

# CAT 2024 Slot 3 Question Paper

## VARC

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

**Sentence:** This reality is putting stress on employees who have to pay for transport, desk lunches, more childcare, clothing and that after-work socialisation - costs they haven't incurred for nearly two years.

**Paragraph:** \_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_ . Prices are rising at their fastest rate in 40 years; consequently, return-to-office-related costs have shot up - think petrol and food, for instance. \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ . Yet wages haven't kept up with inflation - even despite the salary growth many workers have enjoyed during a favourable pandemic labour market. \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ . This is especially jarring for workers who were able to save during remote work, when these expenditures weren't a factor. \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_ . In April 2022, Umus, a London university lecturer, told BBC Worklife that they were spending nearly a quarter of what they made every day on return-to-work costs.

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

### Instructions [2 - 5]

The passage below is accompanied by four questions. Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.

Fears of artificial intelligence (AI) have haunted humanity since the very beginning of the computer age. Hitherto, these fears focused on machines using physical means to kill, enslave or replace people. But over the past couple of years, new AI tools have emerged that threaten the survival of human civilisation from an unexpected direction. AI has gained some remarkable abilities to manipulate and generate language, whether with words, sounds or images. AI has thereby hacked the operating system of our civilisation.

Language is the stuff almost all human culture is made of. Human rights, for example, aren't inscribed in our DNA. Rather, they are cultural artefacts we created by telling stories and writing laws. Gods aren't physical realities. Rather, they are cultural artefacts we created by inventing myths and writing scriptures....What would happen once a non-human intelligence becomes better than the average human at telling stories, composing melodies, drawing images, and writing laws and scriptures? When people think about Chatgpt and other new AI tools, they are often drawn to examples like schoolchildren using AI to write their essays. What will happen to the school system when kids do that? But this kind of question misses the big picture. Forget about school essays. Think of the next American presidential race in 2024, and try to imagine the impact of AI tools that can be made to mass-produce political content, fake news stories and scriptures for new cults...

Through its mastery of language, AI could even form intimate relationships with people, and use the power of intimacy to change our opinions and worldviews. Although there is no indication that AI has any consciousness or feelings of its own, to foster fake intimacy with humans, it is enough if the AI can make them feel emotionally attached to it....

What will happen to the course of history when AI takes over culture, and begins producing stories, melodies, laws and religions? Previous tools like the printing press and radio helped spread the cultural ideas of humans, but they never created new cultural ideas of their own. AI is fundamentally different. AI can create completely new ideas, completely new culture....Of course, the new power of AI could be used for good purposes as well. I won't dwell on this because the people who develop AI talk about it enough....

We can still regulate the new AI tools, but we must act quickly. Whereas nukes cannot invent more powerful nukes, AI can make exponentially more powerful AI.... Unregulated AI deployments would create social chaos, which would benefit autocrats and ruin democracies. Democracy is a conversation, and conversations rely on language. When AI hacks language, it could destroy our ability to have meaningful conversations, thereby destroying democracy .... And the first regulation I would suggest is to make it mandatory for AI to disclose that it is an AI. If I am having a conversation with someone, and I cannot tell whether it is a human or an AI—that's the end of democracy. This text has been generated by a human. Or has it?

2. The author identifies all of the following as dire outcomes of the capture of language by AI EXCEPT that it could
- A spawn a completely new culture through its ability to create new ideas and opinions.
  - B out-strip human creativity and endeavours in the spheres such as art and music and, in the formulation of laws.
  - C eventually subvert democratic processes through the mass creation and spread of fake political content and news.
  - D apply its mastery of language to create strong emotional ties which could exacerbate the polarization of political views.
3. The author terms language “the operating system of our civilization” for all the following reasons EXCEPT that it
- A can influence political views and opinions as it engenders close emotional ties among people.
  - B is the basis of AI tools like ChatGPT which can be used to generate academic content and opinion.
  - C is fundamental to the articulation and spread of human values and culture in our society.
  - D has laid the foundation for the creation of cultural artefacts through writing and telling of stories.
4. We can infer that the author is most likely to agree with which of the following statements?
- A People's fears of the dangers of students using ChatGPT and other new AI tools are unfounded.
  - B The commonly expressed fear that future AI developments will fatally harm humans is unfounded.
  - C Apart from its drawbacks, AI tools have been beneficial in boosting technological and industrial advance worldwide.
  - D One of the biggest casualties from the spread of unregulated AI is likely to be the democratic process.
5. The tone of the passage could best be described as
- A cautionary, because the author lays out some adverse effects of the proliferation of unregulated AI tools.
  - B prescient, as the author analyses the future impact of the use of new AI tools on crucial areas of our society and culture.

- C alarmist, because the passage discusses scenarios of the influence of new AI tools on language and human emotions.
- D quizzical, as the passage poses several questions, concluding with the question of whether or not the passage content has been generated by AI.

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

**Sentence:** Many have had to leave their homes behind, with more than 1.3 million people being displaced due to the drought.

**Passage:** Somalia has been dealing with an enormous humanitarian catastrophe, driven by the longest and most severe drought the country has experienced in at least 40 years. \_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_ . Five consecutive rainy seasons have failed, causing more than 8 million people - almost half of the country's population - to experience acute food insecurity. \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ . More than 43,000 people are believed to have lost their lives, with half of the lives lost likely being children under five. The damage the drought has caused is far-reaching. \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ . Farmers have lost all their agricultural income, while pastoralists have lost more than 3 million livestock, impoverishing entire communities, and leaving them on the brink of famine. \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_ . Some, like the pastoralists, may never be able to go back as their livelihoods have been irreversibly wiped out.

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

7. Five jumbled-up sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.

1. Part of the appeal of forecasting is not just that it seems to work, but that you don't seem to need specialized expertise to succeed at it.
2. The tight connection between forecasting and building a model of the world helps explain why so much of the early interest in the idea came from the intelligence community.
3. This was true even though the latter had access to classified intelligence.
4. One frequently cited study found that accurate forecasters' predictions of geopolitical events, when aggregated using standard scientific methods, were more accurate than the forecasts of members of the US intelligence community who answered the same questions in a confidential prediction market.
5. The aggregated opinions of non-experts doing forecasting have proven to be a better guide to the future than the aggregated opinions of experts.

