation, tribal artists seem to interpret verbal or pictorial art as demarcated by an extremely flexible 'frame'. The boundaries between art and non-art become almost invisible. A tribal epic can begin its narration from a trivial everyday event; tribal paintings merge with living space as if the two were one and the same. And within the narrative itself, or within the painted imagery, there is no deliberate attempt to follow a sequence. The episodes retold and the images created take on the apparently chaotic shapes of dreams. In a way, the syntax of language and the grammar of painting are the same, as if literature were painted words and painting were a song of images.

Correct Answer: —

• • •

11.1. Non-human living forms exhibit human emotions in tribal narratives because tribal narratives:

- (A) accommodate existential fluidity.
- (B) abandon all rules and regulations.
- (C) have a self-conscious form.
- (D) are rudimentary and underdeveloped.

Correct Answer: (A) accommodate existential fluidity.

SOLUTION:

Different angle (trap-pairing): Three of the four options are deliberate distortions of specific lines in the passage. Spot which line each option twists, and the one faithful option is left standing.

Step 1 (pair each wrong option to the line it misreads):

Option 2 ("abandon all rules") twists "This is not to say that tribal creations have no conventions or rules" – the passage says the opposite, that rules DO exist.

Option 3 ("self-conscious form") borrows "imaginative transactions assume a self-conscious form," but that line describes the SECULAR mode the author sets against tribal narrative. Wrong camp.

Option 4 ("rudimentary and underdeveloped") contradicts "a highly complex system of knowledge."

Step 2 (the faithful option): Option 1 "accommodate existential fluidity" restates "fusion between various planes of existence and levels of time," which is exactly why a mountain or a star can feel angry or sad.

Step 3: Since only option 1 reflects the passage rather than distorting a line, it is the cause being asked for.

Answer: Option 1.

Quick Tip: Look for key terms in the passage like "fluidity" to identify the right answer.

11.2. On the basis of the passage, which one of the following explains the main difference between imagination and memory?

- (A) Imagination helps humans make sense of space while memory helps them understand time.
- (B) Tribal groups value memory over imagination when it comes to creating art and literature.
- (C) Imagination needs to be cultivated whereas memory is more intuitive because it is racial and sensory.
- (D) Imagination is a genetic gift to humans whereas memory is central to human consciousness.

Correct Answer: (A) Imagination helps humans make sense of space while memory helps them understand time.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Treat the four options as competing "axes of difference" and ask which axis the passage actually develops at length versus which is only name-dropped. The genuine main difference is the one the author builds an argument around.

Step 1: Scan each option for the contrast word. Option 1 contrasts space against time. Option 4 contrasts "genetic gift" against "central to consciousness" – but those are not opposites, so no real axis exists there.

Step 2: Test option 1 against the passage's structure. The author returns to space and time more than once: imagination is tied to perceiving the world (space), memory to continuity and the past (time), and the tribal digression exists precisely to show a people who

gave up space and chose to rule time. An idea reused to explain a whole community is the load-bearing idea.

Step 3: Eliminate by scope. Option 2 is too narrow (only tribal art). Option 3 smuggles in "racial and sensory," a detail not framed as the core distinction. Option 4 has no contrast at all.

Step 4: Only option 1 names a true binary that the passage sustains throughout.

Answer: Option 1 – imagination for space, memory for time.

Quick Tip: Focus on the contrast the passage draws between space (imagination) and time (memory).



11.3. All of the following statements may be considered valid inferences from the passage EXCEPT that:

- (A) Tribal art excludes the depiction of the mundane reality of everyday life and objects.
- (B) Shamanic rituals involving conversing with the dead often feature in tribal stories.
- (C) Tribal narratives exhibit a chronological beginning, middle, and end.
- (D) Tribal stories depict the natural world in accordance with rational scientific knowledge.

Correct Answer: (D) Tribal stories depict the natural world in accordance with rational scientific knowledge.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Build a one-word "passage flavour" tag and reject the option that tastes wrong. Here the flavour is **dream-logic / irrational / fantastical**. Any option carrying that flavour is inferable; the option carrying the opposite flavour is the EXCEPT.

Step 1: Underline the passage's sensory words: dreamlike, hallucinatory, fused planes, oceans flying, mountains swimming. Tag = irrational wonder.

Step 2: Score each option for fit. Excluding mundane reality fits the dream tag. Shamans talking to the dead fits the ritual-trance tag. A non-linear, dream-shaped narrative fits too.

