

# Mock Test 4

## Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension VARC Set-4

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### PASSAGE 1

The passage given below is accompanied by a set of four questions. Choose the best answer to each question. The fear of 'alienation' from a perceived state of harmony has a long and winding history. Western culture is replete with stories of expulsion from paradise and a yearning to return, from Adam and Eve's departure from the Garden of Eden to the epic journey of Odysseus back to Ithaca. In the modern era, 'alienation' really came into its own as a talismanic term in the 1950s and '60s. At the time, the United States was becoming increasingly affluent, and earlier markers of oppression – poverty, inequality, social immobility, religious persecution – appeared to be on the wane. Commentators and intellectuals needed a new way to characterise and explain discontent. Philosophers and theologians from Augustine to Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Søren Kierkegaard had mulled over its metaphysical and spiritual implications. Later, modern sociologists such as Émile Durkheim, Georg Simmel and Max Weber worried that alienation was a by-product of a post-industrial society. It could be seen in widespread 'anomie', the 'tragedy of culture', and the 'iron cage' of bureaucratic rationalisation. After the Second World War, alienation came to betoken a near-universal spiritual and psychological malaise. Existentialist philosophers such as Jean-Paul Sartre used it to describe a fundamental aspect of the human condition. By the time J D Salinger released his novel *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951), alienation was invoked to explain everything from juvenile delinquency and galloping divorce rates to voter apathy and substance abuse. The term was taken to define the fundamental pathology of modern life.... The prevailing assumption behind [the study of alienation] was that feeling estranged – whether from one's personal or communal identity, one's creations, or the human species as a whole – was a reason for profound dismay. Alienation could suggest, among other things, the domination of the subject by the object, the self by the other, the organic by the mechanical, and the living by the dead. Understood psychologically, socially, religiously or philosophically, it was a painful obstacle to feeling whole or at one with the world. Being settled in an identity and comfortable in one's skin were taken as preferable to being rootless, dispossessed or self-fractured. For the lucky few cosmopolitans, rootlessness might have meant being at home everywhere – but for those who felt like permanent exiles, it meant being at home nowhere. Conversely, overcoming alienation was accompanied by the achievement of self-transparency, authenticity, personal integrity and solidarity. Stories from the Bible and mythology, when viewed from the end-point of the tale, often cast the years of wandering as what Christian doctrine called a *felix culpa* or 'fortunate fall'. Perhaps alienation could be justified as an episode in a longer arc of redemption, in which the loss of naïve unity enables us to attain a higher, more reflective form of wholeness. Alienation could be interpreted in terms of a kind of theodicy, in which partial evil serves a more all-embracing good. So why aren't we 'alienated' anymore? Was it fatigue with a concept whose explanatory power and emotional charge had been spent? Was it the realisation that other, unrelated sources of oppression were yet to be vanquished? Or had alienation become a self-indulgent luxury, now that living standards were not necessarily rising from one generation to the next?

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### Question 1/24

The author's views regarding the concept of alienation can be best characterized as:

- (a) Apathetically objective
  - (b) Dogmatically sceptical
  - (c) Trenchantly critical
  - (d) Pedantically inquisitive
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### Question 2/24

Which of the following is not a probable assumption made by the author in the last paragraph of the passage?

- (a) In the hierarchy of markers of oppression to be vanquished, 'alienation' doesn't enjoy the highest priority
- (b) Indulging 'alienation' as a problem is justifiable when a society is improving its living standards

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- (c) The concept of alienation rose to popularity because of its emotional persuasion
  - (d) Alienation was a source of oppression that need not be vanquished immediately
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## Question 3/24

Which of the following is the most reasonable depiction of the essence of the penultimate paragraph of the passage?

- (a) Humans are sad when they feel they don't belong and one must be fortunate to overcome this sense of rootless alienation
  - (b) Alienation is considered to be the absence of identity which leads to profound disturbance but it is a necessary evil in the journey to finding one's true self
  - (c) Being estranged leads to a sense of rootlessness which could be eliminated only through reflection that leads to self-discovery
  - (d) Alienation is assumed to be a sense of rootlessness whose cure lay in the cathartic journey to feeling one with the world
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## Question 4/24

Which of the following cannot be inferred as a cause for the rise to prominence of the concept of 'alienation' in the 50s and 60s?