## Instructions [8 - 11]

The passage below is accompanied by four questions. Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.

Moutai has been the global booze sensation of the decade. A bottle of its Flying Fairy, which sold in the 1980s for the equivalent of a dollar, now retails for \$400. Moutai's listed shares have soared by almost 600% in the past five years, outpacing the likes of Amazon ...

It does this while disregarding every Western marketing mantra. It is not global, has meagre digital sales and does not appeal to millennials. It scores pitifully on environmental, social and government measures. In the Boy Scout world of Western business, it would leave a bad taste in more ways than one.

Moutai owes its intoxicating success to three factors—not all of them easy to emulate. First, it profits from Chinese nationalism. Moutai is known as the “national liquor”. It was used to raise spirits and disinfect wounds in Mao's Long March. It was Premier Zhou Enlai's favourite tippie, shared with Richard Nixon in 1972. Its centuries-old craftsmanship—it is distilled eight times and stored for years in earthenware jars—is a source of national pride. It also claims to be hangover-proof, which would make it an invention to rival gunpowder ...

Second, it chose to serve China's super-rich rather than its middle class. Markets are littered with the corpses of firms that could not compete in the cut-throat battle for Chinese middle-class wallets. And the country's premium market is massive—at 73m-strong, bigger than the population of France, notes Euan McLeish of Bernstein, an investment firm, and still less crowded with prestige brands than advanced economies. Moutai is to these well-heeled drinkers what vintage champagne is to the rest of the world ...

Third, Moutai looks beyond affluent millennials and digital natives. The elderly and the middle-aged, it found, can be just as lucrative. Its biggest market now is (male) drinkers in their mid-30s. Many have no siblings, thanks to four decades of China's one-child policy—which also means their elderly parents can splash out on weddings and banquets. Moutai is often a guest of honour.

Moutai has succeeded thanks to nationalism, elitism and ageism, in other words—not in spite of this unholy trinity. But it faces risks. The government is its largest shareholder—and a meddlesome one. It appears to want prices to remain stable. Exorbitantly priced booze is at odds with its professed socialist ideals. Yet minority investors—including many foreign funds—lament that Moutai's wholesale price is a third of what it sells for in shops. Raising it could boost the company's profits further. Instead, in what some see as a travesty of corporate governance, its majority owner has plans to set up its own sales channel ...

In the long run, its biggest risk may be millennials. As they grow older, health concerns, work-life balance and the desire for more wholesome pursuits than binge-drinking may curb the “Ganbei!” toasting culture [heavy drinking] on which so much of the demand for Moutai rests. For the time being, though, the party goes on.

8. The phrase “would make it an invention to rival gunpowder” has been used in the passage in a sense that is

- A literal
- B substantive
- C metaphorical
- D synonymical



9. Which one of the following is both a reason for Moutai's success as well as a possible threat to that success?
- A Chinese love of liquor filled celebration.
  - B Government involvement in its business.
  - C Its appeal to the rich.
  - D Its appeal to the older age group.
10. In the context of the passage, it is most likely that the author refers to Moutai's marketing strategy as "the unholy trinity" because
- A there is nothing holy about marketing techniques for liquor.
  - B it profits from Chinese nationalist feelings.
  - C it contradicts the Western strategy of marketing.
  - D it exposes the firm to long term risks.
11. In the context of the passage, we can infer that to succeed in the liquor industry in China, a marketing firm must consider all of the following factors affecting the Chinese liquor market EXCEPT that
- A there is money to be made from marketing to the middle class.
  - B the government may control the pricing of products.
  - C there are few competitors to meet the demands of high end liquor consumers.
  - D the competition for winning over the middle class is very stiff.
12. There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide where (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

**Sentence:** Taken outside the village of Trang Bang on June 8, 1972, the picture captured the trauma and indiscriminate violence of a conflict that claimed, by some estimates, a million or more civilian lives.

**Paragraph:** The horrifying photograph of children fleeing a deadly napalm attack has become a defining image not only of the Vietnam War but the 20th century. \_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_ Dark smoke billowing behind them, the young subjects' faces are painted with a mixture of terror, pain and confusion. \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ Soldiers from the South Vietnamese Army's 25th Division follow helplessly behind. \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ The picture was officially titled "The Terror of War," but the photo is better known by the nickname given to the naked 9-year-old at its centre: "Napalm Girl". \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_.

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

## Instructions [13 - 16]

The passage below is accompanied by four questions. Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.

Languages become endangered and die out for many reasons. Sadly, the physical annihilation of communities of native speakers of a language is all too often the cause of language extinction. In North America, European colonists brought death and destruction to many Native American communities. This was followed by US federal policies restricting the use of indigenous languages, including the removal of native children from their communities to federal boarding schools where native languages and cultural practices were prohibited. As many as 75 percent of the languages spoken in the territories that became the United States have gone extinct, with slightly better language survival rates in Central and South America ...

Even without physical annihilation and prohibitions against language use, the language of the "dominant" cultures may drive other languages into extinction; young people see education, jobs, culture and technology associated with the dominant language and focus their attention on that language. The largest language "killers" are English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Russian, Hindi, and Chinese, all of which have privileged status as dominant languages threatening minority languages.

When we lose a language, we lose the worldview, culture and knowledge of the people who spoke it, constituting a loss to all humanity. People around the world live in direct contact with their native environment, their habitat. When the language they speak goes extinct, the rest of humanity loses their knowledge of that environment, their wisdom about the relationship between local plants and illness, their philosophical and religious beliefs, as well as their native cultural expression (in music, visual art and poetry) that has enriched both the speakers of that language and others who would have encountered that culture ...

