

Mock Test 1

Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension VARC Set-1

Question 1.

Paragraph:

Journalist Catrin Nye takes us through it step by step. First, we meet the people who are willing to go on camera to talk about their experiences. There is Jeff, who was full of ambition but lacking direction when he crossed paths, during a self-improvement webinar, with a man called Jai Singh who was with Lighthouse and offered him personal mentorship. **(1)** Singh told Jeff that he was very open, very teachable and had a great work ethic, and under his guidance Jeff did learn to speak and write better than before. **(2)** And to “invest” £25,000 after that to become an associate member and gain better access to the revered founder of the movement, Paul Waugh. **(3)** We meet Jeff’s girlfriend Dawn, who recalls becoming more and more concerned about the increasing number of hours he was spending on the phone to Singh and how dependent he was becoming on his mentor’s approval in all matters, including their relationship **(4)**_____.

Sentence to place:

It seemed only sensible to sign up for the £10,000 “Discipline programme” for a year of more intense mentoring.

Question 2.

Paragraph:

A good first line is not always necessary because who stops reading after one sentence? **(1)** But it can be extremely useful in building expectations for the style and characterisation that will follow. **(2)** The opening may establish the tone, character, location, era or season **(3)** but it can also pull a reader into the realm of the story that follows, and often into the head of the protagonist or into an alternate reality. When we open a book, we are ready to embark on a journey. **(4)** The starter pistol should propel us forward. In my experience, a great opening will also raise questions that need to be answered. Who or why or how or indeed, wtf?

Sentence to place:

While book jackets can indicate a broad genre, that line can define the subgenre.

Passage:

During the 1980s and 1990s, as the United States battled the scourge of cocaine throughout the hemisphere, Washington did most of the talking. Latin American governments were forced to listen and fall in line. The American government had the most money to throw at the problem, the toughest justice system and the biggest bully pulpit. In recent years, that top-bottom approach has been upended as countries in the region have begun to develop new strategies to fight drug trafficking and discourage the use of narcotics. The initiatives that are being discussed and applied represent a welcome break with the largely failed traditional approach, which has emphasized prohibition and punishment. A special United Nations General Assembly meeting next April on drug policy has provided an added incentive to develop fresh approaches to the problem, including sentencing reforms and legalization. “There is near unanimity that the focus needs to be on health and public health,” John Walsh, a drug policy expert at the Washington Office on Latin America said in an interview. “That is very significant, considering most of the policy remains focused on enforcement and interdiction.” While a broadly accepted regional approach remains a distant goal in a politically diverse hemisphere with many strained relationships, the present conversations offer considerable hope. Washington has started doing more listening than lecturing, in large part as a result of the domestic debate about the legalization of marijuana and sentencing reform for drug crimes. Colombia, which has been among Washington’s most willing and pliant partners in the fight against drugs, is among those charting their own course in notable ways. Defying the United States, the Colombian government recently banned aerial spraying of coca crops, citing health concerns. Earlier this month, Yesid Reyes, the Colombian justice minister, delivered a speech at the United Nations outlining proposals that include decriminalizing consumption and finding alternatives to incarceration for minor drug offenses. “We declared a

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war that has not been won,” Mr. Reyes said in the speech. “For that reason, it’s imperative to conceive and agree on, at the international level, policies and approaches that allow us to respond to this enormous challenge in the most humane, smart and effective way.” Uruguay and Bolivia have also been leaning forward. Uruguay legalized recreational use of marijuana in 2013. Bolivia kicked out the United States Drug Enforcement Administration in 2009 and currently allows farmers to grow modest crops of coca, which is widely chewed as a stimulant and used for medicinal purposes there. There are outliers, though; chiefly Peru, which continues to fight the drug trade with strict and punitive policies. The United States has a strained relationship with several governments that have a major stake in the drug trade, including Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela. In the years ahead, Washington may be able to strengthen regional cooperation if it places greater emphasis on the tools and expertise it has to offer, rather than punishing those that are deemed to be taking insufficient steps to curb the drug trade.

Question 3.

Which of the following statements can be inferred to be true regarding the effectiveness of the various approaches mentioned in the passage for fighting against drug trade?

