

Mock Test 8

Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension VARC Set-8

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: *Magic and religion were not seen as separate but as complementary and overlapping spheres of custom and practice.*

Paragraph:

In an attempt to ward off harm and generally make sense of the world around them, the ancient Egyptians had recourse to a wide variety of beliefs and rituals. (1) Wearing an amulet, casting a spell, saying a prayer, dedicating a votive offering or consulting an oracle: all were believed to conjure supernatural assistance, each could be effective, alone or in combination. (2) Cultic and magical objects from the tomb of Tutankhamun draw on this wide range of beliefs. (3) At one end of the spectrum were the sophisticated theologies dreamed up by professional priesthods. The gilded figures of deities buried with Tutankhamun include representatives of the two main creation stories, the earth god Geb and the craftsman-god Ptah. (4) A model of the sun god's barque reflects the pre-eminence of solar theology in the state religion.

Options:

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

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: *In 2014, the United Nations' then secretary general Ban Ki-moon said: "There is no plan B because we do not have [a] planet B."*

Paragraph:

There is no planet B. These days, everyone is throwing around this catchy slogan. Most of us have seen it inscribed on an activist's homemade placard or heard it from a world leader. The slogan gives a strong impetus to address our planetary crisis. (1) The French president Emmanuel Macron echoed him in 2018 in his historical address to US Congress. There's even a book named after it. (2) However, no one actually explains why there isn't another planet we could live on, even though the evidence from Earth sciences and astronomy is clear. (3) Gathering this observation-based information is essential to counter an increasingly popular but flawed narrative that the only way to ensure our survival is to colonise other planets. (4)

Options:

- A. Option (1)
 - B. Option (2)
 - C. Option (3)
 - D. Option (4)
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Passage for Questions 3–6

At a glance, the tech giants don't seem to have a lot in common. Google delivers information quickly. Meta connects you to friends and family. Amazon is a store. Apple makes phones and computers. Microsoft is all about business software. But under the hood, they are united by advertising, referred to as the "dark beating heart of the internet" by the author Tim Hwang in his book. About 80 percent of Google's revenue comes from the ads it places next to search-engine results, on sites across the internet, and before YouTube videos. Meta makes considerably more than 90 percent of its billions in revenue from advertising. Amazon has the third biggest share of the U.S. ad market, thanks to what it charges independent retailers for placement on its site. And although few people think of Microsoft as a company that benefits from digital ads, it, too, makes billions from them every year.

[...] As so much of the internet is changing—social media feels less relevant than ever, generative AI threatens to disrupt everything—advertising remains its inescapable business model. That's a problem, because digital ads are terrible. Users hate them, they're easily exploited in fraud schemes, and they encourage controversial business practices such as tracking. They also might not work very well: Studies suggest that most users ignore them, and roughly a third of display-ad clicks are believed to be accidental.

But the ad-supported internet is about to get worse. Many publishers are already motivated to generate as much content as possible, for as low a price as possible, for the largest audience possible. Now we can add to this derivative fluff a flood of articles that were written by programs. In the ChatGPT era, we face a future of low-quality content automatically churned out, itself "read" only by other algorithms as they train themselves up and by bots generating fraudulent ad clicks—a "gray goo" internet created by algorithms, for algorithms, and shunned by everyone with a pulse. Ads already make the internet less usable; the effect will only be magnified as we're forced to wade through the sludge.

[...] For the tech giants, one solution to this is to better match advertisers with users through improved targeting. This is usually presented as a win-win-win situation: We get advertisements we're more likely to appreciate, brands get a better result from their campaign, and both the website we visit and the ad network get more money. But the reality is very different. Targeting isn't about making the user's ad experience better, it's about showing the highest-value advertisements to the users who match the advertiser's criteria. In effect, this means that when you visit a site, it looks for the identifying information it has about you, and determines which detail has the highest value.

[...] At some point, something new will come—it always does. But new business models, let alone technological breakthroughs, rarely appear on demand. They also almost never benefit the incumbents of the previous cutting age of tech. The Kodaks of the world had too much to lose from the dissolution of their large-but-declining print business to pivot to digital in time, and so they diminished. The tech companies most hooked on the ad industry are left to hope that this time is different.

Question 3

Which of the following is NOT an issue associated with digital advertising, as discussed in the passage?