- (a) It was a time when people were getting liberated from the troubles caused by earlier markers of oppression like poverty, inequality, social immobility, and religious persecution
  - (b) It was a time when the world was deteriorating because of perpetuation of a new culture
  - (c) It was a convenient way to explain away many afflictions of the modern life
  - (d) It was a time when the intellectuals needed a spiritual or psychological malaise to blame for discontent
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## PASSAGE 2

The principle of Darwinian evolution now is not just an explanatory theory, but also a debunker of theism. As such, it has been elevated to a status of unquestionable truth to the extent that biologists who may have doubts on its fireproof status would not admit so in public in case they become pariahs in their community. The other downside of holding such an absolutist position is that any proposal that may hint at other mechanisms that do not comfortably fit with the orthodox beliefs are dismissed outright as they may imply some universal intelligence or teleological plan that smack of a heavenly planner.

Its most enthusiastic adherents assert that the theory of evolution has no room for other mechanisms hence no other possibilities are conceivable or indeed allowable. This in spite of the fact that an unresolved residue is always present in science even after the most successful application of reductionist principles with the corollary that all theories should be taken to be provisional and incomplete.

In my view, this unscientific attitude burdens the Darwinian theory of evolution with a weight it just cannot carry. There is no doubt that the theory of evolution is handsomely supported by the fossil records and has considerable explanatory powers. However there are two areas where I find the current version of evolution theory unconvincing. The first is the assertion that evolution is the sole mechanism that drives matter towards biological development. The second is its incapacity to explain the emergence of mentality.

Physicists tell us that following the big bang the only element in existence was hydrogen, the simplest in the periodic table. It was from these humble beginnings that the remaining ninety odd increasingly complex elements and their vastly more numerous and complex combinations were gradually synthesised as eons passed. This points to the existence of a natural law which is embedded in the nature of atomic physics and provides the potential of "evolution" of more complex elements from simpler ones.

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One could argue that it is this law of striving complexity that drove matter towards the emergence of increasingly complex molecules out of the basic elements followed by the emergence of the building blocks necessary for the appearance of a first self-replicating entity.

The second difficulty I have is related to the spontaneous appearance of information carrying replicating systems and ultimately of what one may call mentality. At the pre-biotic stage of evolution, Darwinian competition cannot, by definition, assist the evolution process. Natural selection requires that primitive life is already there for the process to begin. The assumption is therefore made that “mindless and blind” unguided processes have spontaneously resulted in a self-replicating entity that encodes information, the precursor of the information carrying DNA. This process has been described by some as “evolution of the gaps” to rhyme with “God of the gaps.”

Self-replicating systems encode information and therefore exhibit a quality that transcends inert matter. It is at this stage that another explanation may help. Since ancient times there have been philosophers, scientists and particularly mystics who held that matter and mentality are inextricably mixed. I have the incontrovertible direct experience that my mind is capable of directing the motion of my limbs, i.e. to control god-like “the motion of the atoms,” as Erwin Schrodinger observed. And I know that a drug can affect the state of my mind. This complementary leverage of mind-over-matter and matter-over-mind is an extraordinary fact.

The phenomenon of mentality, highly developed as consciousness in man, is also apparent in primates and in diminishing degree as one travels down the evolutionary tree of the animal kingdom. In high dilution it manifests itself in primitive organisms and the plant kingdom. A bacterium can be said to possess a faint glimmer of mentality expressed in its ability to react intelligently to the environment.

As the gradation of mentality is continuous I can see no justification in stopping its diminution with a discontinuity when prions or ultimately “inorganic matter” is reached. One can postulate that information paths, such as those provided by nerve and synaptic systems, are capable of amplifying mentality and enhancing the richness of experience as they become more complex. The idea that mentality is just a step-wise epiphenomenon of complexity, usually illustrated by the hypothetical example of a computer which, if made large enough, will spontaneously show signs of mentality or consciousness is unproven and in my view absurd.

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## Question 5/24

According to the passage, which of the following can be inferred about “the evolution of the gaps”?

- (a) It is the rational and scientific counterpart of the concept of “God of the gaps.”
- (b) It is an unscientific explanation which scientists use to hide any scientific loopholes in a theory
- (c) It is the proof that the Darwinian theory of competition can’t be utilized to understand the process of evolution
- (d) It is insufficient to provide an explanation for the missing link in the process of evolution

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## Question 6/24

According to the passage, the existence of a natural law:

- (a) makes it difficult for the author to accept the findings of Darwin
- (b) proves that the findings of Darwin are not practically applicable
- (c) adds to the author’s dilemma in accepting the theory of evolution
- (d) was the main reason of the evolution of complex elements from humble beginnings

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## Question 7/24

According to the passage, which of the following is not a reason for the author to find the current version of evolution theory unconvincing?