Options:

- The “top-bottom” approach is not as effective as the approach of the Colombian government decriminalizing consumption and reforming the sentences for minor drug offences.
- The “top-bottom approach” was not very effective and the effectiveness of the new strategies adopted by the Latin American governments cannot yet be determined.
- The new approach which includes legalization and sentencing reforms will definitely be more effective than the “largely failed traditional approach” which focused on “enforcement and interdiction”.
- The most effective way for fighting drug trade is adopting a broad regional strategy for all the Latin American countries.

Question 4.

Passage:

“There is but one truly serious philosophical problem and that is suicide.” That’s how Albert Camus begins his essay *The Myth of Sisyphus*, in which he takes it on himself to question the meaning of existence and the incentives we have for staying alive. Like many before him, he was sceptical of a purely objective view of reality. [T]here is a lot that doesn’t make sense about life, and this lack of orientation isn’t always pleasant. In fact, quite often, it involves pain, confusion, and sustained difficulty. Camus goes on to talk about all of this at length, and he eventually answers the question. At the end of the essay, he frames his conclusion into the story of Sisyphus, a character in Greek mythology who disobeyed the Gods and was punished to pointlessly roll a boulder up a hill for eternity, only to watch it fall right back down, forcing him to repeat the task. “It is during that return, that pause, that Sisyphus interests me... I see that man going back down with a heavy yet measured step toward the torment of which he will never know the end... At each of those moments when he leaves the heights and gradually sinks toward the lairs of the gods, he is superior to his fate. He is stronger than his rock...One always finds one’s burden again. But Sisyphus teaches the higher fidelity that negates the gods and raises rocks. He too concludes that all is well. This universe henceforth without a master seems to him neither sterile nor futile. Each atom of that stone, each mineral flake of that night filled mountain, in itself forms a world. The struggle itself toward the heights is enough to fill a man’s heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy.” The essay ends as shockingly as it began. How is it possible for Sisyphus to be happy? Before we answer that, we have to first introduce the problem that Camus was trying to solve. It’s one that takes shape in different forms in every life that has ever been lived. The absurd condition is a product of us trying to reason with an unreasonable world. It occurs when our rational and sensible ideas about what we want out of life collide with the cold indifference of an unsympathetic world that doesn’t concern itself with any one person. Many of us would like to work jobs that ignite our imagination every day, but instead, we’re stuck doing repetitive chores so we can pay the bills and keep doing more of the same. A lot of us would like a reasonable shot at contentment and fulfilment. ... Our expectations aren’t unreasonable nor do they fall outside of the realm of

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possibility. Yet, due to factors larger than any one of us, we have to settle. There are two obvious solutions. The first is to abandon our reasonable expectations, and the second is to pretend that the world isn't unreasonable at all and that everything is fine. These solutions to the predicament, however, don't please Camus. Abandoning reason is what he calls "philosophical suicide," and it's at odds with the actual reality. Similarly, denying the unreasonability of the world is a form of acceptance that limits our experience.

Question:

What does the author imply by "One must imagine Sisyphus happy"?

Options:

- The Gods punished him expecting him to give up and commit suicide but Sisyphus did not do so. This made him happy for he was negating the Gods.
 - Sisyphus was disobeying the Gods in his own way by tampering with the boulder making it simpler for him.
 - The absurdity of the task was so overwhelming for Sisyphus that it broke him as a person and the only choice he was left with was to finish the task.
 - Although the task he performed was meaningless, Sisyphus embraced it and hence, he was happy.
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Question 5.

Passage: *The Myth of Sisyphus* by Albert Camus (same passage as Question 4)

Question:

What is the purpose of the book *The Myth of Sisyphus*?

Options:

- To answer the philosophical question about suicide.
 - To question the meaning of man's existence and the things that encourage man to stay alive.
 - To enunciate the idea as to why suicide is the only philosophical problem that man should be concerned about.
 - To explain the concept of happiness through Sisyphus's story.
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Question 6.

Passage: *The Myth of Sisyphus* by Albert Camus (same passage as Question 4)

Question:

Which of the following statements is Albert Camus most likely to agree with?

Options:

- One should never try to control one's fate.
 - Acting as if the world is unreasonable is perfectly reasonable.
 - The purpose of absurdity in life is to make one happy.
 - Not accepting the unreasonability of the world will confine our experiences.
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Question 7.

