

GMAT Practice Paper
GMAT Verbal Practice Paper 10

Section: Verbal Reasoning - Reading Comprehension

To believe a proposition, say *corn flakes have health benefits*, is to accept it to be true. However, the question of belief is valid only for those propositions that are understandable. An understandable proposition is one that is expressed using correct grammar and known words.

The dominant view in the scientific community on how human mind believes or disbelieves an understandable proposition is the Cartesian hypothesis, propounded by the seventeenth-century philosopher René Descartes. He said that when an understandable proposition is presented to a human mind, the comprehension of its content happens automatically and passively; however, the assessment of the truth-value of that proposition is a later and deliberate act, the result of which is either belief or disbelief. Thus, this view holds that belief or disbelief in a comprehended proposition is created by rational assessment, and till such an assessment is made, the intellect neither affirms nor denies a comprehended proposition. It also suggests that the mental effort required to create belief and disbelief is the same: the effort required to assess the comprehended proposition.

In contrast, Descartes's near-contemporary Baruch Spinoza suggested that comprehension of and belief in an understandable proposition happen together, automatically and passively; he said that it is not possible to understand a proposition without, at least temporarily, accepting it to be true. On later, willful assessment, if one judges the believed proposition to be false, it may be unaccepted (disbelieved), and if judged to be true, one may continue to believe in it. Thus, as per the Spinozan hypothesis, the default setting of the human mind is to believe every understandable proposition that is presented to it; disbelief is possible but it comes – if it comes at all – from effortful, deliberate assessment done after the initial comprehension-belief.

Both hypotheses continue to have their proponents and opponents. It is, however, a common observation that doubt, suspension of judgment and disbelief are mentally taxing tasks while we naturally – effortlessly – accept and believe most of what we see, hear and read. Research has proved that we systematically err on the side of believing too much, as opposed to rejecting too much. This inherent credulity of the human mind is, in fact, the founding axiom of the fields of advertising and propaganda.

Adapted from a research paper by Professor Daniel Gilbert

1. A supporter of the Cartesian hypothesis would probably agree with which of the following statements?

- A. Understanding a proposition is one thing and believing another
- B. Believing is the most effortful thing that a human mind does
- C. Belief is more quickly and easily acquired than doubt
- D. Human beings are more prone to rejecting than believing propositions
- E. Human beings are skeptical and credulous in equal measure

2. Unlike the Spinozan hypothesis, the Cartesian hypothesis suggests that at any point in time, a human mind may contain some

- A. ununderstood propositions that are believed
- B. ununderstood propositions that are neither believed nor disbelieved
- C. understood propositions that are believed
- D. understood propositions that are disbelieved
- E. understood propositions that are neither believed nor disbelieved

3. Which of the following statements about an understandable and false proposition is not supported by the Spinozan hypothesis?

- A. Its comprehension is a prerequisite for its rejection.
- B. Its comprehension does not require effort.
- C. Its acceptance occurs before its rejection.
- D. Its comprehension is automatically followed by its acceptance.
- E. Its rejection does not happen automatically.

4. It can be inferred from the Spinozan hypothesis that when exposed to understandable but suspicious propositions, a person who is too distracted or tired to exert much mental effort is

- A. less likely to comprehend them than when he is alert and mentally fresh
- B. more likely to comprehend them than when he is alert and mentally fresh
- C. more likely to be uncertain and uncommitted about their truth-value than when he is alert and mentally fresh
- D. more likely to believe them than when he is alert and mentally fresh
- E. more likely to disbelieve them than when he is alert and mentally fresh

5. It can be inferred from the passage that to make his target customers believe his advertisements, an advertiser should

- A. convey the message only using words familiar to the target customers
- B. convey the message using the traditional motifs of the target customers
- C. not use any negative words in his message
- D. not distract the customer's mind by use of images or stories
- E. not overwhelm the customer's mind by presenting a lot of information

6. The author of the passage

- A. supports the Cartesian hypothesis
- B. supports the Spinozan hypothesis
- C. has a neutral stance towards the two hypotheses
- D. rejects both the hypotheses
- E. belongs to the scientific community

Section: Verbal Reasoning - Critical Reasoning

Topic: Strengthen

Difficulty level: Challenging

1. Amid the present wave of job redundancies for skilled but unemployed youth, the publication of an encouraging report on the viability of garage startup enterprises has led the Federal government to set up an investment fund, under its Federal light-industry program, to provide capital for such enterprises. This plan has drawn opposition from various quarters; the critics claim that similar funds, also set up under the Federal light-industry program, that aim to stimulate small enterprises frequently end up harming other American social groups unconnected to these enterprises.