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- (a) The existence of fossil records
  - (b) The presumption of the absence of mentality in simple matter
  - (c) The elevated status of the principle of Darwinian evolution
  - (d) The possible existence of a natural law
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## Question 8/24

In the context of this passage, which of the following is the best example of an “unscientific attitude”?

- (a) A renowned critic refusing to accept that he was wrong in his evaluation of a movie
  - (b) A renowned batsman refusing to follow the suggestion of the new coach regarding his batting technique
  - (c) A scholar of Theology rejecting the findings of an eminent but atheist scientist
  - (d) A group of researchers refusing to consider data presented by a new scholar
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## PASSAGE 3

Inspired by the work of the humanistic psychologist Erich Fromm, the well-known psychologist Abraham Maslow insisted that the urge for self-actualization is deeply entrenched in the human psyche, but only surfaces once the more basic needs are fulfilled. Once the powerful needs for food, security, love and self-esteem are satisfied, a deep desire for creative expression and self-actualization rises to the surface. ... Towards the end of his life in 1970, Maslow considered putting self-transcendence at its top, above self-actualisation. Beyond the “merely healthy” individual, he suggested, were those who became better human beings for others as well as for themselves. And a key factor in this transition, he suggested, was what he called “peak experience”. By this he meant “rare, exciting, oceanic, deeply moving, exhilarating, elevating experiences that generate an advanced form of perceiving reality”.

The psychologists Paul Piff and Dacher Keltner claim to have found that experiences of awe can lead to significant positive changes in behaviour. They monitored people on white-water rafting trips and visits to groves of giant trees in California and found that, compared to a control group, these people afterwards made more ethical decisions and showed greater generosity and compassion. “Even brief experiences of awe,” they concluded, “lead people to feel less narcissistic and entitled, and more attuned to the common humanity we share.” Piff and Keltner have become firm advocates of what they call “everyday awe”, and encourage people to actively seek it out.

I prefer the term “wonder” to “awe”. For me, awe, even in its everyday clothes, is redolent of something that almost overwhelms us. Wonder, by contrast, is a state in which we remain in possession of our intellectual faculties as well as feel emotionally elevated. It has much in common with awe, but it also overlaps with curiosity. “When experiencing wonder,” writes the scholar Matthew Bevis, “it feels as if we know something without quite being sure of what we know.” Wonder is a state of deep attention in which we feel good and think clearly, and connect to phenomena beyond ourselves.

What makes us wonder changes according to circumstances, age and culture. It may be something as apparently banal as the sounds from a rainstick. It may be the fact that, every second, billions of neutrinos (subatomic particles) from the sun are streaming through your body at almost the speed of light, and do so even at night when the sun is on the other side of the Earth and the neutrinos are passing straight through the Earth first.

Living in wonder does not change the fact that we fail, suffer and die. But it can help us to take a benign stance towards what the philosopher Roberto Unger calls the root human experience of groundlessness, which he describes as “astonishment that we exist, that the world exists, and that the world and our situation in it are the way they are rather than another way”. In doing so, we may feel a sense of renewal and act with greater care.

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## Question 9/24

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Who among the following is most probably not a psychologist?

- (a) Paul Piff
  - (b) Abraham Maslow
  - (c) Roberto Unger
  - (d) Erich Fromm
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## Question 10/24

Which of the following statements regarding self-actualization is definitely true, according to Maslow?

- (a) The desire for self-actualization is deeply entrenched in the human psyche and can surface any time.
  - (b) Self-actualization is said to have been achieved if all the basic needs are satisfied.
  - (c) Self-actualization should be given preference over self-transcendence.
  - (d) One will not pursue self-actualization unless one's basic needs are fulfilled.
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## Question 11/24

According to the author, which of the following is a reason as to why people should actively seek out “everyday awe”?

- (a) People who experience awe tend to make more ethical decisions than others.
  - (b) People who experience awe are not narcissistic and entitled.
  - (c) People who do not experience awe cannot show generosity or compassion.
  - (d) People who do not experience awe are not attuned to the common humanity we share.
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## Question 12/24

Which of the following statements can be inferred from the findings of Piff and Keltner?