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Passage: *The Myth of Sisyphus* by Albert Camus (same passage as Question 4)

Question:

What is the absurdity of life that the author is talking about?

Options:

- Although many of us would like to work jobs that ignite our imagination every day, we are stuck doing repetitive chores so we can pay the bills.
- The reasonable world does not go hand in hand with the unreasonable expectations that we have.
- Despite having rational and sensible ideas, the world will always deem them unreasonable.
- Even though our desires are reasonable, we still cannot fulfill them because of factors that are not in our control.

Passage:

The passage given below is accompanied by a set of four questions. Choose the best answer to each question. The 20th century was not a permanent plunge into depravity. ... [W]e are aware of the cliché “The twentieth century was the bloodiest in history” that has been used to indict a vast range of demons, including atheism, science, capitalism, communism etc. But is this true? The claim is rarely backed up by death tolls from any century other than the 20th. The 20th century also had more people. The population of the world in 1950 was 2.5 billion, which is about two and a half times the population in 1800, four and a half times that in 1600, seven times that in 1300, and fifteen times that of 1 CE. So, the death count of a war in 1600 would have to be multiplied by 4.5 for us to compare its destructiveness to the destructiveness of a war in the middle of the 20th century. Another illusion is historical myopia: the closer an era is to our vantage point in the present, the more details of the same can be gathered. Historical myopia can afflict both common sense and professional history. The cognitive psychologists Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman have shown that people intuitively estimate relative frequency using a shortcut called the availability heuristic: the easier it is to recall examples of an event, the more probable people think it is. People overestimate the likelihoods of the kinds of accidents that make headlines, such as plane crashes, shark attacks, and terrorist bombings, and they underestimate those that pile up unremarked, like electrocutions, falls and drownings... When one corrects for the availability bias and the 20th century population explosion, one comes across many wars and massacres that could hold their head high among 20th-century atrocities. Taking into account population differences with past societies, Steven Pinker develops an “adjusted rank” with adjusted death tolls based on a “mid-20th-century equivalent” to come up with a new ranking for atrocities. The new ranking list includes not just deaths on the battlefield but indirect deaths of civilians from starvation and disease. ... Had you even heard of all of the great atrocities from time immemorial? I hadn't. I suspect many readers will be surprised to learn that of the 21 worst things that people have ever done to each other, fourteen were in centuries before the 20th. And all of this pertains to absolute numbers. When you scale by population size, only one of the 20th century's atrocities even makes the top ten. These figures, of course, cannot all be taken at face value. Some tendentiously blame the entire death toll of a famine or epidemic on a particular war, rebellion, or tyrant. And some came from innumerable cultures that lacked modern techniques for counting and record-keeping. At the same time, narrative history confirms that earlier civilizations were certainly capable of killing in vast numbers. Technological backwardness was no impediment; we know from Rwanda and Cambodia that massive numbers of people can be murdered with low-tech means like machetes and starvation. And in the distant past, implements of killing were not always so low-tech, because military weaponry usually boasted the most advanced technology of the age.

Question 8.

Which of the following can be reasons to suspect that “the 20th century being considered the bloodiest-century” notion is an illusion?

- a. The notion is rarely supported with relevant details about the hemoclysms of centuries past.
- b. The 20th century witnessed a higher population as compared to previous centuries.
- c. There is a tendency to overweigh the conflicts that are most recent and most studied.

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Options:

- a and c
 - Only c
 - a and b
 - a, b and c
-

Question 9.

Passage: (same as Question 8)

Question:

Which method of correction for the availability bias and the twentieth century population explosion has been cited in the passage?

Options:

- Comparing the death tolls in the 20th century to those of previous centuries.
 - Scaling the death tolls by the world population at that particular point of time and then comparing this figure across centuries.
 - Rooting around in history books for particular wars and tyrannical rule that wiped out a large segment of the population.
 - Ignoring the death toll data from those historical periods and cultures that lacked modern techniques for counting and record-keeping.
-

Question 10.

What can be understood from the author's statement "Had you even heard of all of the great atrocities from time immemorial? I hadn't." in the context of the paragraph as a whole?