As educators deeply immersed in the liberal arts, we believe that educating students broadly in all facets of language and culture ... yields immense rewards. Some individuals educated in the liberal arts tradition will pursue advanced study in linguistics and become actively engaged in language preservation, setting out for the Amazon, for example, with video recording equipment to interview the last surviving elders in a community to record and document a language spoken by no children.

Certainly, though, the vast majority of students will not pursue this kind of activity. For these students, a liberal arts education is absolutely critical from the twin perspectives of language extinction and global citizenship. When students study languages other than their own, they are sensitized to the existence of different cultural perspectives and practices. With such an education, students are more likely to be able to articulate insights into their own cultural biases, be more empathetic to individuals of other cultures, communicate successfully across linguistic and cultural differences, consider and resolve questions in a way that reflects multiple cultural perspectives, and, ultimately extend support to people, programs, practices, and policies that support the preservation of endangered languages.

There is ample evidence that such preservation can work in languages spiraling toward extinction. For example, Navajo, Cree, and Inuit communities have established schools in which these languages are the language of instruction, and the number of speakers of each has increased.

**13.** In the context of the passage, which one of the following hypothetical scenarios, if true, is NOT an example of the kind of loss that occurs when a language becomes extinct?

- A** The Nicobarese language describes 20 different moods of the ocean. By the time the last speaker is educated in a Central Board school, they will have forgotten their language.
- B** The Lamkangs of Manipur have only 3 remaining native speakers of the language. When they die, we will lose one more group from the government list of indigenous tribes.
- C** The Andamanese language has a word to describe someone who has lost a step-sister. When the language dies, we will lose the concept of the word and the emotions it evokes.
- D** The Inuits of Alaska have 35 different words to describe the texture of snow. When the language becomes extinct, we will lose that understanding of nature.

14. Which one of the following hypothetical scenarios, if true, would most strongly undermine the central ideas of the passage?

- A Most liberal arts students will pursue jobs in publishing and human resource management rather than doctorates in linguistics.
- B A liberal arts education requires that, in addition to being fluent in English, students gain fluency in two of the top five most spoken languages globally.
- C Schools that teach endangered languages can preserve the language only for a generation.
- D Recording a dying language that has only a few remaining speakers freezes it in time: it stops evolving further.

15. It can be inferred from the passage that it is likely South America had a slightly better language survival rate than North America for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- A European colonists allowed children of native speakers to stay at home with their families.
- B the colonial government was unable to mainstream the locals.
- C not many native speakers were killed by European colonists.
- D locals were provided job opportunities in the colonial administration.

16. The author believes that a liberal arts education combined with participation in language preservation empower students in all of the following ways EXCEPT that they will

- A overcome cultural barriers to communication.
- B learn different languages.
- C establish schools to preserve languages spiralling towards extinction.
- D develop a better understanding of their own culture.

17. The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

When the tradwife puts on that georgic, pinstriped dress, she is not just admiring the visual cues of a fantastical past. She takes these dreams of storybook bliss literally, tracing them backward in time until she reaches a logical conclusion that satisfies her. And by doing so, she ends up delivering an unhappy reminder of just how much our lives consist of artifice and playacting. The tradwife outrages people because of her deliberately regressive ideals. And yet her behaviour is, on some level, indistinguishable from the non-tradwife's. The tradwife's trollish genius is to beat us at our own dress-up game. By insisting that the idyllic cottage daydream should be real, right down to the primitive gender roles, she leaves others feeling hollow, cheated. The hullabaloo and headaches she causes may be the price we pay for taking too many things at face value: our just deserts, served Instagram-perfect by a manicured hand on a gorgeous ceramic dish, with fat, mouthwatering maraschino cherries on top.

- A The tradwife's commitment to outdated gender roles and retro fashion critiques the superficiality of today's societal ideals.
- B By promoting an idealized past, the tradwife exposes the artifice of contemporary values and mocks societal norms.
- C The tradwife, with her vintage dress and traditional roles, highlights the superficiality of modern life and challenges current societal norms.
- D The tradwife's vintage dress and adherence to traditional roles reveal the artificial nature of modern life and its superficial values.

**18. The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.**

Lyric poetry is a genre of private meditation rather than public commitment. The impulse in Marxism toward changing a society deemed unacceptable in its basic design would seem to place demands on lyric poetry that such poetry, with its tendency toward the personal, the small scale, and the idiosyncratic, could never answer. There is within Marxism, however, also a strand of thought that would locate in lyric poetry alternative modes of perception and description that call forth a vision of worlds at odds with a repressive reality or that draw attention to the workings of ideology within the hegemonic culture. The poetic imagination may indeed deflect larger social concerns, but it may also be implicitly critical and utopian.

- A The focus of lyric poetry is largely personal while that of Marxism is bringing change in society. Unless the difference is resolved, poetry will remain largely utopian.
- B Marxism has internal contradictions due to which one strand of Marxism sees no merit in lyric poetry while another appreciates the alternative modes of perception in poetry.
- C The focus of lyric poetry as personal may not seem compatible with Marxism. However, it is possible to envisage lyric poetry as a symbol of resistance against an oppressive culture.
- D Marxism makes unreasonable demands on lyric poetry. However, lyric poetry has its own merits that are largely ignored by Marxism due to its personal nature.

**19. Five jumbled-up sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.**

1. To create a synapse, the neuron has specialized structures, often seen as tiny swellings, at its terminal end of the axon where it stores the chemicals that are emitted to transmit a signal to the next neuron.
2. This fetal warm-up act—the soldering of neural connections before the eyes actually function—is crucial to the performance of the visual system.
3. The reasons for this paring back of synapses is a mystery, but synaptic pruning is thought to sharpen and reinforce the “correct” synapses, while removing the weak and unnecessary ones.
4. Neural connections between the eyes and the brain are formed long before birth, establishing the wiring and the circuitry that allow a child to begin visualizing the world the minute she emerges from the womb.
5. During this rehearsal period, synapses—points of chemical connection—between nerve cells are generated in great excess, only to be pruned back during later development.