- (a) Individuals do not consider all their needs to be equally important and there is a specific hierarchy of needs for each individual.
  - (b) Individuals experiencing awe tend to become better human beings for both themselves as well as others.
  - (c) It is not necessary that people experiencing awe will experience wonder as well.
  - (d) The sounds of a rainstick does not have any impact on us.
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## Passage 4

“HOW the human got his brain” is probably the most important “Just So” story that Rudyard Kipling never wrote. Kipling did not ignore people in his quirky take on evolution. Two of his tales describe the invention of the alphabet and the invention of letter-writing. But he took for granted the human brains behind these inventions...

This week, though, sees the publication of a study which concerns a version of a gene called **NOTCH2**, known to be involved in embryonic development. It points to an event in the past which changed the activity of this gene in the evolutionary line that leads to modern people. And it is supported by experiments which suggest that the change in question is crucial to the emergence of the big brains which distinguish human beings from all other living animal species.

Dr. Haussler, a bioinformatician at the University of California, Santa Cruz, stumbled on his discovery while comparing the development of the brain's cortex in human beings and in macaques, a type of monkey. He found in humans what appeared to be several previously undiscovered versions of NOTCH2, alongside the established one. The new genes (**NOTCH2NLS**) were absent in macaques and – as a search of genetic databases showed – in all other living animals



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except chimpanzees and gorillas. In these two great apes, there were two NOTCH2NL genes, but they seemed to be inactive.

The difference between apes and humans is that in the human line one of these NOTCH2NLs has now become active, and has multiplied to create three versions, known as A, B and C. Crucially, this A, B, C pattern is replicated in the DNA of two extinct species of human, **Neanderthals** and **Denisovans**. By looking at minor differences between the various NOTCH-related genes in the three human species and the two great apes, Dr. Haussler was able to estimate when the active NOTCH2NL arose: 3m–4m years ago. That is when, according to the fossil record, the craniums of mankind's ancestors started expanding.

To follow up this discovery, Dr. Haussler created what are known as organoids (specifically, **brainoids**), which are in vitro replicas of developing brains, made in this case using mouse cells. He used these to test the effects of adding or deleting his newly discovered genes. In the absence of NOTCH2NL, the organoids developed normally. With it added, stem cells in the organoid which would otherwise have generated new neurons divided instead to create more stem cells. The result, when those stem cells did eventually turn into neurons, was more neurons than normal, and thus a bigger organoid. In effect, NOTCH2NL had generated a larger brain.

This study suggests that NOTCH2NL has played a crucial role in the tale of “How the human got his brain”. It does not, however, answer the question of why this happened. ... Tool-making is one possible explanation for big brains. A more intriguing theory is that human brains are the equivalent of brightly coloured plumage in birds, permitting the sexes to show off to each other what good mates they would make. ... These ideas are not, of course, mutually exclusive. Any or all of them may be correct. Whether humans are big-brained enough to complete the missing “Just So” story remains to be seen.

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## Question 13/24

**Which of the following summarizes the feature(s) of the NOTCH2NLs genes as can be inferred from Dr Haussler's initial discovery mentioned in the passage?**

- (a) The NOTCH2NLs genes, implicated in embryonic development and the emergence of big brains in humans, are inactive in macaques but are active in humans, chimpanzees and gorillas. The human variants of the genes are also found in two extinct species of human, Neanderthals and Denisovans.
- (b) The NOTCH2NLs genes, implicated in embryonic development and the emergence of big brains in humans, are active in humans, chimpanzees and gorillas, and were active in Neanderthals and Denisovans but they are absent in macaques and most other living organisms.
- (c) The NOTCH2NLs genes, implicated in embryonic development and the emergence of big brains in humans, are absent in macaques and most other living organisms, but there are two such inactive genes in chimpanzees and gorillas. One of these two genes has become active in humans, and has multiplied to create three versions; these are also exhibited in two extinct species of humans.
- (d) The NOTCH2NLs genes are absent in macaques and most other living species, there are two variants, albeit inactive, in the two great apes – chimpanzees and gorillas. In humans and extinct species of human – Neanderthals and Denisovans – both the inactive genes have become active, and have multiplied to create three versions, known as A, B and C.

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## Question 14/24

**Which of the following best explains the influence of NOTCH2NLs on stem cells in the brainoids created by Dr Haussler as a follow-up to his initial discovery?**

- (a) NOTCH2NLs encourage stem cells in the brainoids to engender many others that turn into neurons, increasing the total number of neurons generated and hence resulting in a larger brain.
- (b) NOTCH2NLs encourage the normal development of the organoids at a faster rate.