Options:

- A. Studies suggest that a significant portion of clicks on display ads is unintentional, which raises doubts regarding the effectiveness of ads.
 - B. Some users tend to dislike digital ads, often driving them away to ad-free platforms that are not heavily laden with intrusive advertisements.
 - C. The use of generative AI is likely to result in a proliferation of low-quality content, making the process of navigating through the internet—already rife with ads—much more difficult.
 - D. Tech giants often rely on user tracking and targeted advertising to display high-value ads to specific users, raising concerns about such business practices.
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Question 4

The author presents the analogy of the Kodaks to:

Options:

- A. highlight the potential challenges faced by tech giants heavily reliant on the ad industry when adapting to new business models.
 - B. emphasize the need to replace digital advertising as the primary revenue source for tech giants in the face of disruptive technologies like generative AI.
 - C. underscore the importance of advertisers and users working together to create a more sustainable online ecosystem, similar to Kodak's pivot to digital photography.
 - D. illustrate the potential risks faced by tech giants unwilling to evolve beyond ad-supported models.
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Question 5

"This is usually presented as a win-win-win situation... But the reality is very different."

Which one of the following statements best explains this quote in the context of the passage?

Options:

- A. Targeting is primarily about maximizing ad revenue by showing high-value ads to users based on their personal information, rather than enhancing their ad experience.
 - B. Targeting is mainly about creating a win-win situation for both users and advertisers by displaying high-value ads, but ultimately fails to improve the ad experience.
 - C. The attempt to maximize ad revenue through targeting by showing high-value ads to users based on their personal information often leads to users facing a deluge of less relevant ads.
 - D. Targeting aims to provide users with personalized content but often results in privacy breaches, undermining its perceived benefits.
-

Question 6

Which one of the following statements best describes what the passage is trying to do?

Options:

- A. Emphasize the unique contributions of major tech giants to the digital landscape and how they have managed to stay relevant in a changing internet environment.
 - B. Delve into the controversies surrounding digital advertising as the main revenue model for tech giants, discussing user dissatisfaction, fraud, and tracking practices.
 - C. Consider the potential consequences of relying heavily on digital advertising for tech giants' revenue generation in the context of existing ad-related issues and future outlook.
 - D. Evaluate the effectiveness of targeted advertising as a solution to the problems associated with the ad-supported internet, emphasizing its focus on maximizing advertiser profits.
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Question 7

Five sentences are given below. Four of these, when rearranged properly, form a logical and meaningful paragraph. Identify the sentence which does not belong to this paragraph and enter its number as the answer.

1. Certainly, this demonstration justified the statement made a few years before by another English traveler.

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2. A distinguished English journalist, who was visiting the United States, in 1917, on an important governmental mission, had an almost sublime illustration of the extent to which the telephone had developed on the North American Continent.
 3. Sitting at a desk in a large office building in New York, Lord Northcliffe took up two telephone receivers and placed one at each ear.
 4. In the first he heard the surf beating at Coney Island, New York; in the second he listened to the rumble of traffic in Chicago.
 5. In those days, long-distance communication had already revolutionized transatlantic military coordination.
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Question 8

Instructions: 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. A near-total ban on taking African baby elephants from the wild and selling them to zoos has been approved at a meeting in Geneva.
 2. Elephants here have been held in captive by Indians for millennia, but 17 years ago, after protests by animal rights activists over instances of handlers abusing and starving captive elephants, the government stepped in to give the animals a bit of respite.
 3. India is home to some 27,000 wild elephants. A further 2,500 elephants are held in captivity across the states of Assam, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
 4. As a result, numerous elephants held in temples around India are now brought to a "rejuvenation camp" each year.
 5. The country is widely believed to be the "birthplace of taming elephants for use by humans".
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Questions 9 to 18 are based on the passages given below. Read each passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Passage 2:

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow it.

People fret about the authenticity of AI chatbots but precisely the same issues confront everyday exchanges between humans... Allegations abound that conversational AI could also jeopardise education, journalism, computer programming and perhaps any profession that has depended on human authorship. Yet such scepticism is hardly new. Doubts about what lies behind words are baked into the nature of conversation.