Options:

- A common man is aware of the many atrocities that the world has seen in the past.
 - If the author can be unaware of many past atrocities, then the general public should be more ignorant of the same.
 - Since the author had been unaware of many past atrocities, he could not have correctly assessed 20th century atrocities.
 - In the case of atrocities and bloodbaths, there is a fixed pattern from the past to the present and to the future, and so the hemoclysms of the past can be compared to those of the present.
-

Question 11.

All of the following can be understood from the passage EXCEPT?

Options:

- The availability heuristic is a mental shortcut that relies on immediate examples that come to a given person's mind when evaluating a specific topic, concept, method or decision.

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- A revolution around 1 CE that resulted in half a million deaths would be considered bloodier than a civil war in 1600 that claimed 500,000 lives in a span of a few days.
- Low-tech implements of killing in the era prior to the 20th century and poor record-keeping of deaths have resulted in the notion that the twentieth century was the bloodiest in history.
- People think of the 20th century as the bloodiest because it has the most bloodshed that people can remember.

Passage: The passage given below is accompanied by a set of four questions. Choose the best answer to each question. In the period between 1961 and 1989, the regulated art system of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) led to a large scale exodus of at least fifteen hundred artists to the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). Several young artists, who were born in the post-World War II period, did so in order to discontinue working according to the rigid confines of the art policy that favoured Socialist Realism as an ideal style for the construction of a socialist utopia. For this generation, who experienced the devastating impact of World War II only through the stories of their parents, the GDR was “a dead corpse, dead to an extent that you could only make fun of it”, as the performance artist Else Gabriel stated shortly after the collapse of the regime. ... In order to continue developing their modernist art practice and being recognized as artists, several artists were left no other choice than to emigrate, whether through internal migration or fleeing to ‘non-socialist’ foreign countries. This exodus occurred despite the fact that the bureaucracy of an emigration application (Ausreiseantrag) was unyielding and the process could take up to six years. ... For years, applicants literally lived amidst their packed boxes in anticipation of a definitive answer on their emigration applications. Once in the West, they faced new challenges as they transitioned from the state-controlled model of artistic production of the East towards the market-led approach favoured in the West, with marked effects on their work. After all of these efforts and sacrifices, deserting artists ended up only a few years later in a state where the former East suddenly became West. Why would an artist who was the visual translator of the socialist utopia and thus generally enjoyed a high status and a good income have a desire to flee in the first place? By pointing out the core limitations artists found themselves confronted with, a better understanding of their motives for pursuing emigration to the West will evolve. By focusing on the (self-) controlled and regulate art system of the GDR we can define the artistic constraints and thereby the limitations for the younger generation. The hierarchal structure of East Germany’s ruling party, the SED (Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands/Socialist Unity Party of Germany), was reflected in its subsidized cultural sector. In order to influence the artistic landscape and promote the official artistic style, Socialist Realism, the state government founded the Verband Bildender Künstler Deutschlands (VBK), the artists’ union, in the early 1950s. Association with this union was mandatory to pursue an artistic career. The union enforced the right to use special food cards in the early years of the socialist state, supported artists’ efforts to find a studio or apartment, and most importantly assigned commissions for art works. Simultaneously, the cultural department carried out campaigns against expressionism, formalism, cosmopolitanism, abstract art and heavily debated performance arts in the 1980s. Non-conformists, i.e. those who worked in an independent manner, could continue their work only through private funding or at their own expense. Artists whose art was not in alignment with the dogma prescribed by the official socialist style were therefore excluded from art exhibitions and commissions and could even be banned from exhibition and work.

Question 12:

According to the passage, who among the following is most likely to be a non-conformist artist?

Options:

- An artist who practised Socialist Realism.
- An artist who was born in the post-World War II era.
- An artist who was associated with VBKD.
- An artist who practised abstract art.

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Question 13:

When the author mentions "...amidst their packed boxes...", he intends to convey that

Options:

- The applicants were eager to move to the West.
 - The applicants were against Socialism.
 - The applicants were eager to leave the GDR.
 - The Ausreiseantrag was about to accept their application.
-

Question 14:

The primary function that the quote serves is to

Options:

- Indicate the tone of the passage.
 - Indicate the importance of art in the GDR.
 - Indicate the lack of activism by the state government in patronising art.
 - Indicate the general sentiment of the young post war populace of GDR.
-

Question 15:

Which of the following situations would be most similar to that of a non-conformist artist in GDR during the period 1961-1989?