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- (c) NOTCH2NLs result in a large brain mass when stem cells in the brainoids morph into glial cells.
- (d) NOTCH2NLs are involved in the expansion of human and mouse brains, as evident from the discovery that stem cells in the brainoids multiplied to form new neurons and the neurons further divide into stem cells in a cyclic and exponential process.
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## Question 15/24

All of the following, if true, will corroborate the secondary finding (regarding stem cells) of Dr Haussler's research EXCEPT?

- (a) Another scientist introduced the NOTCH2NL genes isolated from mouse cells into mouse embryos and found that the number of stem cells in the embryos' brains was thereby increased.
- (b) Stem cells taken from human fetuses were found to proliferate, in vitro, without turning into neurons themselves, but increasing the total number of neurons generated.
- (c) Magnetic resonance scans and anatomical evidence have shown that the physical features of the hippocampus of the brains of humans are distinct from those of the great apes.
- (d) None of the above
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## Question 16/24

What is the most likely purpose of the author's literary allusion in the first paragraph and the last paragraph of the passage?

- (a) To suggest that, though Rudyard Kipling did not discuss the evolution of the human brain, he didn't need to; that story is implicit in his stories of human ideas and inventions.
- (b) To introduce a "Just So" story that we have found an answer to and to point to another "Just So" story for the same context that we are yet to find an answer to.
- (c) To project an opinion about human ingenuity that is shown to be controversial.
- (d) To argue that there are important "Just So" stories that Rudyard Kipling has not written.
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## Question 17/24

The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labeled with a number. Choose the proper order.

1. For all the brawling and sorcery, at the play's heart are the lulls in which Macbeth mulls the witches' prophecies and the crimes they incite; in which he decides what kind of man he will be.
  2. On a Saturday afternoon in February, a month before "Macbeth" was to open at the National Theatre in London, its artistic director, Rufus Norris, rehearsed alone with Rory Kinnear.
  3. These are intimate scenes, and finessing their gestures and tempo was intimate work, like a clinch between prizefighter and trainer.
  4. The session's aim, said Mr Norris, was to find an approach to Shakespeare's soliloquies that fitted the Olivier Theatre, the National's biggest.
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## Question 18/24

Read each of the paragraphs and answer the question given below them.

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Housework, gardening or ambling around the golf course are not enough to stay fit and people must work up sweat if they want to avoid an early death, a new study suggests. Taking part in vigorous exercise for at least 45 minutes a week is essential for health and guidelines should be changed to help people realise they must work harder, say researchers. The government's Change4Life campaign advises people that housework, washing the car or taking the dog for a walk can be beneficial for health. But unless those activities are combined with more intense work outs, they are unlikely to ward off illnesses like heart disease or diabetes. Likewise gentle swimming, social tennis or household chores are not beneficial unless they are coupled with more strenuous exercise.

**Which of the following statements can be inferred from the above passage?**

- (a) Regular gentle exercise is better than infrequent vigorous exercise.
- (b) Vigorous exercise is sufficient to ward off heart diseases and diabetes.
- (c) Activities like washing the car, social tennis or household chores are not beneficial to one's health.
- (d) Gentle exercise becomes more effective in improving health when combined with intense exercise.

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## Question 19/24

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. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

- 1. The concurrent rise of fascist governments in Europe led to a fear of a German nuclear weapon project, especially among scientists who were refugees from Nazi Germany and other fascist countries.
- 2. Trinity was the code name of the first detonation of a nuclear weapon, conducted by the United States Army on July 16, 1945; the code name "Trinity" was assigned by J. Robert Oppenheimer, the director of the Los Alamos Laboratory, after a poem by John Donne.
- 3. When their calculations showed that nuclear weapons were theoretically feasible, the British and United States governments supported an all-out effort to build them.
- 4. The creation of nuclear weapons arose from scientific and political developments of the 1930s.
- 5. During this period, many new discoveries about the nature of atoms, including the existence of nuclear fission were made.

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## Question 20/24

Read each of the paragraphs and answer the question given below them.

