

3 Important Strategies for Essence of the passage questions

1. Attack the Passage

Passive reading will not help you on the CAT RCs. You need to devour passages like a ravenous bear waking from hibernation. Tear apart the passage to find the essence, determine the main flow and structure of a passage, and understand the author's tone and purpose. Stay out of the details and minutiae. Hungry bears want big meals—not tidbits of berries and moths. Take notes to activate your mind and track this information.

2. Rephrase Question & anticipate answer.

After attacking the passage, time to attack the question. Read the question and put it into your own words. This will force you to synthesize the prompt and understand what it is asking. Look for hints and clues too. Line numbers, paragraph references, concepts from specific parts of the passage, and any words like “except” or “not”—these clues must be noted to answer the question correctly. Now you can anticipating an answer. You should already have a strong sense of what should be included in the answer choice.

3. Eliminate Wrong Answers

Usually you will need to go through the answer choices more than once. On the first pass, always be on the look out for the common wrong answer types. This is an easy way to narrow down your possibilities. As you go through each answer, make a mental note of possible correct answers or answers that match what you anticipated. Then on your second pass, you should have two answer choices left. This is when you may have to return to the passage to do a little research to confirm that all the information in the answer choice is actually supported by the passage.

Directions (1-15): Five alternative summaries are given below the text. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.

Q1. When the next full-scale global financial crisis hits, let it not be said that the International Monetary Fund never took a stab at forestalling it. Recently, the IMF proposed a new global tax on financial institutions loosely in proportion to their size, as well as a tax on banks' profits and bonuses.

- (a) The IMF has proposed a new global tax on financial institutions and banks in an attempt to forestall future financial crises.
- (b) The IMF's new global tax on financial institutions and banks will prevent future financial crises.
- (c) The IMF has proposed a new global tax on financial institutions and banks which will forestall financial crises.
- (d) The IMF has proposed a tax on financial institutions' and banks' profits' and bonuses that will prevent financial crises.
- (e) The proposed tax on profits and bonuses of financial institutions and banks is an attempt to forestall future financial crises.

Q2. Russia and the United States have signed a new strategic nuclear-arms reduction treaty. Officially, the treaty cuts their weapons by one-third; in fact, each party, will decommission only several dozens. Nevertheless, the treaty is a considerable achievement. It normalizes political relations between the two countries, thereby facilitating their further cooperation and rapprochement.

- (a) The new strategic arms reduction treaty signed between Russia and the United States may facilitate further cooperation between them.
- (b) The new strategic arms reduction treaty signed between Russia and the United States may lead to cordial relations between them.
- (c) Russia and the United States have signed a strategic nuclear-arms reduction treaty to reduce weapons by one-third.
- (d) Russia and the United States have signed a new strategic nuclear-arms reduction treaty which normalizes political relations between the two countries.
- (e) Russia and the United States have signed a new strategic nuclear-arms reduction treaty is a considerable achievement.

Q3. A severe food crisis currently threatens southern Sudan. In East Africa, where millions of people already are dependent on food aid, a sharp rise in the cost of staple crops looms. These are just the latest sources of concern in a turbulent period that began two years ago when food shortages hit many countries in Africa and Asia due to a worldwide spike in prices. Higher food prices meant that poor people, already struggling to meet basic human needs, were pushed deeper into poverty.

- (a) An impending food crisis looms over southern Sudan where higher food prices have pushed people deeper into poverty.
- (b) The food crisis in Africa and Asia, especially in southern Sudan already struggling under food shortages, higher prices, and poverty may worsen owing to further a rise in the cost of staple crops.
- (c) As many countries in Africa and Asia are experiencing prolonged food shortages, an impending food crisis threatens Sudan due to a rise in the cost of staple crops.
- (d) The food crisis in Africa and Asia already struggling under food shortages, higher prices, and poverty may worsen owing to further a rise in the cost of staple crops.
- (e) The food crisis in southern Sudan struggling under food shortages, higher prices, and poverty may worsen owing to further a rise in the cost of staple crops.

Q4. For millennia, remembering information was costly and time-consuming, and to forget was a natural part of being human. In the digital age, the opposite is true: cheap computer storage, powerful processors, and ubiquitous Internet access have made remembering the norm. Consider this: we tend to retain our rough drafts, years of e-mail traffic, and thousands of ghastly digital snapshots on our hard drives, not because we have decided that they are worth remembering, but because keeping them is now the default way of doing things. By contrast, deciding what to delete is costly. It actually requires much more time and effort to shed data than to keep it.

- (a) Since the digital age has made retaining information cheap and effortless, we have left behind our natural habit of forgetting.

(b) Since the digital age has made storage of data cheap and easy, we now store large amounts of information even it is worthless.

(c) Remembering is no more costly and time consuming in the digital age; hence, we store large amounts of worthless information.

(d) The digital age has made it possible to retain large amounts of data cheaply and easily; hence we remember more unlike in the past.

(e) As deciding what to delete is costly and time consuming we now tend to store everything from rough drafts to ghastly images.

Q5. In recent decades, economists have been struggling to make use of the concept of human capital, often defined as the abilities, skills, knowledge, and dispositions that make for economic success. Yet those who use the term often assume that to conceptualize a phenomenon is a first step to manipulating it. And, indeed, "human-capital policy" is now much in fashion. But what if many of the abilities and dispositions in question are a product of history, capable of being understood and explained but not readily replicated?

(a) Economists trying to conceptualize human capital must know that the abilities and dispositions are a product of history incapable of being replicated.

(b) Economists trying to conceptualize human-capital policy for economic success must know history and that success cannot be replicated.

(c) The abilities, skills, knowledge, and dispositions that make for economic success are a product of history and may not be replicable.

(d) Economists attempting a policy based on human capital for economic success must know that the abilities referred to as human capital may not be readily replicable.

(e) Economists struggling to replicate economic success through a human-capital policy must know that human capital is a product of history and may only be understood.

Q6. An individual is free and autonomous only because of the collective decisions taken after democratic debate, notably those decisions that guarantee each person access to public goods such as education, health care, etc. Some sense of social solidarity may remain, but it is so abstract that those for whom the wheel of fortune has spun so favourably feel little debt. They believe that they owe their status purely to merit, not to the collective efforts-state-funded schools, universities, etc. – that enabled them to realize their potential.

(a) Individual success and autonomy are a result of the ability to exploit the system put together through collective efforts with a sense of social solidarity.

(b) The decisions that guarantee each person access to public goods are collective in nature, and individual merit is a myth.

(c) Individuals owe their success and autonomy to collective decisions and efforts that guarantee access to public goods like schools and universities.

(d) Individual success and autonomy are a result of the systems made through collective efforts that guarantee each person access to these systems.

(e) Individuals are free and autonomous only as far as they realize that they owe their success to collective decisions made with a sense of social solidarity.

Q7. Throughout history, political leaders have supported existing communication technologies in order to defend the system in which they rule. Today, too, governments may be tempted to protect newspapers and public TV on the pretext of "saving democracy as we know it." But efforts to block technological change have been futile in the past, and they would be unwise today. Instead, the political system and the media must adapt to the new reality – the internet.

(a) Instead of trying to protect newspapers and public TV by blocking the internet, political leaders, and governments must adapt to the new reality.

(b) As they have failed in the past, political leaders and government would fail to block the internet by promoting the newspapers and public TV.

(c) Political leaders and governments have consistently failed in their efforts to block new technologies by supporting the existing ones.

(d) By supporting the newspapers and the public TV politicians and governments are trying to protect the existing media under the pretext of saving democracy.

(e) The efforts by governments and politicians to save the existing communication technologies have always proved futile; instead they must adapt to the new reality, today, the internet.

Q8. The financial and economic crisis that erupted in 2008 will, in retrospect, be regarded as a transformative moment, because it raised fundamental questions about the future shape of our economic systems. These questions are not so much about the end of capitalism-as some perceive or even desire-but rather about the different ways in which capitalism is understood in different countries.