**20. The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.**

Humans have managed to tweak the underlying biology of various plants and animals to produce high-tech crops and microbes. But regulating these entities is complicated, as the framework of policies and procedures are outdated and not flexible enough to adapt to emerging technology. The question is whether regulation will ever be able to keep up with human innovation, to regulate living things, which are apt to be unpredictable and unique; to capture all the potential risks when new biological entities are introduced, or when they pass on variations of their genes?

- A** The mercurial nature of biological entities calls for scientists to shape the regulations governing emerging technology, with regular calibration to handle variations in the field.
- B** A new framework of rules and procedures for regulating the most recent research emerging from biotechnology is urgently needed, to keep up with this rapidly changing discipline.
- C** Current regulation of biotechnology is outdated, but it is debatable if we can create a framework, imaginative and flexible, to cover all contingencies in this fast-changing area.
- D** The problem with formulating regulation for innovation in the scientific arena is that it is impossible to imagine the outcomes or risks related to the outcomes of all the research.

**Instructions [21 - 24 ]**

**The passage below is accompanied by four questions. Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.**

There is a group in the space community who view the solar system not as an opportunity to expand human potential but as a nature preserve, forever the provenance of an elite group of scientists and their sanitary robotic probes. These planetary protection advocates [call] for avoiding “harmful contamination” of celestial bodies. Under this regime, NASA incurs great expense sterilizing robotic probes in order to prevent the contamination of entirely theoretical biospheres ...

Transporting bacteria would matter if Mars were the vital world once imagined by astronomers who mistook optical illusions for canals. Nobody wants to expose Martians to measles, but sadly, robotic exploration reveals a bleak, rusted landscape, lacking oxygen and flooded with radiation ready to sterilize any Earthly microbes. Simple life might exist underground, or down at the bottom of a deep canyon, but it has been very hard to find with robots. . . . The upsides from human exploration and development of Mars clearly outweigh the welfare of purely speculative Martian fungi ...

The other likely targets of human exploration, development, and settlement, our moon and the asteroids, exist in a desiccated, radiation-soaked realm of hard vacuum and extreme temperature variations that would kill nearly anything. It's also important to note that many international competitors will ignore the demands of these protection extremists in any case. For example, China recently sent a terrarium to the moon and germinated a plant seed—with, unsurprisingly, no protest from its own scientific community. In contrast, when it was recently revealed that a researcher had surreptitiously smuggled super-resilient microscopic tardigrades aboard the ill-fated Israeli Beresheet lunar probe, a firestorm was unleashed within the space community ...

NASA's previous human exploration efforts made no serious attempt at sterility, with little notice. As the Mars expert Robert Zubrin noted in the National Review, U.S. lunar landings did not leave the campsites cleaner than they found it. Apollo's bacteria-infested litter included bags of feces. Forcing NASA's proposed Mars exploration to do better, scrubbing everything and hauling out all the trash, would destroy NASA's human exploration budget and encroach on the agency's other directorates, too. Getting future astronauts off Mars is enough of a challenge, without trying to tote weeks of waste along as well.

A reasonable compromise is to continue on the course laid out by the U.S. government and the National Research Council, which proposed a system of zones on Mars, some for science only, some for habitation, and some for resource exploitation. This approach minimizes contamination, maximizes scientific exploration ... Mars presents a stark choice of diverging human futures. We can turn inward, pursuing ever more limited futures while we await whichever natural or manmade disaster will eradicate our species and life on Earth. Alternatively, we can choose to propel our biosphere further into the solar system, simultaneously protecting our home planet and providing a backup plan for the only life we know exists in the universe. Are the lives on Earth worth less than some hypothetical microbe lurking under Martian rocks?

**21.** The author is unlikely to disagree with any of the following EXCEPT:

- A** the proposal for a zonal segregation of the Martian landscape into regions for different purposes.
- B** that while NASA's earlier missions were not ideal in their approach to space contamination, they likely did no grave damage.
- C** space contamination should be minimised until the possibility of life on the astronomical body being explored is ruled out.
- D** the exorbitant costs of continuing to keep the space environment pristine may be unsustainable.

**22.** The author mentions all of the following reasons to dismiss concerns about contaminating Mars EXCEPT:

- A** the lack of evidence of living organisms on Mars makes possible contamination from earthly microbes a moot point.
- B** efforts to contain contamination on Mars are likely to be derailed as competitor countries may not follow similar restrictions.
- C** the use of similar probes on astronomical bodies like the moon have had little effect on the environment.
- D** earlier explorations have already contaminated pristine space environments.

**23.** The author's overall tone in the first paragraph can be described as

- A** sceptical about the excessive efforts to sanitise planets where life has not yet been proven to exist.
- B** equivocal about the reasons extended by the group of scientists seeking to limit space exploration.
- C** indifferent to the elitism of a few scientists aiming to corner space exploration.
- D** approving of the amount of money NASA spends to restrict the spread of contamination in space.

**24. The contrasting reactions to the Chinese and Israeli “contaminations” of lunar space**

- A** are valid as the contamination of the lunar environment from animal sources is far greater than from plants.
- B** are evidence of China’s reasonable approach towards space contamination.
- C** indicate that national scientists may have different sensitivities to issues of biosphere protection.
- D** reveal global biases prevalent in attitudes towards different countries.

## Answers

1. <b>B</b>	2. <b>D</b>	3. <b>B</b>	4. <b>D</b>	5. <b>A</b>	6. <b>A</b>	7. <b>2</b>	8. <b>C</b>
9. <b>D</b>	10. <b>C</b>	11. <b>A</b>	12. <b>C</b>	13. <b>B</b>	14. <b>B</b>	15. <b>D</b>	16. <b>C</b>
17. <b>C</b>	18. <b>C</b>	19. <b>1</b>	20. <b>C</b>	21. <b>C</b>	22. <b>C</b>	23. <b>A</b>	24. <b>C</b>

## Explanations

**1. B**

The given sentence focuses on the impact of these rising costs on employees - an idea that hasn’t yet been introduced here. Placing this in Blank 1 would prematurely shift the focus from a general economic observation to the employee-specific consequences, disrupting the logical flow. Similarly, Blank 2 would be a poor choice since it would interrupt the argument about wages not keeping pace with inflation. The broader context of inflation and wages needs to be fully established before narrowing the discussion to employee struggles.