When we see conversational AI as a human practice consistent with natural conversation, then the artificiality of our demand for certainty about what lies behind either shines brighter. To the extent that we use words as tools to know what another means, that knowledge is of a particular kind. With words we acknowledge each other. As Cavell put it: acknowledgement goes beyond knowledge... in its requirement that I do something. In conversation, we make claims on each other. My utterances are not just communications of facts but also invitations to respond. When deprived of acknowledgment in a shared space, we seek knowledge as consolation in the recesses of another's mind.

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Herein lies the artificiality of natural conversation: that words can wedge themselves between us. Psychologists have studied the ineluctable drive within language to attain knowledge outside it. What results is a false picture that language is the sort of thing that has 'sides', leaving an obstacle in place of our mutual understanding.

That large language models afford us doubts about the authorship of their output reminds us that the technology has yet to be fully acknowledged. To make it feel less alien, we should use AI tools more — not less. We might imagine a world in which professors require that students submit AI-generated drafts before their final essays. The classes' queries would be expected as well. Students would thereby have to distinguish their ultimate thoughts from prior algorithmic versions. In that world, conversational AI would cease to be an endpoint of knowledge and instead participate in the back-and-forth process of human conversation.

Pulling conversational AI into the orbit of natural conversation invites us to see our ethical relationships as the centre of gravity. When I examine a text's authorship, my goal — strictly speaking — is not to ascertain knowledge of a fact, rather, it is to find someone (or something) responsible for the words. That professors expect students to submit essays written by authentic — not algorithmic — intelligence reflects their meritocratic ambition to grade students on what they intend to write. Knowledge plays a part. Far more important is the cultivation of critical thinking, effective communication and persuasive reasoning — skills with which we come to converse intentionally with others.

We converse intentionally when we can give reasons for our words. According to Elizabeth Anscombe, we answer the question: Why? Conversational AI, however, cannot intend words. It predicts words. For Anscombe, as the philosopher Jeff Speaks puts it, "predictions are justified by evidence that the future state of affairs in question will be true, whereas expressions of intention are justified by reasons for thinking that state of affairs attractive."

Question 9

"People fret about the authenticity of AI chatbots but precisely the same issues confront everyday exchanges between humans." Which of the following best aligns with the above quote?

- A. Viewing conversational AI as a human practice highlights the necessity of achieving certainty about the underlying algorithms, thereby alleviating scepticism about AI authenticity.
- B. The artificiality of our demand for certainty about conversational AI is diminished when we acknowledge the parallel challenges present in everyday human conversations.
- C. The demand for certainty about the origins of words is intensified by the naturalness of conversational AI, revealing the interplay between linguistic patterns and human interaction.
- D. Acknowledging the human-like aspects of conversational AI eliminates concerns about its artificiality, emphasizing its role as an endpoint of knowledge in modern communication.

Question 10

In the context of the passage, the proposed integration of AI-generated drafts into educational settings would primarily serve to:

- A. facilitate the evaluation of students' adherence to algorithmic guidelines in essay composition.
 - B. foster a collaborative environment where students engage in mutual peer review of AI-generated drafts.
 - C. reconfigure traditional forms of essay composition with AI-generated drafts, streamlining the grading process and enhancing educational efficiency.
 - D. challenge students to differentiate their original thoughts from algorithmic versions, encouraging critical thinking and intentional communication.
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Question 11

Which of the following statements accurately represents the concept of "acknowledgement" in the context of conversations?

- A. Acknowledgement in conversation goes beyond mere knowledge, requiring active engagement and response from both parties involved.
 - B. Acknowledgement is a central aspect of conversations, often overshadowed by the pursuit of factual knowledge and information exchange.
 - C. Acknowledgement in conversation involves engaging with others without necessarily probing or recognizing the source of the discussed content.
 - D. Acknowledgement in conversation allows for some degree of certainty about the intentions and thoughts of the speaker, eliminating any doubts.
-

Question 12

None of the following can be understood from the passage EXCEPT:

- A. In conventional settings, AI-generated content undermines the authenticity of natural conversation by introducing artificial barriers between individuals, hindering mutual understanding.
 - B. The integration of AI-generated content into natural conversation could lead to a radical shift in human interactions, challenging the traditional concepts of authorship and intention.
 - C. Intention, in the context of conversations, involves consciously formulating reasons for expressing words, while prediction relies on data-driven evidence to anticipate future occurrences.
 - D. AI-generated content is inherently more suspect than human-authored content, as AI lacks the intentionality required for natural communication or mutual understanding.
-

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. The prophets are too cautious to risk their reputation in predicting the events of the war.
 2. But even this measure of prediction is a by-product of the soothsayers who, whether their lips have been touched with a coal from off the altar, or not, certainly wield the pen of the ready writer.
 3. Rather, their forecasts relate to the sort of a world we shall find ourselves in after peace returns.
 4. The war is generating prophets as the Nile generated frogs under the mandate of Moses, and there is a similarity in the speech of both products.
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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. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos responded with a lawsuit against the Pentagon claiming that the decision process was tainted by bias.

