

Mock Test 7

Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension VARC Set-7

Total Questions: 6

Instructions: Read the given passage/sentence and answer the questions that follow. Choose the best option among the four given.

Question 1

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: *This is new terrain in which everyone carries a monitoring device and in which everyone must learn to live with contamination.*

Paragraph:

A new reality was emerging. (1) Farmers were learning to accept that life in Fukushima would never be the same. Small details are constant reminders of that transformation, like the taste of mushrooms, or the library in Tanizaki's home, which is now filled with books on radioactive contamination and food safety. (2) Farmers are learning to form new relationships to their irradiated environment. Contamination may appear to have divided Fukushima's farmers, but it has also united them in strange and unexpected ways. (3) When the evacuees were allowed to return to their homes, government mistrust became widespread. (4) A lack of information from the state made things worse, leading to a growing sense that the government could not provide any real solutions.

Options:

- A. Option 1
 - B. Option 2
 - C. Option 3
 - D. Option 4
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Question 2

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: *Somehow, I have been instrumentalized by the internet, which operates me through my phone.*

Paragraph:

But it wasn't really my phone that was the tool, not beyond the light and the camera. The rest was the Internet—even, if I understand modern telecom correctly, probably the actual phone call... (1) Barely more than a decade later, the internet is not the tool. I am the tool. (2) It often feels like the internet is reading my mind. (3) We all know it's happening. Our collective anxiety about it saturates conversations and protocols and, of course, propagates itself on the internet. (4) You're reading this on the internet, most likely because some news aggregator or social media platform knows you're anxious about news aggregators and the internet and how much time you spend on your phone, and it's pushing that at you, since, as advanced as it is, it doesn't yet do irony.

Options:

- A. Option 1
- B. Option 2
- C. Option 3
- D. Option 4

Passage for Questions 3 to 6

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Coming up with his troops on the banks of the Rubicon, he halted for a while, and, revolving in his mind the importance of the step he was on the point of taking, he turned to those about him and said, "We may still retreat; but if we pass this little bridge, nothing is left for us but to fight it out in arms."

This was a stupendously important moment. And all the incidents, big and little, of Caesar's previous life, had been leading up to it, stage by stage, link by link. This was the last link—merely the last one, and no bigger than the others; but as we gaze back at it through the inflating mists of our imagination, it looks as big as the orbit of Neptune.

You, the reader, have a personal interest in that link, and so have I; so has the rest of the human race. It was one of the links in your life-chain, and it was one of the links in mine. We may wait, now, with bated breath, while Caesar reflects. Your fate and mine are involved in his decision.

While he was thus hesitating, the following incident occurred. A person remarked for his noble mien and graceful aspect appeared close at hand, sitting and playing upon a pipe. When not only the shepherds, but a number of soldiers also, flocked to listen to him, and some trumpeters among them, he snatched a trumpet from one of them, ran to the river with it, and, sounding the advance with a piercing blast, crossed to the other side. Upon this, Caesar exclaimed: "Let us go whither the omens of the gods and the iniquity of our enemies call us. The Die Is Cast."

So he crossed—and changed the future of the whole human race, for all time. But that stranger was a link in Caesar's life-chain, too; and a necessary one. We don't know his name, we never hear of him again; he was very casual; he acts like an accident; but he was no accident, he was thereby compulsion of HIS life-chain, to blow the electrifying blast that was to make up Caesar's mind for him, and thence go piping down the aisles of history forever.

Each link is of as much prominence as the one before it and the one after. If the stranger hadn't been there! But he WAS. And Caesar crossed. If the stranger, with his trumpet blast, had stayed away (which he couldn't, for he was an appointed link) Caesar would not have crossed. What would have happened, in that case, we can never guess. We only know that the things that did happen would not have happened. They might have been replaced by equally prodigious things, of course, but their nature and results are beyond our guessing. But the matter that interests me personally is that I would not be here now, but somewhere else. Very well, I am glad he crossed. And very really and thankfully glad, too, though I never cared anything about it before.