Blank 3 could be a good fit. We observe that the preceding sentence sets up the problem: wages are lagging behind rising costs. The subsequent sentence emphasises the stark contrast between remote work savings and current financial stress; the anecdote from the London University lecturer is further linked to this. Therefore, Blank 4 is also unsuitable. By placing the given sentence in Blank 3, we bridge the two ideas presented above by specifying how these rising costs and stagnant wages directly impact employees. It introduces the tangible pressures employees face, which makes the subsequent sentence about savings during remote work even more impactful.

Hence, Option B is the correct choice.



## 2. D

Let us evaluate the given choices -

Option A: The creation of new culture and ideas is a central theme of the passage, highlighted as a potential outcome of AI's linguistic capabilities: ["...*AI can create completely new ideas, completely new culture...*"]

Option B: The author hints that AI could surpass human creativity in areas like storytelling, composing music, and drafting laws or scriptures: ["...*What would happen once a non-human intelligence becomes better than the average human at telling stories, composing melodies, drawing images, and writing laws and scriptures?...*"]

Option C: The threat to democracy through the mass production of fake news and political content is a major concern raised by the author: ["...*Think of the next American presidential race in 2024, and try to imagine the impact of AI tools that can be made to mass-produce political content, fake-news stories...*"]

Option D: The passage does discuss AI's ability to create emotional connections with individuals: ["...*form intimate relationships with people, and use the power of intimacy to change our opinions and worldviews...*"] However, it does not explicitly connect this capability to 'exacerbating the polarization' of political views. The focus is on fostering fake intimacy to influence opinions, not specifically on worsening political polarization.

Hence, Option D is the correct choice.

## 3. B

The author emphasises that language is foundational to human culture and civilisation because it:

- articulates and spreads human values and culture (as noted in Option C).
- lays the groundwork for creating cultural artefacts through storytelling and laws (as noted in Option D).
- influences political views and fosters emotional ties (as noted in Option A).

Option B, however, does not align with the rationale behind the "operating system" metaphor: the author does not suggest that language is the "operating system" of civilisation because it underpins AI tools. Instead, the passage treats AI tools like ChatGPT as leveraging language's existing role in civilization.

## 4. D

Let us evaluate the choices based on the information in the passage -

Option A: The author does not dismiss fears about students using AI but instead deems such concerns possibly trivial compared to AI's larger societal threats.

Option B: The author doesn't argue that fears of AI harming humans physically are unfounded, but shifts focus to the linguistic and cultural dangers AI presents. It's unclear whether he will explicitly support the view presented here.

Option C: Though the author briefly acknowledges that AI can be used for good, this idea is not a central focus of the passage; he also does not emphasise technological or industrial benefits. Therefore, it's unclear whether the author will support his view.

Option D: The concern stated here has been clearly underlined in the passage. We are informed of the threat AI poses to democracy through its manipulation of language and ability to generate misinformation, fake intimacy, and propaganda. The author explicitly states that democracy relies on meaningful human conversations, which are undermined when AI becomes indistinguishable from humans. Therefore, this option aligns most closely with the author's argument.

Hence, Option D is the correct choice.



### 5.A

The passage clearly highlights the potential risks associated with AI's linguistic capabilities, urging action to regulate its use. While the passage does present hypothetical scenarios and employs rhetorical questions, its tone is primarily grounded in a warning, not sensationalism or mere speculation. This points us towards Option A. The author systematically explains the dangers of unregulated AI tools, particularly their capacity to manipulate language and influence human culture. The warnings are thoughtful and aim to provoke awareness and a sense of urgency without excessive dramatisation. The tone is serious and measured, which aligns with a cautionary style.

The remaining tones do not describe the discussion appropriately. For instance, consider Option B: though the passage discusses AI's future implications, the focus is less on prediction and more on warning about what could happen if action is not taken. "Prescient" implies a focus on foresight and vision, but the passage emphasises immediate concerns and actionable advice. Similarly, the passage is not "alarmist" (Option C), as it avoids overly exaggerated or emotional claims. It uses logical arguments and examples rather than fearmongering. Option D is also a poor fit: although the passage concludes with a rhetorical question, this is a stylistic device rather than a defining characteristic of the tone. The primary goal is to issue a warning, not to leave the reader in a state of curiosity or wonder, making "quizzical" an incorrect characterisation.

Hence, Option A is the best choice.

### 6.A

A useful strategy for determining where the given sentence best fits is to look for places where the flow of ideas feels awkward or disconnected. When we examine the sentences around Blank 1, we see that they are well-linked, moving smoothly from the broader issue of the drought to its immediate consequence, food insecurity. The same logic applies to Blanks 2 and 3 - there are no noticeable disruptions in the flow of ideas here. The structure remains clear and coherent even without inserting the given sentence into these blanks.

However, when we look at Blank 4, we notice a discrepancy. The sentence before Blank 4 mentions farmers and pastoralists, and the sentence following it continues discussing pastoralists, but there's a slight gap in the connection. If the sentences were closely linked, the author could have used pronouns or rephrased the second sentence to refer to pastoralists more naturally. Additionally, there's a shift in focus: the paragraph moves from talking about "leaving them on the brink of famine" to "never being able to go back as their livelihoods have been irreversibly wiped out." This jump in ideas suggests the need for a transitional sentence to bridge the two concepts - enter the given sentence. Moreover, the "Many... Some..." structure works well here. First, the author mentions the larger group of farmers and pastoralists and how they were displaced. Then, the sentence narrows the focus to a smaller portion of this group, highlighting how, even for those who were not displaced, their livelihoods were so affected that they may never recover. This progression makes the insertion of the given sentence at Blank 4 both logical and necessary for maintaining coherence.

Hence, Option A is the correct choice.