Which of the following best provides support for the claim made by the critics above?

- A. Garage enterprises in Washington State now produce almost 12% of the vehicle components previously imported from South East Asia.
- B. The funding of the Federal light-industry program depends on the reallocation of resources earmarked for disadvantaged groups.
- C. The debate concerning the Federal light-industry program created a backlog in the Federal legislative schedule.
- D. The union for Federal light-Industry workers was the prime source of the claim.

- E. Programs like Federal light-industry programs have yielded great results in past.

Section: Verbal Reasoning - Critical Reasoning

Topic: Inference

Difficulty level: Challenging

2. Recently developed tourism infrastructure, including ten-story hotels and neon-lit discos, is obscuring the moonlight, disorienting the female turtles as they seek out beaches to lay their eggs. Often the confusion leads them to assume that the hotel pools are the sea and they end up laying their eggs in the pool flowerbeds. Once the eggs hatch, the hatchlings are unable to find their way to the sea and die. The stringent building regulations that protected the turtles in the past are being flouted openly by organized criminals who either bribe or terrorize officials into turning a blind eye.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above passage?

- A. Scarcity of turtles results in ecological imbalance of sea.
- B. Chemicals in pool water are not safe for turtles.
- C. Moonlight is the only source of light for turtles.
- D. Turtles are guided by moonlight.
- E. Organized gangs are ignoring building restrictions.

Section: Verbal Reasoning - Critical Reasoning

Topic: Inference

Difficulty level: Medium

3. TMC cars has been undergoing some dramatic changes. Gone is the image of a company focused solely upon the US. Now, both the products and the workforce have begun to reflect the global nature of the company. The new works team is composed of people from all over the world. All of the mechanical engineers are the product of an in-house training scheme although, as yet, none of the engineers specializing in hydraulics has won the prestigious Order of Merit bestowed by the Mechanical Engineers Union. So far, only winners of the Order of Merit have gone on to become department heads.

If it is determined that all of the information provided by the passage is true, which of the following must also be true of the works team?

- A. All of the department heads have received the Order of Merit.
- B. All of the winners of the Order of Merit have received in-house training.
- C. None of the department heads who have specialized in hydraulics are the product of an in-house training scheme.
- D. None of the department heads are from the US.
- E. None of the non-US mechanical engineers who are the products of in-house training have the Order of Merit.

Section: Verbal Reasoning - Critical Reasoning

Topic: Weaken

Difficulty level: Medium

4. The Senator Wiley damned the Frequent Flyer schemes, now operated by virtually all major American airlines, as nothing less than a bribe to acquire the accounts of major corporations that are willing to pay excessively high sums to buy Frequent Flyer discount coupons in order to give untaxed rewards to employees. To make the discounted ticket prices viable, airlines raise the initial marked price of the tickets. Thus, the price of tickets for the general public is kept artificially high. Walter Healey, the Vice President of American Airlines, responded to the criticism by saying the Frequent Flyer scheme was enjoyed by millions of Americans who were able to acquire Frequent Flyer tokens from supermarket purchases and credit card transactions.

Which of the following, if true, best exposes the flaw in Healey's response to Wiley's criticism?

- A. Only a few supermarket chains and credit card companies offer Frequent Flyer tokens to customers.
- B. Fewer people acquire Frequent Flyer tokens through supermarket purchases than through credit card transactions.
- C. Most airline companies offer bonus tokens for long-haul flights.
- D. The price of tickets booked under Frequent Flyer schemes is often as low as 50% of the regular ticket price.
- E. Ticket prices are regularly reviewed by a committee of airline representatives.

