Mock Test 6

Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension VARC Set-6

Question 1/24

Five jumbled up sentences, related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the **odd one out** and key in the number of the sentence as your answer:

1. There is a dark side to academic research, especially in India, and at its centre is the phenomenon of predatory journals.
2. But in truth, as long as you pay, you can get anything published.
3. In look and feel thus, they are exactly like any reputed journal.
4. They claim to be indexed in the most influential databases, say they possess editorial boards that comprise top scientists and researchers, and claim to have a rigorous peer-review structure.
5. But a large section of researchers and scientists across the world are at the receiving end of nothing short of an academic publishing scam.

Question 2/24

The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that **best captures the author's position**.

To romance of the future may seem to be indulgence in ungoverned speculation for the sake of the marvelous. Yet controlled imagination in this sphere can be a very valuable exercise for minds bewildered about the present and its potentialities. Today we should welcome, and even study, every serious attempt to envisage the future of our race; not merely in order to grasp the very diverse and often tragic possibilities that confront us, but also that we may familiarize ourselves with the certainty that many of our most cherished ideals would seem puerile to more developed minds. To romance of the far future, then, is to attempt to see the human race in its cosmic setting, and to mould our hearts to entertain new values.

Options:
(a) The imaginative construction of possible future events can be potent if our imagination is disciplined and if our mind accepts that our ideals may appear silly to the developed minds.
(b) The imaginative construction of possible future events, if properly blockaded by our mind, is valuable for the present as it would help us not to go beyond the bounds of possibility.
(c) The imaginative construction of possible future events is marvelous to those for whom prophecy is the most productive and fruitful as they know how to control the limits of their imagination.
(d) The imaginative construction of possible future events becomes a futile practice for those who do not limit the strength of their imagination, but simply accept that their ideals are an object of mockery for the most developed minds.

Question 3/24

The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that **best captures the author's position**.

In science, good definitions are of vital importance. However, it is sometimes difficult to clearly describe the focal construct in a limited number of necessary or sufficient elements. When concepts have fuzzy boundaries, prototype analysis comes in handy. In contrast to traditional dictionary definitions that identify a set of boundary conditions for a

construct, a prototype analysis does not assume that all elements that are important for a construct are present at all times. Instead, it identifies a set of features that people see as representative to that construct.

Options:
(a) As against dictionary definitions, a prototype analysis can provide us many insights because it gives us important and crucial information about the construct under investigation.
(b) As against dictionary definitions, a prototype analysis should be preferred, for it provides just the necessary characteristic features of the construct under investigation.
(c) As against dictionary definitions, with prototype approach one can list those characteristics that are important to describe the construct under investigation.
(d) As against dictionary definitions, with prototype approach one can fruitfully conceptualize many fuzzy concepts.

Question 4/24

There is a sentence missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide in which blank (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: *There was just one problem.*

Paragraph:
(1)Torbjørn Pedersen has always dreamed of being a famous adventurer.
(2) He spent his childhood building dens in the woods, pretending to be his hero, Indiana Jones. Even as an adult, he couldn't shake the sense that he was destined for greatness.
(3) "I was born at least 100 years too late," he tells me over a video call from his home in Copenhagen.
(4) "I had a profound feeling that everything had been done. The great adventures took place in the past. It was all over."

Question 5/24

There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide in which blank (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: *But this is not a passive or aesthetic attention; it is a hungry attention, reaching out into its surroundings like fingers, or nerves.*

Paragraph:
Walking with a loaded rifle in an unfamiliar forest bristling with the signs of your prey is thrilling. It embarrasses me to write that, but it is true. I am not by nature much of a noticer, yet here, now, my attention to everything around me, and deafness to everything else, is complete. Nothing in my experience has prepared me for the quality of this attention.
(1) I notice how the day's first breezes comb the needles in the pines, producing a sotto voce whistle and an undulation in the pattern of light and shadow tattooing the tree trunks and the ground.
(2) I notice the specific density of the air.
(3) My eyes venture deep into thickets my body could never penetrate, picking their way among the tangled branches, sliding over rocks and around stumps to bring back the slenderest hint of movement.
(4) In the places too deeply shadowed to admit my eyes, my ears roam at will, returning with the report of a branch cracking at the bottom of a ravine, or the snuffling of a... wait: what was that? Just a bird.