(a) In retrospect, the economic crisis of 2008 raised fundamental questions about the future of capitalism working in different countries.

(b) In retrospect, the crisis that erupted in 2008 was not about the failure of capitalism as some see it, but about the differences between countries.

(c) In retrospect, the economic crisis of 2008 was not about the end of capitalism, but about how capitalism is understood in different countries.

(d) In retrospect, the crisis that erupted in 2008 was not fundamentally about the end of capitalism but about the future of capitalism in different countries.

(e) The economic crisis of 2008 did not signal the end of capitalism of its future but how it is understood in different countries.

Q9. Newspapers are dying; the music industry is still yelping about iTunes; book publishers think they are next. Yet one bit of old media seems to be doing rather well. In the final quarter of 2009 the average American spent almost 37 hours a week watching television. Earlier this year 116 m of them saw the Super Bowl-a record for a single programme. Far from being cowed by new media, TV is colonising it. Shows like "American Idol" and "Britain's Got Talent" draw huge audiences partly

because people are constantly messaging and tweeting about them, and discussing them on Facebook.

(a) Though newspapers, the music, and publishing industries are dying, American TV has been able to draw large audiences and being discussed on the internet.

(b) Though newspapers, the music and publishing industries are dying, American TV is colonizing the media with the average American spending 37 hours per week watching television.

(c) Though newspapers, the music, and publishing industries are dying, TV is colonizing the media and has huge audiences.

(d) Newspapers, music industry, and book publishers have been cowed by the new media whereas TV has coped well and still draws large audiences, as American TV proves.

(e) Newspapers, music, and book publishers have not been able to cope with the emergence of new media but American TV has coped well and still draws large audiences.

Q10. The tragedy about data collection in India is that by the time primary data is converted into useable information, it may be too late to aid policy intervention. This is true of data collected by not just government agencies such as the National Sample Survey Organization but also think-tanks such as National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). One of the criticisms of Human Development in India: Challenges for a Society in Transition-a report put together by NCAER and Institute of Maryland, US-is that it is based on data collected in 2004-05, and it does not capture the impact of the changes of the past four years when the economy grew at more than 8% on an average every year.

(a) Data collected by government agencies and other research organizations in India is generally useless as no reports based on the primary data is available for years-NCAER report on human development report is an example.

(b) The problem with data collection in India is that reports based on the data are not available in time for use-an NCAER report based on 2004-05 data was released four years later.

(c) The data collection in India is generally useless because reports to guide policy decisions are not made in time-an NCAER report based on 2004-05 data was released four years later.

(d) Data collected by government agencies and other research organizations in India is generally useless; an NCAER report on human development report was released four years after the data was gathered.

(e) Data collected by government agencies and other research organizations in India is generally delayed and do not guide policy decisions-NCAER is an example.

Q11. Equating war with individual evil has become ubiquitous-if not universal-in contemporary to international politics. Wars are fights against evil tyrants and the illegitimate governments they control. Such rhetoric makes wars easier to justify, easier to wage, and easier to support, especially for elected leaders who must respond directly to swings in public opinion. Such language works equally well for any society in today's media-obsessed age.

(a) In international politics wars are equated with individuals and not governments because it is easier for elected governments to justify war and publicize it.

(b) In international politics, wars are now directed at a personification of evil rather than against tyrants or regimes and are justified by governments in response to public opinion.

(c) In international politics, wars are equated with individual evil and not illegitimate governments because it is easier for elected governments to justify war and propagate it.

(d) In international politics, wars are now justified, waged and supported by elected governments to swing public opinion in a media-obsessed world.

(e) In the media obsessed current age wars are fought in order swing public opinion rather than against evil tyrants or illegitimate governments.

Q12. The CEOs owe at least some of their success to others, given that the society provides public goods like universities and health care. This calls for more modesty and restraint in determining the highest salaries, not for moral reasons but for the sustainability of the system. Also, the most privileged classes which have benefited the most from the solidarity of others, notably the poor, can no longer deny the latter's contributions.

(a) As both the CEOs and the poor are products of the same system, these two classes need to acknowledge the system for its sustainability.

(b) The CEOs have a moral responsibility to exercise restraint in their highest salaries and the poor must acknowledge the contribution of the CEOs.

(c) For the sustainability of the system the CEOs need to be modest in their highest salaries, and the poor need to acknowledge the contribution of the CEOs towards their welfare.

(d) The CEOs must reduce their highest salaries and the poor must acknowledge the contribution of the CEOs for the sustainability of the system.

(e) The CEOs must acknowledge the role of public goods in their success and the poor must recognize the contribution of the CEOs for their welfare.

Q13. After reading literature by some of the world's leading experts on innovation-Clayton Christensen, Henry Chesbrough, John Kao, James Andrew, and Harold Sirkin-I was fascinated, but, alas, also frustrated. Innovation is the production of new knowledge that generates value. It is about fresh ideas that give rise to novel products, services, and processes, new management methods, and original designs and inventions that generate greater profits for firms, regions and countries. These are great ideas, but as I went through these texts I found them to be rather familiar sounding-I had the feeling that somehow and somewhere I had already studied them.

(a) The writer after reading several experts on innovation felt disappointed as the experts themselves were merely repeating what the writer already knew.

(b) Though the writer was fascinated by what several experts in the field had to say on innovation, he felt disappointed that the experts had nothing new to say.

(c) Reading the experts on innovation, the writer was fascinated by their great ideas but felt discouraged that those experts were repeating what he already knew.

(d) After reading the world's best writers on innovation, though I felt fascinated by their great ideas but found nothing new in them.

(e) Innovation is about fresh ideas. I found the world's leading experts on innovation lacking in innovation in their works.

Q14. Once a plausible hypothesis is formulated, it must be tested against all existing theories and against all available experience and information. It has to be subject to open criticism from all directions, and only if it survives these tests and criticisms may it be adopted as tentative and conjectural new knowledge. Science and knowledge are made up not of winners, but of survivors of continuous and systematic efforts to refute. Theories are never certain and must always be prepared for an uncertain future.

(a) Science and knowledge have an uncertain future as these are hypotheses that have survived the systematic efforts to refute them.

(b) Science and knowledge are made up not of winners, but of survivors that must be prepared for an uncertain future.

(c) Conjectural new knowledge is that which is subject to criticism from all directions, but have survived the efforts to refute.

(d) Science and knowledge are not made up of definitive truths but of hypotheses that have survived the systematic efforts to disprove them.

(e) Science formulates plausible hypotheses, tests them against existing theories and they are adopted as conjectural new knowledge later.

Q15. Laljipada's residents are largely entrepreneurs running cottage industries from their homes that are as small as 100 square feet. Primarily migrants from North India, they contradict the popular perception that migrants take away jobs from the local population. The 20,000 families here are self-employed; they make products that feed into larger businesses such as imitation jewelry, recycled plastic and paper waste, or operate small tailoring or bakery units. With each family contributing in some way or the other to the final finished product, all the families here are dependent on each other for their livelihood.

(a) Laljipada's residents run cottage industries from their homes contributing to other finished products and are interdependent on each other for livelihood.

(b) The 20,000 families of Laljipada depend on each other for their livelihood as each family runs some cottage industry producing parts for some other products.

(c) Laljipada's 20,000 families have a well-knit system of cottage industries each one dependent on the other for its livelihood.

(d) Laljipada's 20,000 families are a well-knit system of north Indian entrepreneurs dependent on each other without taking away the jobs from the locals.

(e) Laljipada's 20,000 families are a well-knit system of entrepreneurs making products that feed into larger businesses and each dependent on the other for its livelihood.

S1. Ans.(a)

Sol. The key elements are: IMF's proposal of new global tax on the profits and bonuses of financial institutions and banks-

intend to prevent future global financial crises. Options (B), (C) and (D) say "will prevent"; Option (E) leaves out IMF. Hence option (A) is the best without distortion though some elements are left out; there is no distortion.

