

CAT 2023 Slot 2 VARC Solutions

Ques 1. If the author of the passage were to write a book on the Battle of Hastings along the lines of his/her own reasoning, the focus of the historical account would be on:

A exploring the socio-political and economic factors that led to the Battle.

B producing a detailed timeline of the various events that led to the Battle.

C deriving historical facts from the relevant documents and inscriptions.

D providing a nuanced interpretation by relying on the auxiliary sciences.

Solu. The passage suggests that while establishing basic facts is necessary, the essential function of historians goes beyond this. It emphasizes the selective and interpretive nature of historical writing, where historians are expected to go deeper into understanding the context and motivations behind historical events.

Option A, which involves exploring the socio-political and economic factors that led to the Battle of Hastings, is in line with the idea of providing a nuanced interpretation. This option indicates a focus on understanding the underlying causes and influences that shaped the historical event, reflecting a more comprehensive and contextual approach to historical writing.

Option B: While timelines are important, the author suggests that the historian's essential function goes beyond establishing basic chronological facts.

Option C: The author acknowledges the importance of basic facts but argues that historians must go beyond mere fact-finding.

Option D: While the author acknowledges the use of auxiliary sciences, it also suggests that the historian's focus should go beyond relying solely on

these sciences for basic facts, emphasizing the historian's selective and interpretive role in presenting historical events.

Ques 10. All of the following statements are evidence of the decline of liberalism today, EXCEPT:

A "And technological advances are reducing ever more areas of work into meaningless drudgery."

B. the creation of a business aristocracy, the rise of vast companies..."

C "Democracy has degenerated into a theatre of the absurd."

D "The gap between liberalism's claims about itself and the lived reality of the citizenry' is now so wide that 'the lie can no longer be accepted,'..."

Solu. A

All the options, other than A, are direct signs of declining or ineffective liberalism.

Option B: Creation of business aristocracy, the author in the first paragraph says that liberalism promoted a meritocratic aristocracy and then went ahead to argue why the meritocratic aristocracy is not a good replacement of the old aristocracy. Creation of a business aristocracy and the rise of vast companies are against the ideals of liberalism.

Option C: Democracy has degenerated into a theatre of the absurd, this clearly shows the non-functionality of liberalism and is a pretty valid argument for the decline of liberalism.

Option D: The gap between liberalism's claims about itself and the lived reality of the citizenry' is now so wide that 'the lie can no longer be accepted, this lines says that the gap between want liberalism asked us to do and what is actually different are two very different thing. This too can be an evidence of liberalism's decline.

Option A: And technological advances are reducing ever more areas of work into meaningless drudgery, while this line does talk about the technological advancement in a negative sense, it does not necessarily provide evidence of the decline of liberalism per se. Instead, it highlights a potential consequence or critique within the context of technological

advances. The negative impact of technology on certain types of work might be seen as a challenge that needs to be addressed within the liberal framework rather than direct evidence of the decline of liberalism. The same challenge could be seen at a time when liberalism was prospering and thus is not an evidence of its decline.

Ques 11. The author of the passage refers to "the Davos elite" to illustrate his views on:

A the unlikelihood of a return to the liberalism of the past as long as the rich continue to benefit from the decline in liberal values.

B the way the debate around liberalism has been captured by the rich who have managed to insulate themselves from economic hardships.

C the hypocrisy of the liberal rich, who profess to subscribe to liberal values while cornering most of the wealth.

D the fact that the rise in liberalism had led to a greater interest in shared futures from unlikely social classes.

Solu. Option C is the correct answer because the mention of "the Davos elite" in the passage serves to illustrate the perceived hypocrisy of wealthy individuals who profess to adhere to liberal values while simultaneously amassing the majority of the wealth. The author points to the contradiction between the elite's participation in events like discussions on creating a shared future and their exclusive access to privileges, symbolized by the use of private planes. This highlights the critique that the liberal rich, represented by the Davos elite, may not align their actions with the egalitarian ideals they claim to support, emphasizing a discrepancy between rhetoric and behavior.

Option A is incorrect because the passage does not explicitly connect the decline in liberal values to the rich benefiting, but rather to internal contradictions and hubris.

Option B is incorrect as the passage does not focus on how the debate around liberalism is captured by the rich; instead, it critiques the actions of the Davos elite.

Option D is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the rise in liberalism has led to greater interest in shared futures from unlikely social classes; rather, it critiques the behavior of the Davos elite as hypocritical.