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2. Despite Amazon Web Services (AWS) dominating nearly half of the public cloud market, the DoD opted to give Microsoft the project.
3. A competition between Microsoft and Amazon to supply \$10 billion worth of cloud computing services to the Department of Defense was decided in October.
4. Now, Amazon is taking things a step further by petitioning a federal court to make all the involved parties explain themselves in depositions.

Passage 3

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow it.

Anyone can feel burned out, even people who might have spent the pandemic relaxing on a COVID-free island with a magically replenishing money supply. The mental pressure of living through a mass-casualty event would be enough to fry the most Zen of brains. There's also been burnout creep recently—people might talk about "midlife-crisis burnout" or being "burned out on Pilates." But at its core, burnout is a work problem. Though wellness influencers might suggest various life hacks to help push through pandemic torpor, actual burnout experts say that tips and tricks are not the best way to treat the condition. Instead, they say, burnout is a problem created by the workplace, and changes to the workplace are the best way to fix it.

Scientifically, to be burned out is to be exhausted, cynical and hostile toward one's work, and down on one's job performance. "You know, maybe I'm not cut out for this kind of work; I shouldn't be here," says Christina Maslach, a psychology professor. The World Health Organization similarly defines burnout as a syndrome "resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed." Like Maslach, the WHO says that burnout generates exhaustion, cynicism toward one's job, and reduced "professional efficacy."

Six elements of work cause burnout, Maslach says. The first is pure workload—having way too much to do. One reason people feel burned out right now is that they have been working longer hours during the pandemic. In addition to an overstretching of staff and resources, burnout "could also include a cutthroat, bottom-line, results-oriented culture," says Mandy O'Neill, a management professor. The second factor is how much control or autonomy someone has over their work. As the Stanford organizational-behavior professor Jeffrey Pfeffer writes: If through their actions people cannot predictably and significantly affect what happens to them, they are going to stop trying. Why expend effort when the results of that effort are uncontrollable, rendering the effort fruitless?

The third factor is a lack of recognition or reward for your work. One Philadelphia high-school teacher told the organizational psychologist Adam Grant that her burnout was like being on "a hamster wheel. You're kind of, like, doing a lot and trying really hard, but is it really changing anything?"

The fourth factor has to do with whether your workplace is more like a community or a viper pit. You can probably guess which one leads to burnout. The fifth relates to whether policies and practices are administered fairly. Does the boss play favorites? Finally, work that doesn't create meaning or value for workers can lead to burnout. It's one thing to spend 60 hours a week working to free an innocent person from prison, it's quite another to spend them trying to collect someone's medical debt.

One line of research suggests that burnout is actually depression. In several studies on school teachers by Renzo Bianchi, a psychologist, the majority of teachers who had burnout symptoms also had symptoms of moderate or severe depression. Other studies have found that "burnout and depressive symptoms seem to cluster together and develop in parallel." This, according to Bianchi and other researchers, suggests that burnout can be understood as a collection of "work-related depressive symptoms."

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Question 15

In the context of the passage, the author's reference to "midlife-crisis burnout" and being "burned out on Pilates" serves to:

- A. suggest that burnout can manifest even in situations perceived as relaxing or leisure-oriented.
 - B. emphasize that burnout-like psychological challenges are associated with certain life events.
 - C. highlight the increased prevalence of burnout symptoms across various aspects of life beyond the workplace.
 - D. argue that the causes of burnout extend beyond just workplace-related factors.
-

Question 16

"It's one thing to spend 60 hours a week working to free an innocent person from prison, it's quite another to spend them trying to collect someone's medical debt." Which one of the following best expresses the claim made in this statement?