Question 3

Through the passage, the author tries to:

Options:

- A. explain the importance of turning points in history in shaping the world the way it is today.
- B. honour the unknown person, who with his valiant step changed the course of history forever.
- C. trace how crossing the Rubicon has an important bearing on many things, including his being.
- D. de-emphasize the importance of all links in the course of an event, not just the last one.

Question 4

Based on the events described in the passage, we can infer that the idiom "*crossing the Rubicon*" means:

Options:

- A. to make an important decision influenced by external factors.
- B. to make a decision that leads to a point of no return.

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- C. to make a decision in the spur of a moment without putting in much thought.
 - D. to make a decision that affects those who are unrelated to the problem.
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Question 5

Which of the following is the reason why Caesar crossed the Rubicon?

Options:

- A. Caesar was forced to cross the Rubicon due to the irrevocability of the stranger's move.
 - B. Caesar was inspired by the valiance of the stranger and decided to tread the same path.
 - C. Caesar considered the stranger's move a divine message to shed his inhibition.
 - D. Caesar thought that the stranger's move reflected the decision of other soldiers.
-

Question 6

Which of the following options best captures the author's views regarding the crossing of the Rubicon?

Options:

- A. The author does not consider the event to be as important as we are made to believe it is.
 - B. The author considers the event to be a stupendously important one since it changed the course of mankind forever.
 - C. The author recognizes the importance of the event but does not consider it more important than the events leading up to it.
 - D. The author considers the events leading up to the situation far more important than the crossing of Rubicon itself.
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Question 7

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.

1. It was recently reported that Nadine Dorries, the UK minister for culture wars, stormed into a meeting with Microsoft and demanded to know when they were going to get rid of "algorithms".
 2. Even if the claims for such technologies are so far overblown, they all represent novel attempts to intrude into what used to be a private mental space.
 3. Researchers in facial-recognition AI systems, for example, claim to be able to read political affiliation from a photograph, social media companies analyse posts for indicators of personality traits; fitness trackers are attempting to move into mood-tracking.
 4. It is not really possible for a software company, since all computer programs are made of algorithms, but the story does reflect an increasing public suspicion of the ways machines are being used to manipulate us.
 5. From facecrime to Facebook, and Orwell's "prolefeed" ("the rubbishy entertainment and spurious news which the Party handed out to the masses") to the Twitter feed, is a worryingly short distance.
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Question 8

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. "I stand and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel...the picture of free, untrammelled womanhood."

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2. Women were especially enthusiastic, discarding their cumbersome Victorian skirts, adopting bloomers and "rational" clothes, and taking to the road in droves.
3. "I think bicycling has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world," Susan B. Anthony said in an interview with the New York Sunday World in 1896.
4. The "people's nag," as the bicycle was known, was not only lightweight, affordable, and easy to maintain, it was also the fastest thing on the roads.
5. The person generally credited with inventing the modern bicycle was an Englishman named John Kemp Starley.

Passage for Questions 9–12

A set of questions accompanies the passage below. Choose the best answer to each question.

After you die, your body's atoms will disperse and find new venues, making their way into oceans, trees and other bodies. But according to the laws of quantum mechanics, all of the information about your body's build and function will prevail. The relations between the atoms, the uncountable particulars that made you 'you', will remain forever preserved, albeit in unrecognisably scrambled form—lost in practice, but immortal in principle.

There is only one apparent exception to this reassuring concept: according to our current physical understanding, information cannot survive an encounter with a black hole. Forty years ago, Stephen Hawking demonstrated that black holes destroy information for good. Whatever falls into a black hole disappears from the rest of the Universe. It eventually reemerges in a wind of particles - 'Hawking radiation' - that leaks away from the event horizon, the black hole's outer physical boundary. In this way, black holes slowly evaporate, but the process erases all knowledge about the black hole's formation. The radiation merely carries data for the total mass, charge and angular momentum of the matter that collapsed; every other detail about anything that fell into the black hole is irretrievably lost.

Hawking's discovery of black-hole evaporation has presented theoretical physicists with a huge conundrum: general relativity says that black holes must destroy information; quantum mechanics says it cannot happen because information must live on eternally. Both general relativity and quantum mechanics are extremely well-tested theories, and yet they refuse to combine. The clash reveals something much more fundamental than a seemingly exotic quirk about black holes: the information paradox makes it aptly clear that physicists still do not understand the fundamental laws of nature.