Question 6/24

Mock Test 6

There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide in which blank (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: *Indeed, absent a significant adjustment to how billions of humans conduct their lives, parts of the Earth will likely become close to uninhabitable, and other parts horrifically inhospitable, as soon as the end of this century.*

Paragraph:
(1) It is, I promise, worse than you think.
(2) If your anxiety about global warming is dominated by fears of sea-level rise, you are barely scratching the surface of what terrors are possible, even within the lifetime of a teenager today.
(3) And yet the swelling seas — and the cities they will drown — have so dominated the picture of global warming, and so overwhelmed our capacity for climate panic, that they have occluded our perception of other threats, many much closer at hand.

(4) Rising oceans are bad, in fact very bad; but fleeing the coastline will not be enough.

Question 7/24

In the question below, rearrange the given set of statements and type in the right sequence as your answer.

1. New brain-machine interfaces will improve our memory and cognition, extend our senses, and confer direct control over an array of semi-intelligent gadgets.
2. Genetic and epigenetic modification will allow us to change our physical appearance and capabilities, as well as to tweak some of the more intangible aspects of our being such as emotion, creativity or sociability.
3. Within the lifetimes of most children today, bio-enhancement is likely to become a basic feature of human society.
4. Personalized pharmaceuticals will enable us to modify our bodies and minds in powerful and precise ways, with far fewer side-effects than today's drugs.

Passage 1

EXTRACT 1

Gender is a large part of our identity that is often defined by our psychological difference as men and women. There is no scrap of evidence for a physical difference between brains of men and women. But men and women do not behave in the same ways. Men rarely share their feelings, are more aggressive and prefer detective stories and science. Women are more emotional, sensitive to pain and like poetry and history. Next, there is evidence of intelligence test results. Women do better in verbally biased items in tests, and men in numerical, diagrammatic items and in occupations requiring good visio-spatial ability. The male-science/female-arts split (seen in schools), may, as A. Heim suggests, be a congenital difference rather than a social artifact but it is hard to tell as long as society continues to treat women as intellectually inferior to men. This male-female difference might really be due to culture. In Russia, where women have more equal opportunities, about a third of engineers and lawyers and two-thirds of lecturers are women. … When applied to individuals these laws sometimes break down because they only apply to the average part of the curve for genetic variation. Some women seem to develop a rather masculine temperament and some men are the reverse of 'what is expected.' But this is part of the range of variation which makes sexuality lie on a continuum. … So a sound general principle could be applied to the intelligence of the sexes with advantage: equal but possibly different. But let Samuel Johnson have the last word. When asked which are more intelligent, men or women, he replied, "Which man, Sir, which woman?"

Mock Test 6

EXTRACT 2

Sex differences are true in neurological terms – how the brain is wired up to create them – and wiring differences underlie some of the variations in male and female cognitive skills. Neurology has been revolutionised by many techniques that can scan living brains. The technique of choice for Ragini Verma (University of Pennsylvania) is diffusion tensor imaging. This follows water molecules around the brain. Because the fibres that connect nerve cells have fatty sheaths, the water in them can diffuse only along a fibre, not through the sheath. _____ The "thinking" cerebrum and "acting" cerebellum of the brain are each divided into right and left hemispheres. The dominant connections in the cerebrum are within hemispheres in men and between hemispheres in women. In the cerebellum, it is the other way around. The left and right sides of the cerebrum are specialised for logical and intuitive thought respectively. Linguistic skills and perception of visual/spatial relationships are lateralized in the left and right hemispheres respectively. Beneficial collaboration between hemispheres in women means better memories, social adeptness and multitasking ability. In men, within-hemisphere links let them focus on things that do not need complex inputs from both hemispheres. Hence the monomania. In case of the cerebellum, extra cross-links between hemispheres in men serve to co-ordinate the activity of the whole sub-organ. Each half controls only one half of the body. Men have better motor abilities. Dr. Verma found that irrespective of gender, when learning occurs, neurochemical communication between neurons is facilitated. In early learning stages, neural circuits are activated piecemeal and weakly, but less input is required to activate established connections over time. The flow of neural activity is not unidirectional, from simple to complex; it also goes from complex to simple. Higher order neural circuits, spanning hemispheres, that are activated by contextual information associated with the word 'cat' can prime the lower order circuit associated with the sound 'cat', so the word 'cat' can be retrieved with little direct input. Complex circuits can be activated at the same time as simple circuits as the brain receives input from multiple external sources – auditory, visual, spatial.

