

## GRE Verbal Practice Paper 40

### Question 1: (Low)

Sanctified by remarkable natural merits, landscapes nourish the human spirit and create special memories in us. Natural parks such as Yellowstone and Kruger in the United States are large, magnificent, and wild, and some such as the Buttes-Chaumont in the neighborhood of Paris are warmly local. However, natural parks, especially those in urban environments, are fast depleting to accommodate the needs of the burgeoning population. There is no denying the fact that human needs will prevail, yet, shouldn't a line be drawn between human need and hunger for more?

**What is the main purpose of the passage?**

**Options:**

1. to convey how parks play a role in human emotions
2. to drive home the fact that human needs are inevitable
3. to emphasize the limitless nature of human greed
4. to highlight how only countries like the U.S. and France have natural parks while none others have
5. to convey the importance of preserving natural parks in urban as well as non-urban settings

### Question 2: (Medium)

The ability to pay attention is considered such an essential life skill that the lack of it has become a widespread medical problem. Nearly 4 to 5 percent of the American children are now diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). In recent years, however, the surprising benefits of not paying attention have been found. For instance, researchers have found a surprising link between daydreaming and creativity - people who daydream more are also better at

generating new ideas. Other studies have found that employees are more productive when they're allowed to engage in "Internet leisure browsing" and that people unable to concentrate due to severe brain damage actually score above average on various problem-solving tasks. According to the scientists, the inability to focus helps ensure a richer mixture of thoughts in consciousness. Because these people struggled to filter the world, they ended up letting everything in, they couldn't help but be open-minded. Such lapses in attention turn out to be a crucial creative skill. When we're faced with a difficult problem, the most obvious solution is probably wrong. At such moments, it often helps to consider far-fetched possibilities, to approach the task from an unconventional perspective. And this is why distraction is helpful: People unable to focus are more likely to consider information that might seem irrelevant but will later inspire the breakthrough.

This does not mean that attention is not an important mental skill, or that attention-deficit disorders are not a serious problem. There's clearly nothing advantageous about struggling in the classroom, or not being able to follow instructions. Nevertheless, this new research demonstrates that, for a certain segment of the population, distractibility can actually be a net positive. Although we think that more attention can solve everything, that's not the case.

**It can be inferred from the passage that the author would agree with which of the following statements?**

**Options:**

1. Neither complete attention nor attention deficit solves everything.
2. Attention deficit disorder is not a serious problem.
3. With complete attention, you can solve any problem in this world.
4. A substantial amount of office hours of all employees should be earmarked for Internet leisure browsing.
5. It is ok to have attention deficit disorder as it has brought a lot of surprising benefits.

### Question 3: (High)

There are two kinds of yawns. The first, a spontaneous yawn, occurs when someone is bored or exhausted. The second, a "contagious" yawn, does not begin until early childhood, and occurs only among humans and chimpanzees. This sort occurs in response to thinking about yawning, or, as the word contagious suggests, seeing or hearing someone else yawn.

So far, scientists have been unable to understand why contagious yawning occurs, or why some individuals are more susceptible to such yawns than others. Previous studies have suggested a link between contagious yawning and empathy, or the ability to understand another's feelings. Those who suffer from autism or schizophrenia, it has been found, both of which involve impaired social skills, have fewer contagious yawns than others. It has also been thought that tiredness can contribute to contagious yawning.

A new study suggests that contagious yawns have no link with empathy or tiredness; the only factor is age. People are less likely to yawn when others do as they get older. This study, conducted by a team of researchers from the Duke Center for Human Genome Variation and published in the journal Plos One, is the most comprehensive look so far at factors that influence contagious yawns. As many as 328 healthy volunteers, put to a cognitive test with a comprehensive questionnaire that included measures of empathy, energy levels, and sleepiness, were made to watch a three-minute video of people yawning. They had to record the number of times they yawned while watching the video.

Researchers found that some individuals were less susceptible to contagious yawns, and, with age neutralized as a factor, there was no strong connection between contagious yawning and levels of empathy or tiredness. Age, it was found, was able to explain 8 percent of the variation in contagious yawning.

The researchers are examining whether the ability to catch yawns from other people is inherited, with the hope of addressing mental health disorders.

Understanding the genes that might encode susceptibility to contagious yawning, they hope, could lead them to genes (or their variants) that are associated with schizophrenia and autism.

**What is the implication of the last line?**

**Options:**

1. Understanding the mechanism of contagious yawns could lead to scientists to design cures for schizophrenia and autism
2. Identification of the genes responsible for contagious yawning leading to a better understanding of the genetics behind schizophrenia and autism
3. Understanding the susceptibility of genes to contagious diseases holds the key to cure them
4. Genes related to contagious yawning and schizophrenia have similar coding
5. People suffering from schizophrenia and autism are not susceptible to contagious yawning