But Gia Dvali, a professor of physics at the Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich, believes he's found the solution. 'Black holes are quantum computers,' he says. 'We have an explicit information-processing sequence. If he is correct, the paradox is no more, and information truly is immortal. Even more startling, perhaps, is that his concept has practical implications. In the future, we might be able to tap black-hole physics to construct quantum computers of our own.'

The main reason why recovering information from black holes seems impossible is that they are almost featureless spheroids with essentially no physical attributes on their horizons, they have 'no hair', as the late US physicist John Wheeler put it. You cannot store information in something that has no features that could be used to encode it, the standard argument goes. And therein lies the error, Dvali says: 'All these no-hair theorems are wrong. He and his collaborators argue that gravitons the so-far undiscovered quanta that carry gravity and make up space-time stretch throughout the black hole and give rise to 'quantum hair' which allows storing as well as releasing information.'

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The new research builds on a counter-intuitive feature of quantum theory: quantum effects are not necessarily microscopically small. True, those effects are fragile, and are destroyed quickly in warm and busy environments such as those typically found on Earth. This is why we don't normally witness them. This is also the main challenge in building quantum computers, which process information using the quantum states of particles instead of the on-off logic, of traditional transistors.

Question 9

In the context of the passage, the "information paradox" serves to:

- A) demonstrate that the prevailing conflict between general relativity and quantum mechanics originates from our unsound understanding of these subjects.
- B) reveal that existing concepts of general relativity and quantum mechanics are inherently contradictory and may not be as well-tested as previously believed.
- C) highlight that the incongruity between general relativity and quantum mechanics is primarily due to the starkly opposite notions of information preservation.
- D) showcase that the clash between general relativity and quantum mechanics challenges physicists' understanding of the fundamental laws of nature.

Question 10

Based on the information in the passage, which of the following conclusions about Gia Dvali's proposal can be reasonably drawn?

- A) Gia Dvali's proposal is likely to be accepted by the scientific community, given its potential to resolve the information paradox definitively.
- B) The concept of "quantum hair" introduced by Dvali is primarily based on the existence of gravitons and their role in spacetime.
- C) Dvali's proposal posits that black holes are perhaps the only objects in the universe capable of functioning as quantum computers.
- D) If Dvali's "quantum hair" concept is validated, it could lead to practical applications in constructing computers with enhanced capabilities.

Question 11

Which of the following premises/statements must be true for Dvali's proposal in the penultimate paragraph to be valid?

- A) Quantum hair, formed by gravitons within black holes, can encode and retain information in a stable manner over extended periods.
- B) The traditional no-hair theorems, which assert black holes as featureless spheroids, are entirely accurate and can be reconciled with quantum mechanics.
- C) Hawking radiation emitted by black holes contains detailed information about the matter that fell into them, allowing for retrieval of lost information.
- D) Theoretical physicists fully comprehend the fundamental laws of nature, and there are no undiscovered phenomena affecting black hole information.

Question 12

According to the passage, how does Dvali's concept of black holes as quantum computers impact the information paradox?

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- A) It offers a conclusive resolution to the information paradox by proving the existence of "quantum hair" within black holes, thereby ensuring the preservation of information.
- B) It provides evidence supporting the concept of black holes as information repositories, leading to a paradigm shift in our understanding of general relativity and quantum mechanics.
- C) It introduces a theoretical framework that challenges traditional no-hair theorems, proposing the existence of graviton-induced "quantum hair" that preserves information within black holes.
- D) It confirms the existence of Hawking radiation as the primary means through which black holes lose information, reinforcing the information paradox and its impact on modern physics.
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Question 13

Four sentences are given below. These sentences, when rearranged in proper order, form a meaningful paragraph. Rearrange the sentences and enter the correct order as the answer.

1. Private property has crushed true Individualism, and set up an Individualism that is false.
 2. It has debarred the other part of the community from being individual by putting them on the wrong road, and encumbering them.
 3. Indeed, so completely has man's personality been absorbed by his possessions that the English law has always treated offenses against a man's property with far more severity than offenses against his person.
 4. It has debarred one part of the community from being individual by starving them.
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Question 14

Four sentences are given below. These sentences, when rearranged in proper order, form a meaningful paragraph. Rearrange the sentences and enter the correct order as the answer.