### 7.2

Here, Sentences 1, 4, and 5 discuss the general theme of how non-experts or forecasters without specialized expertise can make accurate predictions, often outperforming experts. Sentence 3 adds context by highlighting that this success occurs even when experts have access to classified information.

Contrarily, Sentence 2 shifts the focus to the "intelligence community's interest in forecasting models" rather than continuing the discussion on the accuracy and success of forecasters versus experts. This makes it unrelated to the main flow of the paragraph.

Let us examine the points presented in each sentence to further understand how the statements link. Sentence 1 introduces the main idea that forecasting is appealing because it works even without requiring specialized expertise. Building on this idea, Sentence 5 highlights that non-experts can often outperform experts in forecasting; this, in a way, relates to the appeal of forecasting introduced in the first sentence. Sentence 4 provides evidence to support the claim made in Sentence 5. It refers to a specific study where non-experts outperformed experts in predicting geopolitical events, solidifying the argument that non-expert forecasting can be more reliable. Sentence 3 strengthens the previous claim by highlighting that the experts, despite having access to classified intelligence, were still outperformed by non-experts. In this manner, the arrangement 1-5-4-3 renders a coherent paragraph.

Hence, Sentence 2 is the odd one out.

#### 8. C

The statement in the question draws a comparison between Moutai's claimed hangover-proof quality and a groundbreaking historical invention (gunpowder). The use of "would make it" suggests a hypothetical scenario, and the comparison is meant to emphasise significance, not an actual invention. This indicates that the comparison is metaphorical/figurative (Option C), conveying the liquor's potential impact on culture and society; hence, we can eliminate Option A.

Option B also implies that the comparison is based on actual substance or tangible qualities. Though the claim about being hangover-proof is substantive, the comparison to gunpowder is not grounded in tangible, measurable terms but rather in its significance. Similarly, Option D suggests that the phrase equates Moutai directly with gunpowder, which is incorrect: the phrase does not treat the two as synonyms but draws a symbolic comparison.

Hence, Option C is the correct choice.

#### 9. D

To identify the factor that is both a reason for Moutai's success and a potential threat, we could consider aspects that currently drive demand while also holding the potential to hinder it in the future. Looking at the given choices, Option A may be a contributing factor to Moutai's success, as cultural practices around drinking play a role in its popularity. However, the passage does not explicitly frame this as a threat, especially since it is deeply ingrained in Chinese society, making this option less fitting. Option C is also a significant reason for Moutai's success, as it targets the super-wealthy, but the passage does not indicate that this would become a threat in the future. Option B is presented more as a hurdle to Moutai's success, while the explicit benefits remain to be discussed.

On the other hand, we can deduce that Option D is both a key reason for Moutai's success - by tapping into the spending power of older consumers - and a potential threat, as the younger generations, with different health-conscious lifestyles, could move away from the heavy drinking culture that has driven Moutai's demand. The passage specifically highlights this generational shift as a risk to Moutai's long-term success.

Hence, Option D is the best choice.

#### 10. C

The author uses the phrase "the unholy trinity" to describe Moutai's marketing strategy, which relies on three factors: nationalism, elitism, and ageism. The word "unholy" implies that these factors may be unconventional or controversial, which could be why they are described as such. The author presents this idea in the context of Western marketing, suggesting that Moutai might have succeeded due to these factors, even though they seem to defy conventional Western norms. Thus, the phrase reflects how Moutai's marketing strategy is in stark contrast to Western business practices (Option C).

Contrarily, Options A, B, and D either do not address the contrast with Western strategies or misinterpret the focus of the passage. For instance, Option A is not the best choice because the phrase “unholy trinity” isn’t a comment on the morality of marketing liquor itself but rather on the controversial nature of Moutai’s specific strategy. Options B and D focus on tangential aspects that are irrelevant to the question.

#### 11. A

Let's evaluate the given choices and check if they are consistent with the information in the passage -

Option A: According to the passage, this is not true. The author emphasises that Moutai deliberately avoids targeting the middle class, as the competition in that market is intense, and instead focuses on the super-rich. This suggests that marketing to the middle class is not as lucrative or straightforward as it might appear.

Option B: The passage mentions that the Chinese government is Moutai's largest shareholder and potentially plays a role in controlling the prices of products, which is a key factor for any firm in this market to consider. Furthermore, the author discusses how the government might further interfere with the operations in this space: [*“... in what some see as a travesty of corporate governance, its majority owner has plans to set up its own sales channel ...”*]

Option C: The author highlights that the premium market in China is still growing and not overcrowded with luxury brands, indicating a potential opportunity for firms targeting high-end consumers.

Option D: The passage states that many firms have failed in their attempt to cater to the middle class due to fierce competition. This is a valid consideration for any firm looking to enter the market.

Hence, Option A is the correct choice.

#### 12. C

To determine where the given sentence fits best, we must consider the logical flow of ideas between sentences. The sentence in question provides important historical and contextual information about the photograph. The author begins by describing the image and ends the paragraph by mentioning the official title of the photo. While sentences offering historical context are typically placed at the beginning, inserting the sentence in either Blank 1 or 2 would create a disruption in the flow of the image's description. This suggests that the sentence must fit in either Blank 3 or 4. Offering contextual information after mentioning the title at the end seems odd; thus, we can eliminate Blank 4.

When we refocus on Blank 3, we see that by this point in the paragraph, the author has just described the soldiers from the South Vietnamese Army's 25th Division following behind the children. This sets up a moment of helplessness that emphasises the chaos and brutality of the scene. The sentence about the trauma and violence of the war logically follows the description of the soldiers because it explains the broader implications of the photo's content, providing a context for the violence and its far-reaching consequences. After discussing the soldiers, the sentence connects the personal and immediate suffering in the photograph with the larger scope of the Vietnam War's impact, which then leads into the official title of the photograph. The official title, "The Terror of War," is directly linked to the broader theme of violence and destruction that the sentence describes. Thus, the given sentence naturally sets the stage for introducing the official title and the iconic nickname, "Napalm Girl," ensuring a smooth and coherent transition.