Question 8/24

With reference to Extract 2 of the passage, which of the following does **not describe** the cognitive or structural characteristics of the male brain?

Options:
(a) Men have better motor abilities than women, and more monomaniacal patterns of thought.
(b) The male brain is better at using any one hemisphere of the cerebrum to accomplish specific tasks.
(c) Men are able to focus on narrow issues and block out unrelated information and distractions.
(d) In men, the dominant connections in the cerebellum are within hemispheres.

Question 9/24

According to Extract 1, it is difficult to accept A. Heim's view on gender difference with regard to intelligence because

Options:
(a) of our preconceived notions.
(b) of societal practices and conventional mindsets.
(c) the laws on genetic variations do not seem to work on some men and women.
(d) of research findings which have suggested otherwise.

Question 10/24

All of the following statements can be understood to be logically consistent with Extract 2 of the passage **EXCEPT**:

Options:
(a) Extract 2 is similar to Extract 1 in primarily addressing the question: In what ways do the brains of men and women differ?
(b) As connections are formed among adjacent neurons to form circuits, connections also begin to form with neurons in other regions of the brain, both in the left and right hemispheres.
(c) For a kindergarten student, learning will involve weak activation of neural circuits.
(d) The auditory circuit in the brain for the word 'horse' and the visual circuit associated with the sight of a horse are activated in quick sequence.

Question 11/24

At the end of Extract 1, the author

Options:
(a) strikes a diplomatic note, subscribing to the view that we can't make generalized statements relating intelligence to gender.
(b) adopts a non-committal stance and implies that subjectivity plays a role in assessing intelligence.
(c) supports an objective view that intelligence is gender specific.
(d) presents an enigmatic opinion, reiterating that intelligent men and women are a rare species.

Passage 2:

The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

Earth is in the midst of its sixth mass extinction: Somewhere between 30 and 159 species disappear every day, thanks largely to human... These rates do not bode well for the future of life on our planet, but what if extinction wasn't permanent? What if we could resurrect some of the species we've lost? The two animals at the forefront of this discussion are the woolly mammoth, a hairy, close relative of the elephant that lived in the Arctic, and the passenger pigeon, a small, gray bird with a pinkish red breast once extremely common in North America. There are three main approaches to de-extinction scientists talk about. The first, called back-breeding, involves finding living species that have traits similar to the extinct species. Then scientists would selectively breed these animals to try to make a version that more closely resembles the extinct animal – a process already underway for some extinct species like aurochs. This isn't really a true de-extinction, but it might still let us fill in missing ecological functions. A second option is cloning. Scientists would take a preserved cell from a recently extinct animal (ideally before the last of its kind died) and extract the nucleus. They would then swap this nucleus into an egg cell from the animal's closest living relative and implant the egg into a surrogate host. (Researchers actually did this in 2007, and a common goat gave birth to an extinct species, the Pyrenean ibex. The infant lived only 7 minutes however, because of genetic problems with its lungs.) Cloning may eventually give us basically identical genetic copies of extinct species, but we'll be restricted to animals that went extinct more recently. The mammoth and the passenger pigeon may never be cloned.The newest option is genetic engineering. Here, researchers would line up the genome of an extinct animal with that of its closest living relative. They would then use CRISPR and other gene-editing tools to swap relevant genes from the extinct animal into the living species and implant the hybrid genome into a surrogate (or grow it in an artificial womb). This approach doesn't produce genetically identical copies of extinct animals, but rather modern versions of an animal engineered to look and behave like its extinct relatives. This is the technology being used by the mammoth and passenger pigeon groups.

Question 12/24

Which of the following questions is answered in the passage?

Options:

(a) Should we bring extinct species back?
(b) How do you de-extinct an animal?
(c) Which species should we revive if we want to do the most good for our planet's ecosystems?
(d) How close are we to winning the game of de-extinction?

Question 13/24

Which of the following choices can be inferred to be false from the passage?

Options:

(a) Back-breeding and genetic engineering can result in an animal that closely resembles the extinct animal.
(b) The mammoth and the passenger pigeon may never be cloned because they went extinct a very long time ago.
(c) While the Pyrenean ibex has been developed from the animal's closest living relative, the common goat, the cloning technique isn't true de-extinction.
(d) The genetic engineering technique has been attempted to resurrect the mammoth and the passenger pigeon while back-breeding has been employed for extinct species like aurochs.