S2. Ans.(d)

Sol. Options (A) and (B) mention "arms treaty" instead of "nuclear arms treaty." Option (C) misses out on the normalizing of relationship and rapprochement. Option (E) misses out on the significant "normalizing of relations." Option (D) is the best concise description.

S3. Ans.(c)

Sol. The gist of the passage is: Asia and Africa are already experiencing food shortages for two years. The cost of crops is expected to rise in Sudan – this may trigger a severe food crisis in Sudan. In option (A), Asia and Africa are left out. Options (B) and (D) extend the crisis to Asia and Africa, especially the rise in the cost of crops. Option (E) leaves out Asia and Africa. Option (C) gives the gist without distortion of idea.

S4. Ans.(b)

Sol. The highlight of the paragraph is that the facilities available in the digital age have facilitated storage of data on a large scale. Earlier retaining information was difficult; now deleting is more time-consuming and costly; hence we save almost everything. Option (B), among the options, captures this best. Option (B) is eliminated because it states "natural habit of forgetting" – remembering and forgetting are used more figuratively than literally. Option (C) states "worthless information." Option (D) is similar to option (B). Option (E) misses the digital age.

S5. Ans.(d)

Sol. Gist of the paragraph: Human capital is the abilities, skills, knowledge, and dispositions that make for economic success – economists are trying to conceptualize and formulate a human – capital policy for success. Human capital is a product of history and may not be readily replicable. Option (A) talks only about conceptualizing and not about using it for success. Option (B) distorts the idea in "must know history." Option (C) does not use the terms economists or human capital or policy. Option (E) is almost correct but is a distortion in "struggling to replicate economic success" and misses the most important point about replication. Option (D), though not the ideal précis, is the best.

S6. Ans.(c)

Sol. The gist of the paragraph is: The principle social solidarity through democratic debates establishes education, healthcare etc. accessible to individuals. Individuals exploit this system (schools, universities) and become successful. But they feel that their success is due to individual merit. Option (D) summarizes this best within the constraints of a précis. Option (A) is a distortion in "exploit." Option (B) is a distortion in "myth." Option (D) is correct but option (C) is better as it specifies "owe their success" rather than "a result of." Option (E) is not structured well and is vague.

S7. Ans.(e)

Sol. Option (A) and (D) do not mention the failure in the past. Options (B) and (D) leave out the “adapt” idea. Option (E), on the other hand leave out the specifics, and captures the essential attitude of politicians and governments towards new technologies and mentions the “adapt” factor too. Option (E), hence, is the best available précis.

S8. Ans.(c)

Sol. Option (A) is contrary to the passage. Options (B) and (D) fail to mention “economic crisis.” Option (E) distorts the idea in “did not signal the end of capitalism or its future.” Option (C) – though it does not include the perception or desire of some people to see the crisis as the end of capitalism, captures the essence without distortion.

S9. Ans.(d)

Sol. The paragraph is not about American TV in particular – American TV is cited as example of what TV has achieved. The gist of the paragraph is: newspapers etc., are dying but far from being cowed by new media, TV is colonising it; American TV is an example. Options (A), (B), and (E) stress the American TV which is not the essence of the paragraph. Between (C) and (D), option (D) more accommodative and precise.

S10. Ans.(c)

Sol. In addition to the other details in the passage option (C) also mentions “guide policy decisions” which makes it the preferred option. Option (E) is erroneous because it states data collection is delayed. The other options are not incorrect; they are similar but highlight different aspects of the paragraph but leaves out why reports become useless. Hence option (C) scores above them.

S11. Ans.(b)

Sol. Option (A) is largely correct but the paragraph states individual evil – option makes it individuals – which is a distortion. All options miss the media part – hence it is of no consequence in the comparison of options. Option (C) is correct but misses the public opinion part. Option (D) misses the individual evil part. Option (E) is a total distortion of the ideas.

S12. Ans.(c)

Sol. The gist of the paragraph is: The CEOs owe... their success to ...public goods ... this calls for more modesty in ... highest salaries, ...for the sustainability of the system. Also, the ...the poor, can no longer deny the latter’s contributions. This gist is best captured in the option (C). Option (A) – product of the system; option (B) – moral responsibility; option (D) – must reduce; option (E) – emphasis on public goods (no mention of salaries); all these make option (C) the best choice.

S13. Ans.(c)

Sol. The first person is not repeated in a précis. Hence options (D) and (E) are eliminated, however good they may appear. Among options (A), (B) and (C), - option (C) captures the essence of the paragraph the best. Option (A) misses the “great ideas” part. Option (B) is clearly unclear because the contrast is not clear.

S14. Ans.(d)

Sol. The gist of the paragraph is available in the paragraph itself: Science and knowledge are made up not of winners, but of survivors of continuous and systematic efforts to refute. In fact, all the options also in one way or the other say the same thing, but the phrasing and the emphasis changes. Option (D) phrases it the best, hence the answer.

S15. Ans.(e)

Sol. The paragraph is very easy to understand. You need to choose the option that best communicates in fewer words the intended communication of the paragraph without any distortion or incorrect emphasis. Option (E) expresses the gist in the best way. The other options have something or the other which either not necessary or is emphasized unnecessarily.

Directions (1-15): Five alternative summaries are given below the text. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.

Q1. The pursuit of a sustainable global society of low CO2 emitters requires a tremendous effort. Precisely for this reason, it also requires a broadly shared ethical basis. This would guide the negotiating parties in such a way that they look not only for solutions to a part of the problem, but first and foremost at a comprehensive solution to the entire problem. The climate change issue is too important to be left in the care of politicians. It is therefore imperative that not only nation states, but the business community and citizens combine their efforts to save our planet’s climate. That is not only a scientific necessity; it is an ethical imperative.

(a) Since a global society of low CO2 emitters requires tremendous effort, it requires a shared ethical basis on which a comprehensive solution can emerge. It is imperative that not only politicians but business and citizens are involved to save the planet’s climate.

(b) Tremendous efforts and a shared ethical basis are required for sustainable global society of low CO2 emitters that can negotiate a comprehensive solution to climate change. It is imperative that nations and citizens work together to save the planet’s climate.

(c) The scientific and ethical imperative to find a comprehensive solution to climate change is that there are combined efforts from politicians, business and citizens to constitute a sustainable society of low CO2 emitters.

(d) A global society of low CO2 emitters requires tremendous effort, and a shared ethical basis. It is a scientific and ethical imperative that not only politicians but business and citizens are involved to save the planet’s climate.

(e) Since a global society of low CO2 emitters requires tremendous effort, it requires a shared ethical basis so that a comprehensive solution can emerge. Since politicians cannot be trusted, business and citizens must get involved in the efforts to save the planet’s climate.

Q2. If foreign institutions are to be allowed at all, it is better that they operate within an appropriate framework of

regulation. If not, unscrupulous operators can use the “foreign” tag to exploit poorly informed students who do not have the scores to enter a good national institution or the finances to travel abroad to acquire a good education. In an environment where good higher educational facilities are in short supply, such operators could get away with charging high fees for courses backed by inadequately qualified faculty, inferior infrastructure and substandard equipment.

- (a) If foreign universities are to be allowed, there should be regulated so that the unsuspecting poor and the low scorers are not exploited by unscrupulous operators.
- (b) The operation of foreign universities must be regulated to prevent the exploitation of students by using their foreign tag to charge high fees for poor facilities.
- (c) If the operation of foreign universities is not regulated they are likely to charge the students high fees using their “foreign tag” and offer poor facilities in return.
- (d) If foreign universities are to be allowed, their operations must be regulated; otherwise, unscrupulous elements will use the foreign tag to charge high fees even for poor facilities.
- (e) Students who have low scores and those who cannot afford to study abroad are likely to be exploited by foreign universities if these universities are allowed to operate without regulations.