Section: Verbal Reasoning - Critical Reasoning

Topic: Boldface

Difficulty level: Challenging

5. The move to shift the fiscal obligation to provide community services away from the Federal government to the local communities is welcomed by its proponents as a step forward on the road to true democracy. They claim that by making communities responsible for funding everything from health, welfare and education to the emergency services and housing, not only will improve these services but also foster a greater sense of community. **However, such a move would mean that densely-populated areas, having a greater tax base, would be better off, and sparsely-populated, rural communities would still be dependent on supplemental subsidies from Federal sources.**

In the given argument, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- A. The first is a claim that the author calls in question, and the second is a claim that goes against the first.
- B. The first is a claim that the author endorses, and the second is a claim that the author calls in question.
- C. The first is a counter-evidence to the second, and the second is the proponents' prediction.
- D. The first is the author's claim, and the second is the proponents' finding that puts the first questionable.
- E. The first is a prediction that the author elaborates further, and the second is the objection that the argument nullifies.

Section: Verbal Reasoning - Sentence Correction

Topics: Agreement; Grammatical Construction; Idiom; Logical Prediction

1. The Brexit negotiations are faltering and the UK government's hopes to opening talks on a future trade deal with the EU this autumn looks likely to be increasingly dashed, the EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, has reported back to the bloc's member states.
 - A. hopes to opening talks on a future trade deal with the EU this autumn looks likely to be increasingly dashed
 - B. hopes of opening talks on a future trade deal with the EU looks increasingly likely to be dashed this autumn
 - C. hopes to open talks on a future trade deal with the EU this autumn look likely to be increasingly dashed
 - D. hopes of opening talks on a future trade deal this autumn with the EU look likely to be dashed increasingly

- E. hopes of opening talks on a future trade deal with the EU this autumn look increasingly likely to be dashed

Section: Verbal Reasoning - Sentence Correction

Topics: Diction; Grammatical Construction; Idiom; Logical Prediction

2. But those whom willingly undertake an honest assessment of the era today are also part of an important British tradition which, though not largely forgotten, has been pushed to the limits.

- A. But those whom willingly undertake an honest assessment of the era today are also part of an important British tradition which, though not largely forgotten, has been pushed to the limits.
- B. But those who are willing to undertake an honest assessment of the era today are also part of an important British tradition that, if not largely forgotten, has been pushed to the margins.
- C. But, those whom are undertaking an honest assessment of the era today willingly are also part of an important British tradition which, if not largely forgotten, has been marginalized.
- D. But those who willingly take over an honest assessment of the era today, also being part of an important British tradition which, although not largely forgotten, has been forced to the edges.
- E. But those whom are willing to undertake an honest assessment of the era today are also part of an important British tradition which, in spite of being not largely forgotten, has been pushed to the brim.

Section: Verbal Reasoning - Sentence Correction

Topics: Logical Prediction; Parallelism

3. A magazine, as part of a survey, asked the reasons of the readers working late and the effect of their absence from home affecting their families.

- A. the reasons of its readers working late and the effect of their absence from home affecting their families
- B. its readers why they worked late and their absence from home affecting their families
- C. why its readers work late and the ways in which their absence from home affects their families
- D. the reasons why its readers worked late and how their absence from home had affected their families

- E. its readers why they work late and how their absence from home affects their families

Section: Verbal Reasoning - Sentence Correction

Topics: Diction; Logical Prediction

4. Humans have become so obsessed with portable devices and overwhelmed by content that we now have attention spans lesser than that of the goldfish.

- A. lesser than that of the goldfish
- B. less than the goldfish
- C. shorter than that of the goldfish
- D. shorter than that of the goldfish's attention span
- E. lesser than the goldfish's attention span

Section: Verbal Reasoning - Sentence Correction

Topics: Subject Verb Agreement; Verb Form

5. Periodic changes in the shape of Earth's orbit around the sun lead to Milankovitch cycles that create a complex but predictable change in the temperatures of Earth's surface.

- A. lead to Milankovitch cycles that create
- B. leads to Milankovitch cycles creating
- C. led to Milankovitch cycles that had created
- D. has led to Milankovitch cycles that create
- E. lead to Milankovitch cycles, that will create