Options:

- A teenager pursuing his hobby against the wishes of his parents.
 - A researcher publishing only the optimistic findings of his research.
 - A book vendor selling books that are against the political sentiments of the state.
 - A rebel leader fighting for his principles.
-

Question 16

The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper order of the four sentences and write the sequence of numbers as your answer.

1. Then Polish delicatessens began to appear, selling herring and pierogi; then came Polish solicitors.
 2. Gangmasters told stories about farm labourers picking cabbages at night, by the light of car headlamps.
 3. But the Poles' most intriguing import, and the one that ought to cause native Britons to think hardest, is medical care.
 4. The first thing Polish immigrants brought to Britain, when the country opened its doors to eastern European workers in 2004, was an admirable work ethic.
-

Question 17

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Four alternative summaries are given below. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.

Passage:

The breeding and brooding habits of the Fiordland crested penguins have been difficult to study because they live in the temperate rainforest. The nesting areas are difficult to see because of the thick vegetation where the nests are located. The total population has been estimated to be fewer than 1,000 breeding pairs. Fiordland penguins make their nests in the soft ground in the thick undergrowth of plants, well apart from other birds' nests. Usually, two eggs are laid but only one chick survives. The egg is kept warm for 30 to 36 days, with the male and the female taking turns on the nest in long 5 to 12 day shifts. After the eggs hatch, the male stays with the chick for 2 to 3 weeks, while the female brings food. Chicks are left alone to hide in the underbrush or they may form small crèches while both parents hunt food. Chicks get their adult feathers and go to sea in about 75 days. The Fiordland penguins are shy and timid and live and breed on the rugged west and southwest coastlands of the South Island of New Zealand, including two offshore islands of Stewart and Solander.

Options:

- A. The Fiordland penguins, believed to be fewer than 1000 breeding pairs, breed on coastlands of the South Island of New Zealand. Both parents take turns at brooding, for about a month. Hatched chicks are looked after by the male parents for about three weeks, while the females bring food. Thereafter both parents may forage, leaving the chicks in groups or in nests in the soft ground in the thick underbrush of the temperate rainforests. In about seventy five days, the chicks are grown enough to go to sea.
- B. Fewer than 1000 breeding pairs of the Fiordland penguins are found on coastlands of South Island of New Zealand. The nests are in soft ground in the thick underbrush of the temperate rainforests. The Fiordland penguins take 30 to 36 days to hatch. The male stays on in the nest to keep the eggs warm. The female brings food for the chicks. The chick is abandoned in a crèche after 3 weeks and goes to sea in 75 days.
- C. Fiordland penguins hatch in a nest made in the soft ground in the thick undergrowth of plants near the coastlands of South Island of New Zealand. The male and female penguins take turns hatching one of the two eggs laid initially. Once the eggs hatch, the male leaves to take care of the feeding needs of the chick. The chick learns to become independent after 3 weeks of life and takes to the oceans in 75 days.
- D. Fiordland penguins are natives of New Zealand. The penguins take 30 to 36 days to hatch. The male and female penguins take turns to keep the eggs warm for 5 to 12 hours a day. One of the two eggs hatch. The female brings the food to the surviving chick for the first 2 to 3 weeks, and leaves the chick in a crèche with the male.

Question 18

Four alternative summaries are given below. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.

Passage:

A young man from a small provincial town—a man without independent wealth, without powerful family connections and without a university education—moved to London in the late 1580's and, in a remarkably short time, became the greatest playwright not of his age alone but of all time. Shakespeare's works appeal to the learned and the unlettered, to urban sophisticates and provincial first-time theatregoers. He makes his audiences laugh and cry; he turns politics into poetry; he recklessly mingles vulgar clowning and philosophical subtlety. He grasps with equal penetration the intimate lives of kings and of beggars; he seems at one moment to have studied law, at another theology, at another ancient history, while at the same time he effortlessly mimics the accents of country bumpkins and takes delight in old wives' tales. Virtually all his rivals in the highly competitive theatre business found themselves on the straight road to starvation; this one playwright by contrast made enough money to buy one of the best houses in the hometown to which he retired when he was around 50, the self-made protagonist of an amazing success story that has resisted explanation for 400 years.