Q3. Nutrition is important to ensure proper brain formation and development, which starts in the womb: development of the brain goes on during early childhood. Iodine deficiency is known to affect a child’s Intelligence Quotient (IQ) adversely. It has also been established that children with deficient growth before age two are at an increased risk of chronic disease as adults, especially if they gain weight rapidly in the later stages of childhood. A low birthweight baby, who is stunted and underweight in its infancy and gains weight rapidly in childhood and adult life, is much more prone to chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

- (a) Nutrition is important not only for the formation and development of the brain in the womb, and for the intelligent quotient as a child, but also for the physical well-being in adult life.
- (b) Nutrition affects brain formation and development; iodine is related to IQ. Low weight at birth and rapid weight-gain in childhood increases the risk of heart disease and diabetes in adult life.
- (c) Nutrition affects a child’s brain formation and development. Lack of iodine causes low IQ, whereas low weight babies develop heart disease and diabetes in later life.
- (d) Starting in the womb, nutrition affects the child’s brain formation and development. A low baby is more prone to develop cardiovascular disease and diabetes if it gains weight during childhood.
- (e) Nutrition is important for brain formation and development as well as for the overall health. Iodine can affect the child’s IQ, and low weight at birth can lead to chronic conditions in adult life.

Q4. When a species evolves traits that seem to have little to do with individual survival-bright colours, say, or oversize horns, it is typically the male alone who sports these excesses. Observing this, Charles Darwin proposed the idea of “selection

in relation to sex” as a follow-up to his theory of natural selection. He defined it as the struggle between members of one sex, “generally male,” to possess the other. The plumage of peacocks attracts peahens. The stag’s antlers are there to fight off other stags and so on.

- (a) The plumage of peacocks and the stag’s antlers, according to Charles Darwin, have little to do with survival but are evolutionary excesses to possess the female.
- (b) Bright colours or oversize horns, according to Charles Darwin, are evolutionary excesses unrelated to individual survival but help the male in the struggle to possess the female.
- (c) Charles Darwin defined the plumage of peacocks and the stag’s antlers as excesses in the struggle between members of one sex to possess the other.
- (d) According to Charles Darwin, when a species evolves excesses that have nothing to do with survival they are generally male and useful to fight off the other male.
- (e) In his follow up to natural selection Charles Darwin defined evolutionary excesses as having little to do with survival and more to do with male domination of the female.

Q5. Some people think sports cars are threatened with extinction by tightening restrictions on carbon-dioxide emissions and unacceptable fuel-guzzling. They fear the roar of the V8 will be replaced by the whirr of the electric armature – and that motoring will never be the same again. Well, it ought to be quieter, that is true. But they need not fear that electric cars will be slower. The secret is that electric motors are better than combustion engines. They have more oomph, and no need of a gearbox to deliver it.

- (a) Contrary to what some people think sports cars will go even faster with electric power.
- (b) The belief that sports cars will become extinct is a misplaced one, as cars with electric motors will go faster than combustion engines.
- (c) The restrictions on carbon emissions need not make the sports cars extinct as faster electric cars will easily replace them.
- (d) Contrary to popular belief that electric cars are slower, they are in fact better and faster than combustion engines.
- (e) Though more noisy than the combustion engines cars with electric motors deliver more power even without a gearbox; they will replace the combustion engines.

Q6. From the beginning, the cloud hanging over the whole hydrogen enterprise has not been the power source as such, but the intractable difficulty of distributing and storing the stuff. It is not hard to see why. Hydrogen atoms are the smallest and lightest in the universe. The next heaviest element in the periodic table, the inert gas helium, is used for detecting cracks in pressure vessels and the like. Even though helium atoms are four times chunkier than hydrogen atoms, they are still small enough to find all the weak spots as they worm their way through the crystalline structure of solid steel several centimeters thick. If hydrogen were used as a crack detector, it would escape four times faster.

- (a) Hydrogen enterprise is doomed to ultimate failure because hydrogen like helium can be used as a crack detector.

(b) Storing and distributing hydrogen is difficult as it is made up of the smallest and lightest atoms will leak through the weak spots even through walls several centimeters thick.

(c) Hydrogen enterprise cannot succeed as storing and distributing it is a formidable challenge because it can leak through even steel four times faster than helium.

(d) As a power source the difficulty of hydrogen enterprise is the difficulty in storing and distributing it because of its lightness.

(e) The difficulty that hydrogen enterprise faces is storing and distribution, as hydrogen atoms are the smallest and the lightest and can escape through the structure of even solid steel.

Q7. Criminals watch television too, and there is evidence they are also changing their behaviour. Most of the techniques used in crime shows are, after all, at least grounded in truth. Bleach, which destroys DNA, is now more likely to be used by murderers to cover their tracks. The wearing of gloves is more common, as is the taping shut – rather than the DNA-laden licking – of envelopes. Investigators comb crime scenes ever more finely now for new kinds of evidence, which is creating problems with the tracking and storage of evidence.

(a) Since criminals are also influenced by television shows, they change their behaviour to leave fewer traces, forcing investigators to search for new kinds of evidence.

(b) Criminals learn from television shows that bleach can destroy DNA and have learnt to cover their tracks giving rise to the need for new kinds of evidence.

(c) The problem of having to search for new kinds of evidence arises from criminals who watch television learning to cover their tracks better.

(d) Since criminals learn from television that bleach destroys DNA, wearing gloves, and taping envelopes etc., cover their tracks, investigators now look for new evidence.

(e) Since criminals are also influenced by the television shows they watch; they have learnt to cover their tracks effectively posing a problem for investigators.

Q8. Storing energy is one of the biggest obstacles to the widespread adoption of alternative sources of power. Batteries can be bulky and slow to charge. Hydrogen, which can be made electrolytically from water and used to power fuel cells, is difficult to handle. But there may be an alternative: magnesium. As school chemistry lessons show, metallic magnesium is highly reactive and stores a lot of energy. Even a small amount of magnesium ribbon burns in a flame with a satisfying white heat. Researchers are now devising ways to extract energy from magnesium in a more controlled fashion.

(a) Problems with the storage and handling of conventional energy sources have forced the researchers to turn their attention to magnesium which stores a lot of energy naturally.

(b) As hydrogen and dry cells pose great obstacles to storing energy, researchers are looking at extracting energy from magnesium which stores a lot of energy.

(c) As storing energy is a big obstacle to the adoption of alternative sources of power, researchers are looking at extracting energy from magnesium which stores a lot of energy.

(d) Researchers are devising ways to extract energy from magnesium, as magnesium stores a lot of energy compared to the bulky dry cells and hydrogen.

(e) Alternative energy researchers are now turning their attention towards magnesium which stores a lot of energy and because dry cells and hydrogen are difficult to handle.

Q9. Many preventive measures for cognitive decline and for preventing Alzheimer's disease – mental stimulation, exercise, and a variety of dietary supplements – have been studied over the years. However, an independent panel convened this week by the National Institutes of Health determined that the value of these strategies for delaying the onset and/or reducing the severity of decline or disease hasn't been demonstrated in rigorous studies. Alzheimer's disease is a feared and heart-breaking disease, we wish we could tell people that taking a pill or doing a puzzle every day would prevent this terrible disease, but current evidence doesn't support this.

(a) The National Institutes of Health has determined that the strategies for delaying, reducing the severity of Alzheimer's disease hasn't been demonstrated in rigorous studies.

(b) Alzheimer's disease cannot be prevented, delayed or its severity reduced by medication or through mental exercises.

(c) There is no evidence whether Alzheimer's disease can be prevented, delayed or its severity reduced by pills or by doing puzzles.

(d) An independent panel convened by the National Institutes of Health has determined that medication or solving puzzle does not affect Alzheimer's disease.

(e) An independent panel convened by the National Institutes of Health has reported that it has found insufficient evidence to support preventive measures for Alzheimer's disease.

Q10. The mass production of optical mice has made the highly sophisticated sensors on which they rely very inexpensive. Additionally, advances in electronics and optics have yielded sensors that are both small and extremely precise. A generic optical mouse, costing only a few dollars, is capable of capturing and comparing surface images several thousand times per second. Often, this high resolution enables their use on a variety of surfaces-both traditional and ad hoc (e.g., palms, pants, bed covers).