Question 14/24

Consider the statements given below as true: "Humans killed off a lot of species over the last 10,000 years. Some resurrection is in order. A bit of redemption might come with it."
Which of the following would concur with the above ideas and the passage as a whole?

Options:

(a) De-extinction is similar to remembering the Holocaust – our future generations will learn to preserve species.
(b) De-extinction is just the next step in a progression that conservation has already been on.
(c) Taking the closest living species one can get and adapting it based on the genome of the extinct species will help mankind earn its lost reputability and will restore the ecological function of an extinct species.
(d) Humankind could do well to countermand some of its past sins by deciding to revive some of the extinct species.

Passage 3:

The passage given below is accompanied by a set of three questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

In his landmark 1969 book, Sciences of the Artificial, Nobel Laureate Herbert Simon wrote: "Natural science is knowledge about natural objects and phenomena. We ask whether there cannot also be 'artificial' science – knowledge about artificial objects and phenomena." In line with Simon's vision, we advocate the need for a new, distinct scientific discipline of Machine Behaviour: the scientific study of behaviour exhibited by intelligent machines. This new discipline is concerned with the scientific study of machines, not as engineering artefacts, but as a new class of actors with their unique behavioural patterns and ecology. Crucially, this field overlaps with, but is distinct from computer science and robotics, as it treats machine behaviour observationally and experimentally, without necessarily appealing to the machine's internal mechanisms. Machine Behaviour is akin to how the fields of animal behaviour – also known as ethology – and behavioural ecology study the behaviour of animals without necessarily focusing on physiology or biochemistry. Our definition of the new field of Machine Behaviour comes with some caveats. Studying machine behaviour does not imply

that AI algorithms have agency – in the sense that they are socially responsible for their actions. If someone's dog bites a bystander, it is the owner of the dog who is held responsible. Nonetheless, it is useful to study – and therefore effectively predict – dog behaviour. Similarly, machines are embedded in a larger socio-technical fabric, with human stakeholders who are responsible for deploying them, and for the harm they may cause to others. A second caveat is that machines exhibit behaviours that are fundamentally different from animals and humans, so we must avoid any tendency to excessively anthropomorphize or zoomorphize machines. Even if borrowing scientific methods from the study of human and animal behaviour may prove useful for the study of machines, machines may exhibit forms of intelligence and behavioural patterns that are qualitatively different – even alien.

Question 15/24

Which of the following is an inference that can be drawn from the passage?

Options:

(a) Studying computer science and robotics involves an observational and experimental understanding of the internal mechanisms of a machine.
(b) Robotics and computer science differ from machine behaviour study in that they disregard the internal mechanisms of a machine.
(c) Studying machine behaviour doesn't involve understanding the internal mechanisms of a machine.
(d) Robotics and computer science involve study of machines as engineering artefacts.

Question 16/24

Which of the following best describes the author's approach in presenting his ideas regarding Machine Behaviour?

Options:

(a) He analyses various scientific aspects of Machine Behaviour.
(b) He introspects the implications of Machine Behaviour from an ethical perspective.
(c) He objectively assesses the pros and cons of defining the field of Machine Behaviour.
(d) He offers a reasoned endorsement of the idea of studying Machine Behaviour.

Question 17/24

The study of machine behaviour will definitely involve study of which of the following according to the passage?

Options:

(a) The qualitative differences between machine behaviour and human and animal behaviours
(b) The uniqueness of machine behavioural patterns
(c) The application of observational and experimental study of machine behaviour.
(d) Scientific methods which can help relate machine behaviour to human and animal behaviours.

Passage 4:

The passage given below is accompanied by a set of four questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

The decisions the IMF and World Bank make – or don't make – about Somalia matter. … Both institutions are keen to demonstrate that they are now truly progressive and dedicated to the elimination of poverty and tackling inequality.

Mock Test 6

Somalia is a good test of whether the grand plans and the lofty rhetoric actually amount to anything, because this is a country that needs help – and it needs it now. Somalia narrowly averted a famine earlier this year thanks to an impressive humanitarian effort. The World Bank was part of the effort, because it managed to persuade its board to provide $50m (£37m) through the crisis response window of the International Development Association (IDA), the division of the bank that provides grants and soft loans to the world's poorest countries. But the drought and near-famine have left Somalia's already weak economy in a parlous state. The World Bank has pledged to make a priority of helping fragile and conflict states...