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Options:

A. Shakespeare is for everyone. His works evoke a rich tapestry of emotions. One of the prime characteristics of Shakespeare's art is the touch of the real. People rarely feel closer to understanding how the playwright's achievements came about.

B. Shakespeare's multifaceted works appeal to a variety of people and elicit a range of emotions. He was a person without much affiliations or wealth or education, yet he became wealthy unlike his rivals. He is considered the greatest playwright of all times. His success story is a mystery.

C. Shakespeare's works are characterized by extreme and apparent polarities: simple and elaborate, organic and synthetic, whimsical and profound. How Shakespeare became Shakespeare is a mystery.

D. Shakespeare is surprisingly accomplished. Very little is understood about the experiences, either then or now, that make such creative leaps possible.

Question 19

Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out. Write its number as your answer.

1. This year's contest includes a robotic garden, too: students at the University of Colorado are developing a workable prototype "bioregenerative food system," which they'll deliver to NASA next summer.
2. Stored food represents the largest expected non-propulsion consumable mass for human spaceflight.
3. The designs often focus on space-worthy structural scaffolds, detailing vertical or horizontal building layouts that could survive the harsh environment on Mars or the moon.
4. The completed project will be able to grow, harvest and compost a variety of plants which astronauts can cultivate for food.
5. NASA's yearly X-Hab competition invites university teams to design deep space habitats and concepts that could someday be used by real astronauts.

Question 20

The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper order of the four sentences and write the sequence of numbers as your answer.

1. In turn, China has been a major buyer of Iranian oil, and a prominent backer of the nuclear deal with Tehran that Israel strongly opposed.
2. Israel is aggressively pursuing an anti-Iran strategy, which is undermining the regional stability that China's Belt and Road Initiative needs to thrive.
3. China also has decades of votes against Israel in the United Nations, including most recently its condemnation of the U.S. decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem.
4. Yet substantial differences remain between the two.

Question 21

Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out. Write its number as your answer.

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1. How the tables have turned.
2. Aleppo may determine what happens in Syria, the region and beyond.
3. Not only were Bashar's battalions pushed back from the city; the rebels then turned west and routed them from Idlib too.
4. In February 2015, Bashar al-Assad's forces launched an offensive to take back Aleppo, once Syria's most populous city but divided between the regime and rebel fighters since 2012.
5. Two years on, Mr. Assad is attacking Aleppo again and, this time, he is succeeding.

Question 22

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Passage:

During the 1980s and 1990s, as the United States battled the scourge of cocaine throughout the hemisphere, Washington did most of the talking. Latin American governments were forced to listen and fall in line. The American government had the most money to throw at the problem, the toughest justice system and the biggest bully pulpit. In recent years, that top-bottom approach has been upended as countries in the region have begun to develop new strategies to fight drug trafficking and discourage the use of narcotics. The initiatives that are being discussed and applied represent a welcome break with the largely failed traditional approach, which has emphasized prohibition and punishment. A special United Nations General Assembly meeting next April on drug policy has provided an added incentive to develop fresh approaches to the problem, including sentencing reforms and legalization. "There is near unanimity that the focus needs to be on health and public health," John Walsh, a drug policy expert at the Washington Office on Latin America said in an interview. "That is very significant, considering most of the policy remains focused on enforcement and interdiction." While a broadly accepted regional approach remains a distant goal in a politically diverse hemisphere with many strained relationships, the present conversations offer considerable hope. Washington has started doing more listening than lecturing, in large part as a result of the domestic debate about the legalization of marijuana and sentencing reform for drug crimes. Colombia, which has been among Washington's most willing and pliant partners in the fight against drugs, is among those charting their own course in notable ways. Defying the United States, the Colombian government recently banned aerial spraying of coca crops, citing health concerns. Earlier this month, Yesid Reyes, the Colombian justice minister, delivered a speech at the United Nations outlining proposals that include decriminalizing consumption and finding alternatives to incarceration for minor drug offenses. "We declared a war that has not been won," Mr. Reyes said in the speech. "For that reason, it's imperative to conceive and agree on, at the international level, policies and approaches that allow us to respond to this enormous challenge in the most humane, smart and effective way." Uruguay and Bolivia have also been leaning forward. Uruguay legalized recreational use of marijuana in 2013. Bolivia kicked out the United States Drug Enforcement Administration in 2009 and currently allows farmers to grow modest crops of coca, which is widely chewed as a stimulant and used for medicinal purposes there. There are outliers, though; chiefly Peru, which continues to fight the drug trade with strict and punitive policies. The United States has a strained relationship with several governments that have a major stake in the drug trade, including Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela. In the years ahead, Washington may be able to strengthen regional cooperation if it places greater emphasis on the tools and expertise it has to offer, rather than punishing those that are deemed to be taking insufficient steps to curb the drug trade.