(a) Advances in electronic and optics have facilitated the use of highly sophisticated sensors for high precision, low cost, multi-surface optical tracking in generic optical mice.

(b) The mass production of optical mice has made the optical sensors inexpensive; sensors are now cheap, precise and can be used on any surface.

(c) Mass production and advances in electronics and optics have yielded sensors that are cheap, high resolution, and capable of being used on any surface.

(d) Advances in technology and mass production have made the generic optical mice capable of high precision, low cost, and multi-surface optical tracking.

(e) Advances in technology and mass production have made the generic optical mice sophisticated devices capable of being used on different surfaces.

Q11. Heating and squishing microalgae in a pressure-cooker can fast-forward the crude-oil-making process from millennia

to minutes. University of Michigan professors are working to understand and improve this procedure in an effort to speed up development of affordable bio-fuels that could replace fossil fuels and power today's engines. They are also examining the possibility of other new fuel sources such as E. coli bacteria that would feed on waste products from previous bio-oil batches.

(a) Professors at Michigan University are working to understand and improve the making of affordable bio-fuels to replace fossil fuels and then convert the waste further into fuel.

(b) University of Michigan professors are working towards pressure-cooking algae into bio-fuel and seeking to use E. coli to further convert the waste into bio-fuel.

(c) University of Michigan professors are working towards pressure-cooking algae into bio-fuel and seeking to recycle the waste into new source material for future fuel batches.

(d) University of Michigan professors are working towards converting microalgae into bio-fuel and seeking to recycle the waste into new source material for future fuel batches.

(e) None of the above

Q12. Whales seem to stir up strong feelings. For conservationists, the majestic mammals have been in urgent need of protection ever since factory ships began slaughtering them in the middle of the last century. But advocates of whaling present themselves as protectors of traditional culture, diets, and the rights of indigenous people. It is difficult to find any common ground, even when an honest attempt is made.

(a) Advocates present traditional culture, diets, and people's rights, and conservationists cite the need for protection for and against whaling.

(b) It is difficult to find any common ground in the arguments of conservationists and advocates of whaling – except that both are emotional.

(c) Whales stir up strong feelings in conservationists as well as advocates of whaling – with valid and irreconcilable reasoning on both sides.

(d) Other than strong feelings the arguments of people who are for and against whaling are irreconcilable.

(e) None of the above

Q13. Although new battery technologies are emerging, their weight and size is likely to remain a drag on the development of electric and hybrid cars, forcing manufacturers to come up with new and inventive ways to shed weight and free up space. One solution which researchers are exploring is to build cars using a hybrid material: a carbon composite that is also capable of storing electrical energy. That way, car designers could combine structural form with electrical function.

(a) The manufacturers and designers of electric and hybrid cars are constrained by the weight and size of the batteries; hybrid material seems to be the only solution.

(b) Since manufacturers and designers are constrained by the bulkiness of the batteries, researchers are exploring hybrid material capable of storing electrical energy.

(c) By building cars with multifunction material, researchers are exploring a solution to the weight and size of batteries

which are a drag on the development of electric and hybrid cars.

(d) The structural form and function of electric and hybrid cars can be the solution to the bulkiness of the batteries that constrain both the manufacturers and the designers.

(e) None of the above

Q14. The earth's volcanoes appear for the most part in three types of setting. The most familiar, and most of the most dangerous, are found where one tectonic plate overrides another, as happens in the ring of fire around the Pacific. Then there are those which sit over isolated "hotspots" of upwelling magma from deep in the earth, like the volcanoes of Hawaii. Finally, there are those – a great many, but normally deep under the ocean – formed at the spreading ridges where tectonic plates pull away from each other and new crust is formed. Iceland is peculiarly volcanic because it is formed by the intersection of a hotspot and a mid-ocean ridge.

(a) The earth's volcanoes exist in three settings: where one tectonic plate overrides another, over hotspots of upwelling magma, and under the oceans where plates are moving apart.

(b) There are three types of volcanoes: the most dangerous ones over the tectonic plates, over the isolated hotspots of upwelling, and on ocean beds at the ridges of tectonic plates.

(c) Volcanoes are of three types: where one tectonic plate overrides another, over hotspots of magma upwelling from within the earth, and ones at the spreading ridges where tectonic plates pull away from each other.

(d) The earth's volcanoes appear in three types: where one tectonic plate overrides another, over hotspots of upwelling magma, and where plates are moving apart.

(e) None of the above

Q15. It sounds implausible. Roboticists have struggled for decades to understand bipedal locomotion, and even today's most sophisticated robots require huge amounts of energy and computer power to walk on two legs. But Dr Herr's credentials are sound. He is a leading authority on the biomechanics of legs, and in the past decade he has made several advances in the development of artificial legs and assistive walking devices, or "orthoses," enabling amputees to walk with a more natural gait than was previously possible.

(a) It is an unbelievable task that Dr. Herr has achieved in developing assistive walking devices, or "orthoses"; roboticists are still far away from understanding bipedal locomotion.

(b) Even when robots consume huge computing power and energy to walk, Dr Herr's "orthoses," enable amputees to walk with a more natural gait.

(c) Dr Herr's "orthoses" or assistive devices for amputees challenge the roboticists who have failed to simulate bipedal motion without consuming huge computer power and energy.

(d) Dr Herr has been successful in developing "orthoses" enabling amputees to walk with a natural gait; even sophisticated robots haven't come close to natural bipedal locomotion.

(e) None of the above

Solutions

S1. Ans.(b)

Sol. The following are the highlights of the paragraph: ... sustainable global society of low CO2 emitters requires a tremendous effort. ... shared ethical basis. ...a comprehensive solution ... politicians. ... Nation states ... business community and citizens ...scientific necessity; it is an ethical imperative. Except for not specifying the politicians, business etc. Option (B) captures everything (it states nations and citizens – which can accommodate all). The other options on careful examination can be seen to distort something or the other.

S2. Ans.(d)

Sol. Option (A) has the vague “poor” in it. Option (B) misses out the “if they are to be allowed part” which is significant to the précis. Option (C) states “they are likely to charge” – the paragraph mentions only the unscrupulous elements may do this. Option (E) assumes only students with low scores etc., will go to these universities. Option (D) is the best choice, with the least problems.

S3. Ans.(a)

Sol. The paragraph is about how nutrition is important for child’s mental and physical wellbeing – this begins in the womb, and continues into adult life. This essence is captured by option (A). The other options highlight the specifics of the paragraph. Though not incorrect, they struggle to include the details and miss the “essence” of the paragraph.

S4. Ans.(b)

Sol. Options (A) and (C) specifically explain the plumage of peacocks and the stag’s antlers – these are examples for bright colours or oversize horns and such other traits. Hence, though correct the purpose of the paragraph is general. Option (D) is also alright except that it does not specify why the males fight. Option (E) is incorrect in “male domination of the female.”

S5. Ans.(c)

Sol. Only option (C) mentions “restrictions on carbon emissions” and includes what other options elaborate on.

S6. Ans.(e)

Sol. “ultimate failure” eliminates option (A). No mention of “hydrogen enterprise” eliminates option (B). “cannot succeed” eliminates option (C). Option (D) in comparison to (E) does not explain “lightness.” Option (E) is brief and to the point.

S7. Ans.(a)

Sol. The main points are Criminals watch television ... changing their behaviour ... (examples) cover their tracks ... for new kinds of evidence ... problems with the tracking and storage of evidence. The last point is not mentioned in any of the options. Option (A) has these points and does not distort any of the points. Option (B) emphasizes bleach etc., rather than the gist. Option (C) is correct but loses out top option (A) because of phrasing – option (A) is better phrased. Option (D) is similar to option (B). Option (E) does not specify the problem. In comparison, option (A) is the best.