1. She and her sisters have white tusks "like pigs" according to Roger Lancelyn Green.
 2. In classical sources, in fact, Medusa is not always monstrous.
 3. But what's certainly true is that she becomes progressively more monstrous in post-classical retellings of her story.
 4. "Beautiful cheeked," is how the poet Pindar describes her in the 5th century.
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Great! Here's **Questions 15–24** formatted into a clean, professional **CAT-style VARC question paper section** — *without answers or explanations*, as you requested. This section includes all necessary passages and is ready for inclusion in your full mock test.

Section: Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension

Questions 15–24

A set of questions accompanies the passage below. Choose the best answer to each question.

Convenience is always expensive for someone. For much of the internet era, the individual buyer hasn't been footing the bill, but slowly, that has begun to change. Now if you don't want to bear the brunt of convenience fees, you might be paying in legwork. For all the promise of online shopping, you could very well end up in a crowded parking lot on a Saturday with your return in hand anyway.

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A little bit more friction in the purchase process can be a good thing. In part, returns rates have become so high because online shopping has been built into a perfect vehicle for overconsumption: Advertising is ubiquitous, unyielding, and tailored based on a multitude of personal data. Our ability to understand what we're buying is poorly suited to the enormous scale of e-commerce. The rough edges of buying things sight unseen have been sanded down to a fine gloss.

But the consumer market is much different from how it was when these policies began to proliferate, in no small part because of their success. Traditional stores-and more than a few entire shopping malls-across the country have closed down, leaving Americans with far fewer options to buy what they need in person. Many types of products or sizes of clothing are now available largely online, and unless you live in a major city, they might not be available near you at all. Some retailers have begun to characterize their charges for returns as a fee for the convenience of having everything delivered to your home. But as long as meaningful in-person alternatives continue to dwindle, shifting more of those costs to the buyer isn't the price of convenience-if nothing else about buying online changes, it simply redistributes the burden of e-commerce's shortcomings to the people who need to buy things online.

Retailers can limit returns by requiring buyers to pay for returns, adhering to shorter return windows, or accepting store credit instead of real refunds. In the best-case scenario, retailers can also clean up their own bad behavior by listing products more carefully or providing people with more detail. However, these issues have much more complicated fixes than just changing the details of a return policy. Listing products is labor- and data-intensive work that's prone to errors, and retailers that rapidly expand their selections or rely on third-party sellers forfeit some of their ability to ensure that what they're selling is presented truthfully. Bad listings beget bad return rates, and so does prioritizing growth over all else.

Free returns are what encourage people to tolerate bad product listings, misleading stock images, poor quality control, and the days-long wait for something they might have once run out to pick up in less than an hour. Remove the no-fee keystone, and the entire facade of convenience might fall. No one likes having to manage their own miniature nonprofit reverse-logistics business out of their home in order to send back all the stuff they bought that didn't live up to their expectations. You'd probably like it even less if you were routinely paying for the privilege. Right now, e-commerce giants seem to be betting that they've killed off enough brick-and-mortar competition that you'll have to do it anyway.

Question 15

"Remove the no-fee keystone, and the entire facade of convenience might fall."

Which of the following most aligns with the above statement from the passage?

- A. Retailers with more accurate product listings have reported lower return rates compared to those with misleading listings.
- B. Most online retailers that introduced a nominal convenience fee for returns experienced slight changes in their sales volume.
- C. Consumers prefer to shop online because of the wider range of products available compared to physical stores.
- D. A recent study found that customers are more likely to buy products online if they know they can return them at no cost.