Hence, Option C is the correct choice.

### 13.B

The question asks us to identify the hypothetical scenario that does not reflect the kind of loss described in the passage. The passage discusses cultural, ecological, and intellectual losses caused by language extinction, including the loss of:

- Unique cultural expressions (e.g., music, art, and emotions tied to language).
- Knowledge about the environment (e.g., relationships between plants and illness).
- Worldviews and philosophical insights.

We need to identify a scenario that doesn't align with these themes. Let us examine the options based on this understanding -

Option A: This scenario reflects the loss of unique cultural knowledge - in this case, the ability to describe the "20 different moods of the ocean," which likely represents detailed ecological and environmental understanding.

Option B: This scenario focuses on some form of administrative or statistical change in a government list; the focus is not on the cultural, ecological, or intellectual loss emphasised in the passage. Therefore, the option does not reflect the deeper, humanity-wide loss described in the passage.

Option C: This scenario aligns with the loss of unique cultural concepts and the emotional depth tied to a word or phrase. In the author's perspective, losing this concept would diminish humanity's understanding of the complexity of human relationships.

Option D: This scenario reflects the loss of ecological knowledge about snow textures, which likely has practical implications for living in the Arctic environment. This aligns with the passage's discussion of losing environmental wisdom when languages die.

Hence, Option B is the correct choice.

### 14.B

The central idea of the passage is that endangered languages, as carriers of unique cultural perspectives and human knowledge, must be preserved to benefit humanity. The author argues that liberal arts education plays a vital role in this preservation, both by fostering global citizenship and by encouraging some individuals to directly engage in preservation efforts. Liberal arts education, as framed in the passage, sensitises students to cultural diversity and equips them with the tools to support endangered languages and cultures.

We observe that Option B, however, directly undermines this central idea by redefining the focus of liberal arts education. Requiring fluency in two of the most widely spoken global languages (e.g., English, Spanish, Mandarin) would prioritise dominant languages rather than endangered ones. This hypothetical scenario shifts resources and attention away from the preservation of linguistic diversity, which is central to the passage's argument. Such a requirement would reinforce the dominance of already powerful languages, the very phenomenon identified as a major "language killer" in the passage. By institutionalizing the focus on dominant languages, it would erode the argument that liberal arts education fosters support for endangered languages and cultural preservation, ultimately weakening the role of liberal arts in addressing language extinction.

In contrast, the remaining choices either align with the discussion or do not serve as strong counterarguments to the points presented in the passage. For instance, Option A acknowledges that most liberal arts students will not directly engage in language preservation but does not challenge the broader idea that liberal arts education fosters empathy and support for endangered languages. Option C limits the long-term success of language preservation but does not negate its immediate benefits or the potential for renewal in subsequent generations. Similarly, Option D highlights a limitation of recording dying languages but does not undermine the broader argument that documentation is a valuable and necessary tool in preservation.

15. D

The passage highlights the widespread extinction of indigenous languages in North America due to colonisation, physical annihilation, and assimilation policies while noting slightly better survival rates in Central and South America. It implies that language survival may be influenced by factors such as social policies, cultural integration, and the extent of physical and cultural displacement.

Evaluating the choices, we note that Option A is plausible since allowing children to stay with families would help preserve native languages, unlike the North American policy of removing children to boarding schools, as discussed in the passage. Option B is also reasonable, as less effective assimilation efforts by colonial governments could lead to better language retention. Option C also aligns with the passage's context, as it discusses physical annihilation as a significant driver of language extinction, but the survival rate being slightly better in South America could suggest marginally less physical annihilation.

However, Option D is problematic; while providing locals with jobs in the colonial administration might seem like a factor that supports language retention, this scenario is not consistent with the passage. The passage emphasises that dominant languages often replace indigenous ones through socio-economic pressures, and employment in colonial administration would likely reinforce the use of the dominant language rather than preserve native languages.

Hence, Option D is the best choice.

16. C

The author discusses how a liberal arts education, combined with participation in language preservation efforts, empowers students in several significant ways. He highlights that such an education broadens students' cultural understanding, helps them communicate across linguistic barriers (Option A), and enables them to gain insights into both their own and others' cultures (Option D). Option B is an implicit aspect of this discussion. The passage also suggests that some students may even become involved in active language preservation, though it emphasises that the majority might not pursue this path. Contrarily, Option C is not explicitly mentioned or understood: while the passage provides examples of communities that have established such schools, it does not suggest that students themselves will take on this role.

17. C

**Option C is the correct answer.** This option best captures the essence of the passage. The tradwife's embrace of traditional roles and vintage fashion naturally contrasts with and highlights the superficiality of modern life. The passage emphasizes that she is not overtly critiquing society but rather embodying a regressive ideal that challenges contemporary norms. This fits with how the passage describes her actions—her existence itself is a challenge to modern societal expectations.

Option A: The passage does not suggest that the tradwife is actively critiquing modern society. Instead, the tradwife embodies a lifestyle and set of ideals that are in contrast to contemporary values. The critique comes from others' reactions to her behavior, not from her intentions.

Option B: The passage does not show her as actively trying to expose or mock anything. She simply lives in a way that contrasts with modern expectations. The "mockery" is a reaction from others, not her goal. Therefore, this option overstates her intentions.

Option D: This focuses on the tradwife's dress and adherence to traditional roles as the means of revealing modern life's artificial nature. While the tradwife does embody these traditional values, the passage is more focused on how her actions highlight societal superficiality rather than "revealing" it. Additionally, the passage suggests that her behaviour is not an overt revelation but rather something that others react to—making this option somewhat distorted.