S8. Ans.(c)

Sol. Option (A) completely misses the point in “conventional sources” – the paragraph is about “alternative sources.”

Option (B) is correct but emphasizes the problem with hydrogen and dry cells whereas the first sentence states the problem explicitly as storing – hydrogen and dry cells are examples. Option (D) misses the “alternative energy” part. Option (E) “difficult to handle” is vague; and the emphasis has shifted as in option (B).

S9. Ans.(e)

Sol. Option (A), (B) and (C) are either erroneous or incomplete as they omit the independent panel. Between option (D) and (E), it is an easy choice in favour of option (E) as option (D) is too general and vague.

S10. Ans.(d)

Sol. Option (A) misses mass production. Option (B) misses “advances in technology.” Option (C) confuses sensors with mice. Option (D) does not distort the message. Option (E) misses high resolution, inexpensive etc.

S11. Ans.(c)

Sol. Option (A) does not mention the microalgae part. Option (B) is unnecessarily specific about E. coli-the paragraph states “such as E. coli bacteria.” Option (D) is correct but does not tell us how the algae can be converted into bio fuel which option (C) does. Option (C) best captures the essence.

S12. Ans.(c)

Sol. Option (C) is closes to the given paragraph. Option (A) leaves out the feelings part which is central to the paragraph. Option (B) is a miscommunication. The paragraph talks about strong feelings forestalling a compromise – the purpose is not to suggest that they are merely emotional. Option (D) is meaningless – one cannot make sense of it, especially in the light of the paragraph.

S13. Ans.(c)

Sol. Option (B) would have been the best option if it had mentioned “hybrid material to build cars.” As it stands the summary states they are exploring hybrid material which is incomplete. “...only solution” eliminates option (A). Option (D) is a sadly inadequate précis and unclear.

S14. Ans.(a)

Sol. According to the paragraph volcanoes exist in three settings; there is no need to interpret this as three types of volcanoes – there may even be many types within these settings. Though the other options are not as concise as option (A), they also have other deficiencies missing out on important part like under the ocean etc. Option (A) captures the essence of the paragraph.

S15. Ans.(d)

Sol. Option (A) states “far away from understanding bipedal locomotion” – it is the computing power and energy that are the issues, hence this is a distortion. Option (C) is eliminated because of “challenge the roboticists...” which is incorrect. Between options (B) and (D), option (D) scores over (B) only for the reason that “even sophisticated robots haven’t come close to natural bipedal locomotion” is better than “robots consume huge computing power and energy to walk” in the light of the

purpose of the paragraph – the energy factor only reinforces the difficulty of mastering “natural bipedal locomotion.”

Directions (1-15): Five alternative summaries are given below the text. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.

Q1. Laljipada’s residents are largely entrepreneurs running cottage industries from their homes that are as small as 100 square feet. Primarily migrants from North India, they contradict the popular perception that migrants take away jobs from the local population. The 20,000 families here are self-employed; they make products that feed into larger businesses such as imitation jewelry, recycled plastic and paper waste, or operate small tailoring or bakery units. With each family contributing in some way or the other to the final finished product, all the families here are dependent on each other for their livelihood.

- (a) Laljipada’s residents run cottage industries from their homes contributing to other finished products and are interdependent on each other for livelihood.
- (b) The 20,000 families of Laljipada depend on each other for their livelihood as each family runs some cottage industry producing parts for some other products.
- (c) Laljipada’s 20,000 families have a well-knit system of cottage industries each one dependent on the other for its livelihood.
- (d) Laljipada’s 20,000 families are a well-knit system of north Indian entrepreneurs dependent on each other without taking away the jobs from the locals.
- (e) Laljipada’s 20,000 families are a well-knit system of entrepreneurs making products that feed into larger businesses and each dependent on the other for its livelihood.

Q2. Russia and the United States have signed a new strategic nuclear-arms reduction treaty. Officially, the treaty cuts their weapons by one-third; in fact, each party, will decommission only several dozens. Nevertheless, the treaty is a considerable achievement. It normalizes political relations between the two countries, thereby facilitating their further cooperation and rapprochement.

- (a) The new strategic arms reduction treaty signed between Russia and the United States may facilitate further cooperation between them.
- (b) The new strategic arms reduction treaty signed between Russia and the United States may lead to cordial relations between them.
- (c) Russia and the United States have signed a strategic nuclear-arms reduction treaty to reduce weapons by one-third.
- (d) Russia and the United States have signed a new strategic nuclear-arms reduction treaty which normalizes political relations between the two countries.
- (e) Russia and the United States have signed a new strategic nuclear-arms reduction treaty is a considerable achievement.

Q3. A severe food crisis currently threatens southern Sudan. In East Africa, where millions of people already are dependent on food aid, a sharp rise in the cost of staple crops looms. These

are just the latest sources of concern in a turbulent period that began two years ago when food shortages hit many countries in Africa and Asia due to a worldwide spike in prices. Higher food prices meant that poor people, already struggling to meet basic human needs, were pushed deeper into poverty.

- (a) An impending food crisis looms over southern Sudan where higher food prices have pushed people deeper into poverty.
- (b) The food crisis in Africa and Asia, especially in southern Sudan already struggling under food shortages, higher prices, and poverty may worsen owing to further a rise in the cost of staple crops.
- (c) As many countries in Africa and Asia are experiencing prolonged food shortages, an impending food crisis threatens Sudan due to a rise in the cost of staple crops.
- (d) The food crisis in Africa and Asia already struggling under food shortages, higher prices, and poverty may worsen owing to further a rise in the cost of staple crops.
- (e) The food crisis in southern Sudan struggling under food shortages, higher prices, and poverty may worsen owing to further a rise in the cost of staple crops.

Q4. For millennia, remembering information was costly and time-consuming, and to forget was a natural part of being human. In the digital age, the opposite is true: cheap computer storage, powerful processors, and ubiquitous Internet access have made remembering the norm. Consider this: we tend to retain our rough drafts, years of e-mail traffic, and thousands of ghastly digital snapshots on our hard drives, not because we have decided that they are worth remembering, but because keeping them is now the default way of doing things. By contrast, deciding what to delete is costly. It actually requires much more time and effort to shed data than to keep it.

- (a) Since the digital age has made retaining information cheap and effortless, we have left behind our natural habit of forgetting.
- (b) Since the digital age has made storage of data cheap and easy, we now store large amounts of information even it is worthless.
- (c) Remembering is no more costly and time consuming in the digital age; hence, we store large amounts of worthless information.
- (d) The digital age has made it possible to retain large amounts of data cheaply and easily; hence we remember more unlike in the past.
- (e) As deciding what to delete is costly and time consuming we now tend to store everything from rough drafts to ghastly images.

Q5. In recent decades, economists have been struggling to make use of the concept of human capital, often defined as the abilities, skills, knowledge, and dispositions that make for economic success. Yet those who use the term often assume that to conceptualize a phenomenon is a first step to manipulating it. And, indeed, “human-capital policy” is now much in fashion. But what if many of the abilities and dispositions in question are a product of history, capable of being understood and explained but not readily replicated?

- (a) Economists trying to conceptualize human capital must know that the abilities and dispositions are a product of history incapable of being replicated.

(b) Economists trying to conceptualize human-capital policy for economic success must know history and that success cannot be replicated.

(c) The abilities, skills, knowledge, and dispositions that make for economic success are a product of history and may not be replicable.

(d) Economists attempting a policy based on human capital for economic success must know that the abilities referred to as human capital may not be readily replicable.

(e) Economists struggling to replicate economic success through a human-capital policy must know that human capital is a product of history and may only be understood.

Q6. An individual is free and autonomous only because of the collective decisions taken after democratic debate, notably those decisions that guarantee each person access to public goods such as education, health care, etc. Some sense of social solidarity may remain, but it is so abstract that those for whom the wheel of fortune has spun so favourably feel little debt. They believe that they owe their status purely to merit, not to the collective efforts-state-funded schools, universities, etc. – that enabled them to realize their potential.