Making LED light bulbs give off less blue light might help protect people from insect-borne diseases, according to a scientist who specializes in the environmental effects of artificial light. The scientist, Travis Longcore, a professor of spatial sciences at the University of Southern California, is working with Royal Philips, a Dutch electronics company, to develop bulbs less attractive to insects. He took experimental Philips LED bulbs whose mix of red, blue, green and white could be "tuned" and tested them against off-the-shelf LEDs and compact fluorescent bulbs – all suspended at night over traps of soapy water in the Santa Monica Mountains. Mosquitoes, sand-flies and the kissing bugs that transmit malaria, leishmaniasis, Chagas and other diseases are attracted to the blue wavelengths of the oldest and cheapest LED bulbs, which were created by putting a phosphor coating on a blue diode, Dr. Longcore said.

**Which of the following statements, if true, most supports the conclusion made by Dr. Longcore regarding the attractiveness of blue lights to insects?**

- (a) Insects are most active in day light and blue light is the closest to mimicking day light.
- (b) Insects are attracted to blue light more than lights of other colours but in the absence of blue light they will be attracted to lights of other colours.
- (c) The attractiveness of different wavelengths of light to insects is dependent on other factors like temperature.



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(d) Insects that transmit diseases like malaria, leishmaniasis, Chagas are the most active during day time when little artificial light is required.

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## Question 21/24

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

1. If the value you put on human beings sinks low enough, you stand a fair chance of establishing universal peace and prosperity.
  2. It's only when you start packing out the shopping basket with luxury goods such as freedom and dignity and the right to self-determination that you price poor folks out of the market.
  3. Bring those values down, and everyone can afford to be happy.
  4. It makes sense once you have seen it for yourself; if you have never seen it, of course, it must sound barbaric.
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## Question 22/24

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

1. But microorganisms were not domesticated until very recently, primarily because man did not know of their existence.
  2. By the year 2020, if the pressure for food continues to intensify, biologists will be growing microorganisms for use as animal feed and, eventually, human food.
  3. Our ancestors domesticated various plant and animal species in the prehistoric past.
  4. Today he does, and they are already used in the large-scale production of vitamins, enzymes, antibiotics, citric acid and other useful compounds.
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## Question 23/24

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. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. Zakynthos is a cultural beacon in the middle of the Ionian sea.
  2. It is only fitting, then, that the first music school to be established in Greece was here, in 1815.
  3. You can say music flows in their veins.
  4. Zakynthos has a long and rich musical tradition.
  5. Their penchant for music can be traced to ancient times when the god of music Apollo cherished the island.
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## Question 24/24

Read each of the paragraphs and answer the question given below them.

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The overwhelming hum from nearby traffic is often annoying, but it could also be making individuals more obese, according to new research from Sweden. Researchers said they found that residents of Stockholm exposed regularly to noise from trains, aircraft or road traffic, all experienced growth in their respective waistlines. For individuals that were unlucky enough to have been consistently exposed to all three categories, the risk of a larger waist doubled from the 25% heightened risk among people exposed to only one noise source. The research team was unable to draw a conclusive link between noise pollution and obesity but suggested that the increase of stress caused by audible irritants may be a possible culprit. "Traffic noise may influence metabolic and cardiovascular functions through sleep disturbances and chronic stress," said Andrei Pyko, lead author of the study at Sweden's Karolinska Institute.

**Considering the information presented in the paragraph to be accurate, it can be concluded that**

- (a) individuals with larger waistlines most likely would have been consistently exposed to noise from trains, aircraft or road traffic.
  - (b) the noise pollution increases the stress levels among individuals which will most likely result in an increase in their weight.
  - (c) a decrease in the exposure to noise irritants from traffic would most likely result in a decrease in weight of individuals suffering such exposure.
  - (d) the correlation between the increase in weight among individuals and their exposure to noise pollution can be a coincidence.
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## Answer Key

1. (c) 3
2. (d) 4
3. (c) 3
4. (a) DABC
5. (b) BDAC
6. (c) ADBC
7. (d) CBAD
8. (c) ACBD
9. (b) BADC
10. (c) The book could not find a publisher despite the fact that it was authored by a celebrated writer
11. (a) More than one publisher turned down the book
12. (d) Publishers feared that the book would not be appreciated by readers
13. (b) The novel talks about a morally challenging subject
14. (a) ABCD
15. (b) 3
16. (b) C
17. (d) To accept the reality that holes exist and should be studied in their own right
18. (d) Gentle exercise becomes more effective in improving health when combined with intense exercise
19. 2
20. (a) Insects are most active in day light and blue light is the closest to mimicking day light
21. 1324
22. 3142
23. 1
24. (b) the noise pollution increases the stress levels among individuals which will most likely result in an increase in their weight