Step 3: Option 4 carries the tag "rational scientific knowledge" – the exact antonym of dream-logic. A passage cannot both insist nature is depicted with flying oceans and also claim it is depicted scientifically. Contradiction found.

Step 4: The contradiction is the thing the question wants, since EXCEPT means "cannot be inferred."

Answer: Tribal stories depict the natural world in accordance with rational scientific knowledge.

Quick Tip: When evaluating inferences, look for those that align with the narrative style described in the passage.



11.4. Which one of the following best explains why tribals in India worship their dead ancestors?

- (A) Tribals seek territorial domination over the spaces that they inhabit.
- (B) For tribals, conversing with the dead becomes a way of seeking control over time.
- (C) Tribals show respect to their ancestors through terracotta and carved-wood objects.
- (D) Tribals possess a sophisticated knowledge system that is based on memory.

Correct Answer: (B) For tribals, conversing with the dead becomes a way of seeking control over time.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Sort the four options into "reason" versus "description" buckets first. Three options describe what tribals do or what they have; only one states **why**. A "why" question is answered by the reason, so the odd-bucket option wins.

Step 1: Option 3 describes a method (objects used). Option 4 describes a possession (a knowledge system). Both are facts, not motives — park them.

Step 2: Option 1 offers a motive (territorial domination), but check it against the passage: tribals are said to have **abandoned** the contest for space. A motive the passage explicitly denies cannot be the answer.

Step 3: Option 2 offers a motive the passage **affirms** — seeking control over time. With space ruled out and time ruled in, ancestor-worship becomes the bridge to the past, hence to time.

Step 4: Reason bucket, passage-supported, exactly one survivor.

Answer: Option 2 – conversing with the dead is a way of seeking control over time.

Quick Tip: Look for explanations that align directly with the passage's theme of control over time and spiritual connection.

• • •

12.

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

In investigating memory-beliefs, there are certain points which must be borne in mind. In the first place, everything constituting a memory-belief is happening now, not in that past time to which the belief is said to refer. It is not logically necessary to the existence of a memory-belief that the event remembered should have occurred, or even that the past should have existed at all. There is no logical impossibility in the hypothesis that the world sprang into being five minutes ago, exactly as it then was, with a population that "remembered" a wholly unreal past. There is no logically necessary connection between events at different times; therefore nothing that is happening now or will happen in the future can disprove the hypothesis that the world began five minutes ago. Hence the occurrences which are CALLED knowledge of the past are logically independent of the past; they are wholly analysable into present contents, which might, theoretically, be just what they are even if no past had existed.

- (A) When we discuss the concept of memory-beliefs, we must understand that it is not logically impossible for the event remembered to have never happened at all; it could just be a figment of our imagination.
- (B) Memory-beliefs depend wholly on what is remembered in the present, and not on anything else; just as it is not logically impossible that the world came into being five minutes ago, and that everyone now just remembers a wholly imaginary past for it.
- (C) When investigating memory beliefs, we must keep in mind that an actual past event is not a prerequisite for a memory-belief to exist, and that what we know of the past could theoretically need a past at all.
- (D) That which we call "knowledge of the past" is logically independent of the past, since the act of remembering which forms memory-beliefs happens in the present, and does not need to be based in real past occurrences, or even need a past at all.

Correct Answer: (D) That which we call "knowledge of the past" is logically independent of the past, since the act of remembering which forms memory-beliefs happens in the present, and does not need to be based in real past occurrences, or even need a past at all.

SOLUTION:

Approach: Use the "example versus conclusion" filter. The five-minutes-ago world is the passage's vivid example; its real argument is the abstract conclusion that follows. A summary that majors on the example under-summarises; the right one majors on the conclusion.

Step 1: Spot the conclusion marker. Russell writes "Hence the occurrences CALLED knowledge of the past are logically independent of the past." The word "hence" flags the thesis. Any summary missing "logically independent" is incomplete.

Step 2: Run the keyword test on each option. Search for "logically independent" or its sense. Option 1: absent. Option 2: absent (it talks five-minutes-ago instead). Option 3: absent and the sentence is broken. Option 4: present, and stated as the main point.

Step 3: Confirm option 4 also keeps the two premises (present act of remembering, no real past required), so it is complete, not just correct in headline.

Step 4: One option carries premises plus conclusion; that is a summary, the rest are fragments.

Answer: Option 4.

Quick Tip: Look for answers that directly address the relationship between the present and the past in the context of memory-beliefs.