(a) Individual success and autonomy are a result of the ability to exploit the system put together through collective efforts with a sense of social solidarity.

(b) The decisions that guarantee each person access to public goods are collective in nature, and individual merit is a myth.

(c) Individuals owe their success and autonomy to collective decisions and efforts that guarantee access to public goods like schools and universities.

(d) Individual success and autonomy are a result of the systems made through collective efforts that guarantee each person access to these systems.

(e) Individuals are free and autonomous only as far as they realize that they owe their success to collective decisions made with a sense of social solidarity.

Q7. Throughout history, political leaders have supported existing communication technologies in order to defend the system in which they rule. Today, too, governments may be tempted to protect newspapers and public TV on the pretext of “saving democracy as we know it.” But efforts to block technological change have been futile in the past, and they would be unwise today. Instead, the political system and the media must adapt to the new reality – the internet.

(a) Instead of trying to protect newspapers and public TV by blocking the internet, political leaders, and governments must adapt to the new reality.

(b) As they have failed in the past, political leaders and government would fail to block the internet by promoting the newspapers and public TV.

(c) Political leaders and governments have consistently failed in their efforts to block new technologies by supporting the existing ones.

(d) By supporting the newspapers and the public TV politicians and governments are trying to protect the existing media under the pretext of saving democracy.

(e) The efforts by governments and politicians to save the existing communication technologies have always proved

futile; instead they must adapt to the new reality, today, the internet.

Q8. The financial and economic crisis that erupted in 2008 will, in retrospect, be regarded as a transformative moment, because it raised fundamental questions about the future shape of our economic systems. These questions are not so much about the end of capitalism-as some perceive or even desire-but rather about the different ways in which capitalism is understood in different countries.

(a) In retrospect, the economic crisis of 2008 raised fundamental questions about the future of capitalism working in different countries.

(b) In retrospect, the crisis that erupted in 2008 was not about the failure of capitalism as some see it, but about the differences between countries.

(c) In retrospect, the economic crisis of 2008 was not about the end of capitalism, but about how capitalism is understood in different countries.

(d) In retrospect, the crisis that erupted in 2008 was not fundamentally about the end of capitalism but about the future of capitalism in different countries.

(e) The economic crisis of 2008 did not signal the end of capitalism of its future but how it is understood in different countries.

Q9. Newspapers are dying; the music industry is still yelping about iTunes; book publishers think they are next. Yet one bit of old media seems to be doing rather well. In the final quarter of 2009 the average American spent almost 37 hours a week watching television. Earlier this year 116 m of them saw the Super Bowl-a record for a single programme. Far from being cowed by new media, TV is colonising it. Shows like “American Idol” and “Britain's Got Talent” draw huge audiences partly because people are constantly messaging and tweeting about them, and discussing them on Facebook.

(a) Though newspapers, the music, and publishing industries are dying, American TV has been able to draw large audiences and being discussed on the internet.

(b) Though newspapers, the music and publishing industries are dying, American TV is colonizing the media with the average American spending 37 hours per week watching television.

(c) Though newspapers, the music, and publishing industries are dying, TV is colonizing the media and has huge audiences.

(d) Newspapers, music industry, and book publishers have been cowed by the new media whereas TV has coped well and still draws large audiences, as American TV proves.

(e) Newspapers, music, and book publishers have not been able to cope with the emergence of new media but American TV has coped well and still draws large audiences.

Q10. The tragedy about data collection in India is that by the time primary data is converted into useable information, it may be too late to aid policy intervention. This is true of data collected by not just government agencies such as the National Sample Survey Organization but also think-tanks such as National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). One of the criticisms of Human Development in India: Challenges for a Society in Transition-a report put together by NCAER and

Institute of Maryland, US-is that it is based on data collected in 2004-05, and it does not capture the impact of the changes of the past four years when the economy grew at more than 8% on an average every year.

- (a) Data collected by government agencies and other research organizations in India is generally useless as no reports based on the primary data is available for years-NCAER report on human development report is an example.
- (b) The problem with data collection in India is that reports based on the data are not available in time for use-an NCAER report based on 2004-05 data was released four years later.
- (c) The data collection in India is generally useless because reports to guide policy decisions are not made in time-an NCAER report based on 2004-05 data was released four years later.
- (d) Data collected by government agencies and other research organizations in India is generally useless; an NCAER report on human development report was released four years after the data was gathered.
- (e) Data collected by government agencies and other research organizations in India is generally delayed and do not guide policy decisions-NCAER is an example.

Q11. Equating war with individual evil has become ubiquitous-if not universal-in contemporary to international politics. Wars are fights against evil tyrants and the illegitimate governments they control. Such rhetoric makes wars easier to justify, easier to wage, and easier to support, especially for elected leaders who must respond directly to swings in public opinion. Such language works equally well for any society in today's media-obsessed age.

- (a) In international politics wars are equated with individuals and not governments because it is easier for elected governments to justify war and publicize it.
- (b) In international politics, wars are now directed at a personification of evil rather than against tyrants or regimes and are justified by governments in response to public opinion.
- (c) In international politics, wars are equated with individual evil and not illegitimate governments because it is easier for elected governments to justify war and propagate it.
- (d) In international politics, wars are now justified, waged and supported by elected governments to swing public opinion in a media-obsessed world.
- (e) In the media obsessed current age wars are fought in order swing public opinion rather than against evil tyrants or illegitimate governments.

Q12. The CEOs owe at least some of their success to others, given that the society provides public goods like universities and health care. This calls for more modesty and restraint in determining the highest salaries, not for moral reasons but for the sustainability of the system. Also, the most privileged classes which have benefited the most from the solidarity of others, notably the poor, can no longer deny the latter's contributions.

- (a) As both the CEOs and the poor are products of the same system, these two classes need to acknowledge the system for its sustainability.

(b) The CEOs have a moral responsibly to exercise restraint in their highest salaries and the poor must acknowledge the contribution of the CEOs.

- (c) For the sustainability of the system the CEOs need to be modest in their highest salaries, and the poor need to acknowledge the contribution of the CEOs towards their welfare.
- (d) The CEOs must reduce their highest salaries and the poor must acknowledge the contribution of the CEOs for the sustainability of the system.
- (e) The CEOs must acknowledge the role of public goods in their success and the poor must recognize the contribution of the CEOs for their welfare.

Q13. After reading literature by some of the world's leading experts on innovation-Clayton Christensen, Henry Chesbrough, John Kao, James Andrew, and Harold Sirkin-I was fascinated, but, alas, also frustrated. Innovation is the production of new knowledge that generates value. It is about fresh ideas that give rise to novel products, services, and processes, new management methods, and original designs and inventions that generate greater profits for firms, regions and countries. These are great ideas, but as I went through these texts I found them to be rather familiar sounding-I had the feeling that somehow and somewhere I had already studied them.

- (a) The writer after reading several experts on innovation felt disappointed as the experts themselves were merely repeating what the writer already knew.
- (b) Though the writer was fascinated by what several experts in the field had to say on innovation, he felt disappointed that the experts had nothing new to say.
- (c) Reading the experts on innovation, the writer was fascinated by their great ideas but felt discouraged that those experts were repeating what he already knew.
- (d) After reading the world's best writers on innovation, though I felt fascinated by their great ideas but found nothing new in them.
- (e) Innovation is about fresh ideas. I found the world's leading experts on innovation lacking in innovation in their works.

Q14. Once a plausible hypothesis is formulated, it must be tested against all existing theories and against all available experience and information. It has to be subject to open criticism from all directions, and only if it survives these tests and criticisms may it be adopted as tentative and conjectural new knowledge. Science and knowledge are made up not of winners, but of survivors of continuous and systematic efforts to refute. Theories are never certain and must always be prepared for an uncertain future.