Question 18/24

Which of the following actions cannot confirm whether 'the lofty rhetoric actually amounts to something'?

Options:

(a) Bringing forward Somalia's decision point and writing off its arrears.
(b) The USA writing off the Somalian debt as a sign of goodwill.
(c) Allocating a pre-arrears clearance grant to Somalia as reward for the reforms undertaken by the country so far.
(d) Fast-tracking Somalia through the debt relief process as in the case of Liberia.

Question 19/24

Which of the following explains why the author called the World Bank and the IMF's approach fundamentally daft?

Options:

(a) HIPC is unhappy with the current government in Somalia and is hence, reluctant to provide debt relief.
(b) Somalia may not be able to establish a longer track record of reform required to receive debt relief without help.
(c) Somalia may not be able to establish a longer track record of reform required to receive debt relief without help.
(d) The safety-first approach is guaranteed not to cause any problems for the World Bank president and the IMF's managing director with their executive boards.

Question 20/24

The central idea of this passage is:

Options:

(a) Somalia is in dire straits while the World Bank and the IMF are sitting on their hands doing nothing.
(b) Somalia's present condition is largely because of the lack of good decision-making on the part of international organisations like the World Bank and the IMF.
(c) While the rest of the world including the World Bank and the IMF want to rescue Somalia, they are too scared to confront the US.
(d) Somalia's attempts at reform can be positively influenced if the IMF and the World Bank choose to act despite US resistance.

Question 21/24

Which of the following, if true, **cannot** serve as a reason for Somalia not benefitting from HIPC?

Options:

(a) The country has been tormented by never-ending civil wars amongst multiple ethnicities.
(b) No government has been stable in Somalia until recently, with constant military coups.
(c) Somalia has an ungovernable mountain of debt that needs to be repaid.
(d) Somalia hasn't had a peaceful climate in three decades.

Question 22/24

Five sentences related to a topic are given in the question 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. Whether it was to explore the light-quantum hypothesis or to look at scattering of a gas, it seems as though radiation was never too far from his mind.
2. The refractive index of a gas depends on its density, something formally known as the Gladstone-Dale law.
3. Smoluchowski had some experiments to back him up: Richard Avenarius had shown, in 1874, that there was a strong scattering by a gas close to its critical point and he named this phenomenon 'critical opalescence'.
4. Smolan Smoluchowski thought that density fluctuations caused fluctuations in the refractive index of the gas, so, at the critical point, there would be huge scattering of light by the gas.
5. John Tyndall, in 1869, had similarly suggested that water droplets in the atmosphere scatter light, causing the colour of the sky to be blue; and dust particles also scatter light, causing the trail of smoke from a cigarette to be blue and the sunsets in polluted skies, a glorious red.

Question 23/24

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. The tradition, however, reaches far beyond a single ship running aground and reminds all naval officers that they cannot ultimately lay blame on others for the consequence of their decisions.
2. At first blush, the "no excuse" rule appears overly harsh since a captain must sleep sometime and novice midshipmen learn by making mistakes.
3. When caught in such an error, he must respond with "No excuse, sir!", even though a good excuse might well justify the mistake.
4. The Navy traditionally removes a ship captain from command if his vessel runs aground, even if the grounding occurs while the captain has temporarily left the bridge and a subordinate officer has assumed command of the helm.

Question 24/24

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. However, the high prevalence of dementia in the elderly can overshadow the importance of its occurrence in younger patients.

2. But it can also provide important biological insights that might also be applicable to the more common presentation in older patients.
3. Young-onset dementia can present a substantial diagnostic challenge.
4. Dementia is a major public health concern that is a growing burden owing to an ageing society.

Mock Test 6

Answer Key

1. 3

2. (b) 1440 days

3. 3600

4. 5

5. (d) 2

6. (c) 6 : 11

7. (d) 25%

8. 90

9. 4

10. (a) 25%

11. (d) 256

12. 2

13. 117

14. (c) 30

15. 4.24

16. (d) -41

17. (b) 4

18. (c) 6

19. (b) 000

20. 12

21. (c) 7

22. (b) 50%

23. 4321

24. 4132