18. C

The passage contrasts the personal, introspective nature of lyric poetry with Marxism's outward focus on societal change. At first glance, the characteristics of lyric poetry - being personal, small-scale, and idiosyncratic - seem incompatible with Marxism's demand for a transformative critique of an unjust society. However, the passage introduces a nuanced perspective within Marxist thought, which recognises lyric poetry as having an implicit critical and utopian function. Through its imaginative and alternative modes of perception, lyric poetry can challenge dominant ideologies and suggest a vision of resistance to oppression. Thus, while lyric poetry does not directly engage with large-scale social concerns, it can still align with Marxist ideals by offering subtle forms of critique and hope for change. Option C most effectively captures this idea.

None of the other choices present a valid interpretation of the passage. For instance, Option A oversimplifies the issue by portraying lyric poetry as merely 'utopian,' ignoring its critical and resistant potential as described in the passage. It misses the nuanced compatibility suggested between lyric poetry and Marxism. Option B inaccurately suggests that Marxism has "internal contradictions," which is not the focus of the passage. Similarly, Option D frames Marxism as dismissive of lyric poetry, ignoring the strand of Marxist thought that finds value in poetry's alternative perspectives; this misrepresentation makes it a weaker summary.

19. 1

A good starting point here would be to link sentences 5 and 3 based on the idea of "pruning." Sentence 5 talks about the synaptic development that occurs during the early period described in sentences 4 and 2. It describes how synapses are initially overproduced, a concept that sets up the next part of the process: synaptic pruning. Sentence 3 continues this discussion by offering an explanation for why synapses are pruned: to reinforce the necessary connections and eliminate the weaker ones. This helps to fine-tune the brain's wiring, ensuring that the important pathways are retained while the less useful ones are discarded. Together, 5-3 ties in with the broader purpose of neural wiring presented in Sentence 2: it emphasises that the creation of neural connections in the fetus is a preparatory stage and that these connections are essential for the future performance of the visual system. Sentence 4 sets the context of the paragraph: it mentions the formation of neural connections before birth, specifically focusing on the connections between the eyes and the brain.

While Sentence 1 provides a technical description of synapse creation and function, it doesn't fit the broader context set by sentences 4, 2, 5, and 3. These sentences focus on brain development (especially related to vision) and the process of synapse formation and pruning in a developmental context. Sentence 1 focuses on the structural aspect of synapse formation (the "specialized structures" at the terminal end of an axon), which is more about how a synapse functions at a microscopic level rather than the larger developmental or functional role synapses play in early brain development, as discussed in the other sentences.

Therefore, Sentence 1 is the odd one out.

20. C

The passage discusses the challenges of regulating innovations in biotechnology. It highlights two key issues: (i) current regulations are outdated and insufficient for new biological advancements, and (ii) the unpredictable nature of living entities and rapid technological changes make it difficult to design a regulatory framework that anticipates all risks and contingencies. The core question is whether regulation can ever keep pace with the unpredictable and unique outcomes of biotechnology. Option C correctly touches upon these ideas.

The other options are either too narrow or miss the essence. Option A focuses on calibration and scientists' roles, which is not the central concern of the passage. Similarly, Option B highlights the urgency for new rules but omits the skepticism about achieving comprehensive regulation. Option D overemphasises the impossibility of imagining all risks without addressing the need for flexibility in regulations.



21. C

The phrase “unlikely to disagree + EXCEPT” can seem tricky to interpret. In simple terms, the question requires us to find a statement the author will disagree with. Let us inspect the choices -

Option A: The author supports the proposal for zonal segregation as a reasonable compromise, balancing scientific exploration with human settlement.

Option B: The author agrees that NASA’s earlier missions did not prioritise contamination but implies they caused no significant harm.

Option C: This viewpoint reflects a cautious approach to space exploration. The author dismisses concerns about hypothetical extraterrestrial life as speculative and prioritises human exploration and development over minimising contamination. Therefore, he’s likely to disagree with this position.

Option D: In the passage, the author argues that the costs of maintaining strict planetary protection measures are excessive and could undermine future exploration efforts. This is consistent with his stance.

Hence, Option C is the best choice.

22. C

The passage discusses the debate surrounding planetary protection policies, particularly the concerns about contaminating Mars with Earth-based microbes. The author argues against these concerns, citing several reasons why the risk of contamination should not hinder human exploration and development of Mars. These reasons include:

- the lack of evidence for life on Mars (describes Mars as a “bleak, rusted landscape” with no confirmed life) [Option A]
- the disregard for such protocols by international competitors (China’s lenient approach to planetary protection) [Option B]
- the historical precedent of contamination from earlier human missions (Apollo missions left waste on the Moon) [Option D]

On the other hand, Option C is not presented as a valid reason. The author does not specifically argue that probes have had “little effect” on the Moon’s environment but instead focuses on human waste and contamination from earlier human missions, not robotic probes.

23. A

The first paragraph critiques the stringent planetary protection policies advocated by a group of scientists who aim to prevent biological contamination of celestial bodies. The author portrays these efforts as excessive, particularly given the lack of evidence for extraterrestrial life, and highlights the significant financial burden these measures place on space agencies like NASA. Option A accurately reflects this scepticism, as the author questions the need to sterilize planets where life has not been proven to exist.

Option B is incorrect because the author is not equivocal (i.e., ambiguous or undecided); instead, he expresses a clear stance against these strict protocols. Option C is also inaccurate, as the author is not indifferent to elitism but rather critiques the scientists’ restrictive approach. Similarly, Option D can be eliminated because the author does not approve of NASA’s spending on sterilization but views it as an unnecessary expense.

24. C

The passage highlights contrasting reactions to two instances of potential contamination of the lunar environment: China's germination of a plant seed on the Moon, which elicited little controversy, and Israel's accidental release of tardigrades aboard the Beresheet probe, which sparked significant backlash within the space community. This contrast underscores differences in how national or regional scientific communities respond to issues of planetary protection. Option C most closely reflects this idea.

The passage does not suggest that contamination from animals is inherently more harmful than from plants, as suggested in Option A. Similarly, Option B inaccurately implies that the passage endorses China's approach as inherently "reasonable," which it does not. Option D diverges a bit from the discussion by emphasising global biases against specific countries, but the passage provides no evidence of such biases, focusing instead on scientific reactions.