- (a) Science and knowledge have an uncertain future as these are hypotheses that have survived the systematic efforts to refute them.
- (b) Science and knowledge are made up not of winners, but of survivors that must be prepared for an uncertain future.
- (c) Conjectural new knowledge is that which is subject to criticism from all directions, but have survived the efforts to refute.
- (d) Science and knowledge are not made up of definitive truths but of hypotheses that have survived the systematic efforts to disprove them.

(e) Science formulates plausible hypotheses, tests them against existing theories and they are adopted as conjectural new knowledge later.

Q15. When the next full-scale global financial crisis hits, let it not be said that the International Monetary Fund never took a stab at forestalling it. Recently, the IMF proposed a new global tax on financial institutions loosely in proportion to their size, as well as a tax on banks' profits and bonuses.

(a) The IMF has proposed a new global tax on financial institutions and banks in an attempt to forestall future financial crises.

(b) The IMF's new global tax on financial institutions and banks will prevent future financial crises.

(c) The IMF has proposed a new global tax on financial institutions and banks which will forestall financial crises.

(d) The IMF has proposed a tax on financial institutions' and banks' profits' and bonuses that will prevent financial crises.

(e) The proposed tax on profits and bonuses of financial institutions and banks is an attempt to forestall future financial crises.

Solutions

S1. Ans.(e)

Sol. The paragraph is very easy to understand. You need to choose the option that best communicates in fewer words the intended communication of the paragraph without any distortion or incorrect emphasis. Option (E) expresses the gist in the best way. The other options have something or the other which either not necessary or is emphasized unnecessarily.

S2. Ans.(d)

Sol. Options (A) and (B) mention "arms treaty" instead of "nuclear arms treaty." Option (C) misses out on the normalizing of relationship and rapprochement. Option (E) misses out on the significant "normalizing of relations." Option (D) is the best concise description.

S3. Ans.(c)

Sol. The gist of the passage is: Asia and Africa are already experiencing food shortages for two years. The cost of crops is expected to rise in Sudan – this may trigger a severe food crisis in Sudan. In option (A), Asia and Africa are left out. Options (B) and (D) extend the crisis to Asia and Africa, especially the rise in the cost of crops. Option (E) leaves out Asia and Africa. Option (C) gives the gist without distortion of idea.

S4. Ans.(b)

Sol. The highlight of the paragraph is that the facilities available in the digital age have facilitated storage of data on a large scale. Earlier retaining information was difficult; now deleting is more time-consuming and costly; hence we save almost everything. Option (B), among the options, captures this best. Option (B) is eliminated because it states "natural habit of forgetting" – remembering and forgetting are used more figuratively than literally. Option (C) states "worthless information." Option (D) is similar to option (B). Option (E) misses the digital age.

S5. Ans.(d)

Sol. Gist of the paragraph: Human capital is the abilities, skills, knowledge, and dispositions that make for economic success – economists are trying to conceptualize and formulate a human – capital policy for success. Human capital is a product of history and may not be readily replicable. Option (A) talks only about conceptualizing and not about using it for success. Option (B) distorts the idea in "must know history." Option (C) does not use the terms economists or human capital or policy. Option (E) is almost correct but is a distortion in "struggling to replicate economic success" and misses the most important point about replication. Option (D), though not the ideal precis, is the best.

S6. Ans.(c)

Sol. The gist of the paragraph is: The principle social solidarity through democratic debates establishes education, healthcare etc. accessible to individuals. Individuals exploit this system (schools, universities) and become successful. But they feel that their success is due to individual merit. Option (D) summarizes this best within the constraints of a précis. Option (A) is a distortion in "exploit." Option (B) is a distortion in "myth." Option (D) is correct but option (C) is better as it specifies "owe their success" rather than "a result of." Option (E) is not structured well and is vague.

S7. Ans.(e)

Sol. Option (A) and (D) do not mention the failure in the past. Options (B) and (D) leave out the "adapt" idea. Option (E), on the other hand leave out the specifics, and captures the essential attitude of politicians and governments towards new technologies and mentions the "adapt" factor too. Option (E), hence, is the best available précis.

S8. Ans.(c)

Sol. Option (A) is contrary to the passage. Options (B) and (D) fail to mention "economic crisis." Option (E) distorts the idea in "did not signal the end of capitalism or its future." Option (C) – though it does not include the perception or desire of some people to see the crisis as the end of capitalism, captures the essence without distortion.

S9. Ans.(d)

Sol. The paragraph is not about American TV in particular – American TV is cited as example of what TV has achieved. The gist of the paragraph is: newspapers etc., are dying but far from being cowed by new media, TV is colonising it; American TV is an example. Options (A), (B), and (E) stress the American TV which is not the essence of the paragraph. Between (C) and (D), option (D) more accommodative and precise.

S10. Ans.(c)

Sol. In addition to the other details in the passage option (C) also mentions "guide policy decisions" which makes it the preferred option. Option (E) is erroneous because it states data collection is delayed. The other options are not incorrect; they are similar but highlight different aspects of the paragraph but leaves out why reports become useless. Hence option (C) scores above them.

S1. Ans.(d)

Sol. A, C and D are correct. B is incorrect in the singular use of 'million' with few – it should be few millions. E needs to link the singular subject the death count (use singular verb -has). Countercharge as one word is correct like counterchallenge.

S2. Ans.(d)

Sol. A and D. B is incorrect because the plural pronoun 'their' is used for Nike (company) C is incorrect because of the comma at the end separating it from the remaining part of the phrase 'labour concerns from the public'. E has the incorrect article a before industry – an industry is correct.

S3. Ans.(a)

Sol. B only. The word immigrant is spelt incorrectly in A. B has no errors. C is incorrect because David Stern is parenthetical hence should be surrounded by commas. D is incorrect because dry goods business needs a determiner – 'owner of a dry goods business'. E is incorrect in tense 'would later become' and not 'would later became'.

S4. Ans.(e)

Sol. A and D are correct. B has a tense error, it should be I associated... C also has a tense error, it should be who seemed so innocent... E is incorrect, although is a conjunction; it is here as an adverb – it is better replaced with however.

S5. Ans.(b)

Sol. A and B. Fragment C has a tense error 'has paid' should be 'had paid' because of 'telephoned' in the earlier fragment. D should have 'the' before State Department. E has an inappropriate apostrophe in the plural of 1980s. A and B are correct. Hence option B.

S6. Ans.(e)

Sol. B and C. A is incorrect – it should be an intense year. In D it's is needed instead of its. E has a parallelism error. "to stop the blog, media interactions and other events" would be correct with all the items in the series as nouns.

S7. Ans.(b)

Sol. B only. A is incorrect because there should be a comma after introductory adverbs like now. (Now the trouble began is correct – now is not an introductory word.) B is correct. C is incorrect – systems will have to replace should read as to be replaced. D is incorrect. It should be there are considerable costs. E is incorrect IT department is singular (the verb has is correct) but the pronoun 'their' is incorrect. The pronoun should be its.

S8. Ans.(c)

Sol. A, B and E are correct. 'head into' is idiomatically correct. (Motorola is heading into an abyss) C is incorrect because 'chances' needs a plural verb – the sentence has is. In such a age is incorrect – it should be "an age".

S9. Ans.(c)

Sol. A and E only. B is incorrect – the pronoun "they" is inconsistent with HortResearch which is singular, also, "a unique and innovative fruit and food products" should be corrected to "unique and innovative fruit and food products". C is incorrect "one of their" is inconsistent with HortResearch, and one of previous innovative technologies is singular, hence the verb should be was and not were. D is incorrect because adopt is confused with adapt. A and E are correct.

S10. Ans.(d)

Sol. D only. A has a tense error – when since is used as conjunction to show the time the perfect tense is a must. The sentence should read "Maragadavalli had been running her father's household ever since ...". Also there is ambiguity in " ... mother had died when she was 13." B also has a tense error. "By the time she got married" rather than "she had got married" – the unnecessary shift in tense makes the sentence meaningless. E is incorrect. The intensifier 'very' is used incorrectly with the comparative less, it should read very little rather than very less.