Question

The "aerial spraying of coca crops" which the Colombian government banned would most likely result in

- A. The withering of the coca crop which will result in a reduction in the export of the crop.
- B. Providing excess nutrients to the coca crops which will accelerate its growth.

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- C. Improve the flavor of the coca crop which will increase its marketability.
 - D. Making the coca crop unpalatable to the locals such that more is available for export.
-

Question 23

The primary reason for the change in the role of Washington in the fight against drug trade in Latin America is

- A. The strained relationship of the United States with several Latin American countries involved in drug trade.
 - B. The realization that emphasizing prohibition and punishment in the fight against drug trade is not effective.
 - C. The discussion in the United States about legalization of marijuana and sentencing reforms.
 - D. The decline of the authority of the United States in Latin America.
-

Question 24

According to the passage, which of the following actions will be most helpful in formulating a “broadly accepted regional approach”, mentioned in the fourth paragraph?

- A. The United States helping the politically divergent Latin American countries to work towards improving their relations among themselves.
- B. The Latin American governments convening to work together and formulating a regional approach.
- C. The United States changing its focus from administering punishments to providing its expertise on fighting drug trade.
- D. The United States refraining from involving itself in the fight against drug trade in Latin America.

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Answer Key

1. Sentence placement after (1) (*It seemed only sensible to sign up for the £10,000 "Discipline programme"...*)
2. Sentence placement after (1) (*While book jackets can indicate a broad genre, that line can define the subgenre.*)
3. (B) The "top-bottom approach" was not very effective and the effectiveness of the new strategies adopted by the Latin American governments cannot yet be determined.
4. (D) Although the task he performed was meaningless, Sisyphus embraced it and hence, he was happy.
5. (B) To question the meaning of man's existence and the things that encourage man to stay alive.
6. (D) Not accepting the unreasonability of the world will confine our experiences.
7. (D) Even though our desires are reasonable, we still cannot fulfill them because of factors that are not in our control.
8. (D) a, b and c
9. (B) Scaling the death tolls by the world population at that particular point of time and then comparing this figure across centuries.
10. (B) If the author can be unaware of many past atrocities, then the general public should be more ignorant of the same.
11. (B) A revolution around 1 CE that resulted in half a million deaths would be considered bloodier than a civil war in 1600 that claimed 500,000 lives in a span of a few days.
12. (D) An artist who practised abstract art.
13. (C) The applicants were eager to leave the GDR.
14. (D) Indicate the general sentiment of the young post war populace of GDR.
15. (C) A book vendor selling books that are against the political sentiments of the state.
16. 4132 (*Then Polish delicatessens began to appear... → The Poles' most intriguing import...*)
17. (A) The Fiordland penguins, believed to be fewer than 1000 breeding pairs... In about seventy five days, the chicks are grown enough to go to sea.
18. (B) Shakespeare's multifaceted works appeal to a variety of people... His success story is a mystery.
19. (C) The designs often focus on space-worthy structural scaffolds... (*Irrelevant sentence*)
20. 2143 (*Israel is aggressively pursuing an anti-Iran strategy... → Yet substantial differences remain...*)
21. (A) How the tables have turned. (*Does not fit contextually*)
22. (A) The withering of the coca crop which will result in a reduction in the export of the crop.
23. (C) The discussion in the United States about legalization of marijuana and sentencing reforms.
24. (C) The United States changing its focus from administering punishments to providing its expertise on fighting drug trade.