- A. Recognizing the importance of one's job in the grand scheme of things might influence the likelihood of experiencing burnout.
 - B. The nature of work one engages in and the personal value it holds has a significant impact on one's susceptibility to burnout.
 - C. Employees who work tirelessly to collect medical debt are more prone to burnout than those working on other tasks.
 - D. Collecting medical debt is more mentally taxing than working on legal cases involving innocent individuals.
-

Question 17

None of the following is a valid inference from the passage EXCEPT:

- A. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated burnout primarily by reducing the autonomy and control individuals have over their work.
 - B. The feeling of exhaustion and cynicism toward one's job can mainly be dealt with by addressing burnout factors such as excessive workload.
 - C. A company with toxic work-culture is more likely to lead to burnout than one which has a competitive and results-driven atmosphere.
 - D. The prevalence of depressive symptoms among school teachers indicates a strong likelihood that burnout is essentially a form of depression related to work-related stress.
-

Question 18

"Why expend effort when the results of that effort are uncontrollable, rendering the effort fruitless?" In the context of the passage, what does the given quote imply about an individual's perception of their work?

- A. Exerting effort in the face of uncontrollable outcomes can lead to frustration and a sense of futility.
 - B. Individuals should always strive to focus on effort and not the outcome to avoid feelings of burnout.
 - C. Effort becomes more valuable when it is expended on tasks that yield immediate and tangible results.
 - D. The outcome of an effort is not always consequential, even though the effort itself might be enjoyable or fulfilling.
-

Passage 4

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

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The world will be transformed. By 2050, we will be driving electric cars and flying in aircraft running on synthetic fuels produced through solar and wind energy. New energy-efficient technologies, most likely harnessing artificial intelligence, will dominate nearly all human activities from farming to heavy industry. The fossil fuel industry will be in the final stages of a terminal decline. Nuclear fusion and other new energy sources may have become widespread. Perhaps our planet will even be orbited by massive solar arrays capturing cosmic energy from sunlight and generating seemingly endless energy for all our needs.

That is one possible future for humanity. It's an optimistic view of how radical changes to energy production might help us slow or avoid the worst outcomes of global warming. In a report from 1965, scientists from the US government warned that our ongoing use of fossil fuels would cause global warming with potentially disastrous consequences for Earth's climate. The report, one of the first government-produced documents to predict a major crisis caused by humanity's large-scale activities, noted that the likely consequences would include higher global temperatures, the melting of the ice caps and rising sea levels. Through his worldwide industrial civilisation, the report concluded, "Man is unwittingly conducting a vast geophysical experiment - an experiment with a highly uncertain outcome, but clear and important risks for life on Earth."

Since then, we've dithered and doubted and argued about what to do, but still have not managed to take serious action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which continue to rise. Governments around the planet have promised to phase out emissions in the coming decades and transition to 'green' energy. But global temperatures may be rising faster than we expected: some climate scientists worry that rapid rises could create new problems and positive feedback loops that may accelerate climate destabilisation and make parts of the world uninhabitable long before a hoped-for transition is possible.

Despite this bleak vision of the future, there are reasons for optimists to hope due to progress on cleaner sources of renewable energy, especially solar power. Around 2010, solar energy generation accounted for less than 1 per cent of the electricity generated by humanity. But experts believe that, by 2027, due to falling costs, better technology and exponential growth in new installations, solar power will become the largest global energy source for producing electricity. If progress on renewables continues, we might find a way to resolve the warming problem linked to greenhouse gas emissions. By 2050, large-scale societal and ecological changes might have helped us avoid the worst consequences of our extensive use of fossil fuels.

It's a momentous challenge. And it won't be easy. But this story of transformation only hints at the true depth of the future problems humanity will confront in managing our energy use and its influence over our climate.

Yes, the world may well be transformed by 2050. Carbon dioxide levels may stabilise or fall thanks to advanced AI-assisted technologies that run on energy harvested from the sun and wind. And the fossil fuel industry may be taking its last breaths. But we will still face a deeper problem — it's a problem built into our relationship with energy itself.

Question 19.

The passage implies that advancements in renewable energy, particularly solar power, have the potential to:

- A. become the dominant source of electricity generation by 2027, leading to the complete elimination of fossil fuels in the energy sector.
 - B. drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate global warming by 2050, preventing catastrophic climate consequences.
 - C. solve the deeper energy consumption problem by revolutionising how societies use and manage energy resources effectively.
 - D. encourage governments worldwide to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy policies and ensure a sustainable and resilient future for humanity.
-

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Question 20.