Question 16

It can be inferred from the third paragraph that the consumer market has changed considerably in all of the following ways EXCEPT:

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- A. Given the proliferation of online shopping, many products now feature mainly on online platforms, limiting the purchasing options of consumers in certain regions.
 - B. Many online retailers have introduced return charges, attributing them to the added convenience of doorstep delivery, effectively passing on the cost burden to buyers.
 - C. The success of online shopping has led to increased operational costs for online retailers compared to brick-and-mortar stores, which are consequently passed on to buyers as convenience fees.
 - D. The closure of numerous traditional stores across the country has significantly reduced the availability of in-person shopping options.
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Question 17

"Bad listings beget bad return rates, and so does prioritizing growth over all else."

Which of the following best expresses the point made by this statement?

- A. For most growth-oriented e-commerce platforms, inaccurate or misleading product listings can lead to high return rates due to a discrepancy between what was advertised and what was received.
 - B. Retailers focus primarily on expanding their product offerings or achieving sales targets without giving enough attention to the accuracy and quality of their listings.
 - C. When retailers fail to provide accurate descriptions, images, or details about their products, it can lead to customers receiving items that do not meet their expectations.
 - D. Retailers' priorities can negatively impact return rates since focusing on growth at the expense of accurate product information could lead to more product returns from dissatisfied customers.
-

Question 18

The author claims that "The rough edges of buying things sight unseen have been sanded down to a fine gloss."

Which one of the following statements best expresses the point being made by the author?

- A. The process of buying items online has become excessively smooth, leading to increased overconsumption and high return rates.
 - B. Targeted advertising has led to a lack of understanding about the products being purchased, resulting in a polished but potentially misleading shopping experience.
 - C. Friction in the purchase process is essential to reduce returns and encourage consumers to make more informed decisions when shopping online.
 - D. The enormous scale of e-commerce has resulted in a decline in the quality of products available for purchase, making it challenging for consumers to buy items without seeing them in person.
-

Passage for Questions 19–22

The internet has fed a huge reservoir of good information, but it has also created an explosion of nonsense—technical-sounding nutrition advice about a new dietary supplement that miraculously stimulates the body to convert fat into muscle, financial jargon pushing dubious investment tips, health guidance that promises a miracle treatment your physician doesn't know about. As my own doctor once told me, his greatest challenge these days is "undoing the handiwork of Dr. Google."

Some of what people see is straight-up fake news—predatory attempts to swindle consumers. But much of the bad advice on the web actually originates in a psychological phenomenon called "the illusion of explanatory depth." Understanding this illusion can make you a better consumer of knowledge, as well as less likely to promote bad information yourself.

In 2002, two psychologists noticed in experiments that when people are first exposed to technical information, they usually overestimate how deeply they understand it. The researchers asked graduate students to read basic descriptions

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of how eight common mechanical items worked: a speedometer, a zipper, a piano key, a flush toilet, a cylinder lock, a helicopter, a quartz watch, and a sewing machine. Then they asked the students to rate their understanding on a 1–7 scale. The average self-rating was about 4.

Next, the researchers asked the participants to re-rate their knowledge after being prompted to explain clearly how the items worked in their own words (without simply parroting what they had heard). The students were also quizzed on the information and had to compare their own understanding with a true expert's. Nearly every participant's self-rating dropped at these stages, with the average falling to as low as about 3 at one point. In other words, the participants initially felt as if they had more expertise than they really did.

The phrase illusion of explanatory depth was what researchers dubbed their finding. The phenomenon is similar to the famous Dunning-Kruger effect, which describes how people with low levels of skill in an activity tend to overrate their competence. One explanation for this is "hypocognition"—that people don't know what they don't know.

We all exhibit this tendency: When you first hear an explanation intended for a layperson of string theory, you aren't aware of the immense quantity of technical scholarship behind the physics, you just feel that you "get it" and experience a surge of intellectual power. But when you yourself have to explain something as complex as the structure of a Bach fugue, or hear an expert in the field actually go deep on such a subject, you realize that you have barely skimmed the surface.

The overconfidence of people laboring under the illusion of explanatory depth can lead to the spread of misinformation. As researchers have shown, when a person's confidence is highest though their actual knowledge is low, they become very believable to others despite not being reliable. And the more inaccurate people are—or perhaps the more they want to believe the validity of their perception—the more they tend to be swayed by their own underinformed overconfidence.

Question 19

In the context of the passage, the author mentions the "explosion of nonsense" in the first paragraph to:

- A. highlight the need for improved digital literacy on account of the psychological phenomenon called "the illusion of explanatory depth."
- B. underscore the drawbacks of unrestricted internet access and its potential to facilitate "predatory attempts to swindle consumers."
- C. illustrate how the "overconfidence of people laboring under the illusion of explanatory depth" often manifests in the form of bad advice on the internet.
- D. explain how a person in today's information-driven society can be "a better consumer of knowledge" and abstain from spreading false information.

Question 20

The author suggests that the overconfidence arising from the illusion of explanatory depth can lead to:

- A. the propagation of inaccurate information and the reinforcement of personal beliefs that impart a false sense of expertise.
- B. a decrease in the overall willingness to evaluate information in more depth, leading to a superficial understanding of topics.
- C. a propensity to not question the depth of one's own understanding, inhibiting the process of knowledge acquisition.
- D. a reluctance to acknowledge gaps in one's understanding, becoming susceptible to misinformation by others.

Question 21

Which analogy best illustrates the concept of the illusion of explanatory depth, as discussed in the passage?

- A. A student who performs poorly on a math test but is confident in their skills.

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- B. A chef who claims to understand molecular gastronomy after watching a cooking show.
 - C. An artist who believes their simple sketches are as intricate as Leonardo da Vinci's work.
 - D. A musician who confidently explains complex music theory but struggles to play a melody.
-

Question 22

All of the following, if true, serve as valid criticism of the study cited in the passage EXCEPT:

- A. The reliance on self-assessment scores lacks objectivity since people might interpret the 1–7 scale differently and might have different personal standards for what constitutes "high" or "low" understanding.
 - B. The study's methodology assumes that each participant has a similar level of communication ability and will be able to articulate their understanding of a subject coherently.
 - C. The majority of the study's participants maintained their initial rating, with the initial high average rating being skewed by a few overconfident outliers, who eventually lowered their scores substantially during re-rating.
 - D. The study's focus on immediate self-assessment changes and comparisons with expert understanding might not account for the possibility of longer-term retention and understanding improvement.
-

Question 23

Read the following paragraph and select the option that best captures its essence:

Academic opinion has become a little more conciliatory. On the one hand, perfectionism seems to be closely correlated with mental-health difficulties, including depression, anxiety, and eating disorders. Professionally speaking, it can equate to burnout and stress, as expecting the impossible may mean setting yourself up for failure. On the other hand, perfectionists have been found to be more motivated and conscientious than their non-perfectionist peers, both highly desirable traits in an employee.

- A. Perfectionists are facing more mental health issues than their non-perfectionist peers as they are more motivated and conscientious.
 - B. Academic opinion is divided between perfectionists having mental health issues and them having highly desirable traits for employment.
 - C. Despite their mental health issues, perfectionists are more motivated and conscientious than others.
 - D. The highly desirable traits of perfectionists are offset by the mental difficulties that they are likely to face.
-

Question 24

Read the following paragraph and choose the option that best captures its essence:

Companies these days generate a large amount of data every year and their storage needs become more pressing. Any responsible company needs a way to make sure its data is kept safely against any possible disaster. Everything from emails and presentations to financial information and every other document, needs to have a safe place to be stored. If a few years ago all companies had large storage rooms filled with files, these days the virtual alternative is preferred by most firms. Online backup offers people the chance to store their information safely and benefit from a great number of advantages.

- A. Companies would benefit from moving away from conventional methods of storage to online backup to meet the current needs of storage, and safety.
 - B. Companies generating large amounts of data will be better off using online methods of backup instead of traditional ones.
 - C. Companies must move away from conventional methods of storing data to online backup to meet their ever-increasing storage needs, for increased safety etc.
 - D. The conventional method of storing data is much inferior to the newer methods of storing data.
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Answer Key

1. (c)
2. (a)
3. (d)
4. (b)
5. (a)
6. (c)
7. (b)
8. (d)
9. (b)
10. (d)
11. (c)
12. (a)
13. (b)
14. (a)
15. (d)
16. (c)
17. (d)
18. (a)
19. (c)
20. (a)
21. (b)
22. (d)
23. (b)
24. (a)