Why does the author argue that the transition to renewable sources might not adequately tackle the challenges of global warming?

- A. Climate scientists believe that solar and wind energy, though promising, are not cost-effective enough yet to meet the world's growing energy demands.
 - B. Governments' promises to phase out emissions are insufficient to address the uncertainties of climate change, necessitating new strategies for energy management.
 - C. Despite advancements in renewable energy, the rise in greenhouse gas emissions remains unchecked, posing severe risks to the Earth's climate and ecosystems.
 - D. The rapid rise in global temperatures might outpace the rate at which renewable energy technologies can be deployed.
-

Question 21.

In the context of the passage, the author mentions the "deeper problem" associated with humanity's relationship with energy to:

- A. highlight the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through renewable energy adoption.
 - B. advocate for a shift away from traditional fossil fuels in favour of renewable energy sources.
 - C. hint at the potential challenges and complexities beyond renewable energy in addressing climate change.
 - D. suggest that governments should focus on energy consumption and management to prevent climate change from spiralling.
-

Question 22.

In the context of the passage, the author cites the information about the projected growth of solar energy generation in the fourth paragraph to emphasize:

- A. the significant advancements in solar technology that have taken place over the years and how this growth trajectory supports the optimistic outlook in terms of mitigating climate change.
 - B. the uncertainty surrounding the impact of renewable energy sources, such as solar energy, on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the dependence on fossil fuels.
 - C. the need for immediate and aggressive action to address the rapid rise in greenhouse gas emissions through the widespread adoption of solar energy.
 - D. the impact of government policies on renewable energy adoption and how this adoption has played a crucial role in driving the exponential growth of solar energy installations.
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Question 23.

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

Nazi Germany was on its knees. Soviet troops were closing in on Berlin, while Allied forces had crossed Germany's western border. In the Pacific, US troops were steadily but bloodily advancing towards Japan. As their armies poised for victory, the so-called Big Three – US President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin – agreed to meet in Yalta, a Soviet resort on the Black Sea. At the end of the bloodiest conflict the world had ever known, 75 years ago, the Allies wanted to stop such devastation from ever happening again. But both the US and the USSR wanted co-operation on their own terms. Despite the Yalta agreements, within months, the stage was set for the Cold War – the struggle between the two new superpowers that split the globe into ideological camps for decades.

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- A. The leaders of the allies agreed to meet in Yalta to end the war, but the US and the USSR wanted co-operation on their terms, which resulted in the Cold War.
 - B. Towards the end of the war, the allied leaders met to prevent such a war in the future but both the US and the USSR wanted co-operation on their own terms.
 - C. Towards the end of the war, the allied leaders met to prevent such a war in the future but soon the lack of consensus between the US and the USSR resulted in the Cold War.
 - D. To negotiate terms for surrender for Nazi Germany and Japan the victorious leaders held a summit in Yalta, but just months later, the US and the USSR were engaged in a battle of ideologies.
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Question 24.

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

In a study, research participants who were asked to remember instances over which they had no control, such as the weather, were more likely to accept a conspiracy theory than those who were asked to remember instances in which they do have control (e.g. what they wear or eat). In a similar vein, survey respondents who faced working conditions with reduced levels of control (e.g. long-term unemployment, temporary employment) expressed greater levels of a conspiracy mentality than those who had more control (e.g. permanent employment). The rationale behind this is that lacking control increases the need to engage in the compensatory illusion of control — that is, in conspiracy theories. Detecting patterns where there are, in fact, none at least leaves open the possibility of gaining control, whereas the attribution of, say, a natural disaster to unchangeable and uncontrollable weather dynamics does not.

- A. People with permanent employment tend to believe less in conspiracy theories than those with temporary employment, thereby demonstrating the role of employment in imparting a sense of control.
 - B. Control over lives — either real or imaginary, is very important for humans.
 - C. People yearn for some form of control in their lives, the absence of which engages them in an attempt to regain their apparent sense of control, which in turn explains the conspiracy mentality.
 - D. People who have less control over their lives are more likely to believe in conspiracy theories.
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Answer Key

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