Ques 12. The author of the passage faults Deneen's conclusions for all of the following reasons, EXCEPT:

A its repeated harking back to premodern notions of liberty.

B its failure to note historical instances in which the process of declining liberalism has managed to reverse itself.

C its extreme pessimism about the future of liberalism today and predictions of an ultimate decline.

D its very narrow definition of liberalism limited to individual freedoms.

Ans. A

Option A is the correct answer because the passage does not explicitly identify Deneen's repeated emphasis on premodern notions of liberty as a reason for faulting his conclusions. While the passage criticizes Deneen for his extreme pessimism about the future of liberalism, his narrow definition of liberalism limited to individual freedoms, and his fixation on the essence of liberalism, it does not specifically address his tendency to hark back to premodern notions. Therefore, Option A stands out as an exception, as it does not align with the explicitly stated reasons for faulting Deneen's conclusions in the passage.

Ques 13. Based on the passage, we can infer that the opposite of fast fashion, slow

fashion, would most likely refer to clothes that:

A are of high quality and long lasting.

B do not bleed toxins and dyes.

C are sold by genuine vintage stores.

D do not shed microfibres.

Solu. A

Option A is the correct answer because the passage emphasizes the environmental issues associated with fast fashion, including the wasteful disposal of garments in landfills. The opposite of this disposable and rapid turnover nature of fast fashion would be a more sustainable and durable approach, which aligns with the idea of "slow fashion."

The passage suggests that buying high-quality items that last longer is a way to combat the negative environmental impact of the fashion industry. Therefore, 'slow fashion' can be inferred to refer to clothes that are of high quality and long-lasting, promoting a more sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to fashion consumption.

Ques 14. According to the author, companies like ThredUP have not caught on in the UK for all of the following reasons EXCEPT that:

- A recycling is currently not financially attractive for luxury brands.**
- B luxury brands want to maintain their brand image.**
- C luxury brands do not like their product to be devalued.**
- D the British don't buy second-hand clothing.**

Solu. D

Option D is the correct answer because the passage does not mention or suggest that the British don't buy second-hand clothing. Instead, the passage discusses challenges related to luxury brands and their reluctance to circulate their latest season stock globally at a cheaper price. The reasons mentioned include the financial aspect (Option A), concerns about brand image (Option B), and the desire to avoid devaluing their products (Option D). Therefore, the passage does not attribute the slow adoption of companies like ThredUP in the UK to the British not buying second-hand clothing.

Ques 15. The act of "thrifting", as described in the passage, can be considered ironic because it:

- A has created environmental problems.**
- B is not cost-effective for retailers**
- C offers luxury clothing at cut-rate prices.**
- D is an anti-consumerist attitude.**

Solu. A

The irony of "thrifting," as discussed in the passage, is rooted in its unintended environmental consequences. While thrifting is commonly associated with sustainable and eco-friendly practices, the passage highlights a potential environmental issue linked to the act. Specifically, the passage mentions a study commissioned by Patagonia that reveals older clothes, often found in second-hand stores, tend to shed more microfibers. These microfibers can end up in rivers and oceans, contributing to microfiber pollution. Therefore, the seemingly environmentally conscious act of thrifting, aimed at reducing waste, may inadvertently result in environmental problems through the shedding of microfibers during the washing of older garments. Therefore Option A is the correct answer

Ques 16. The central idea of the passage would be undermined if:

A customers bought all their clothes online.

B clothes were not thrown and burnt in landfills

C second-hand stores sold only high-quality clothes.

D Primark and Boohoo recycled their clothes for vintage stores

Solu. C. The central idea of the passage is the promotion of sustainable shopping practices, particularly second-hand shopping, as a means to combat the detrimental environmental effects of the fashion industry. But, the passage also discusses the need for consumers to be mindful of the environmental impact of their clothing choices, opting for high-quality items that last longer and shed fewer microfibers.

The passage argues that opting for second clothing might not always be beneficial for the environment by highlighting the microfibre pollution that they can potentially cause. Now, if the second-hand clothes being sold were only of higher quality, it would take care of this problem ([They would be well advised to buy] high-quality items that shed less and last longer [as this] combats both microfibre pollution and excess garments ending up in landfills") So, the correct answer is Option C.

Option A is more about the purchasing channel than the nature of the clothes so it does not necessarily undermine the central idea of the passage.

Option B supports the central idea by reducing environmental harm.

Option D could align with the sustainability goal and support the central idea, so it doesn't necessarily undermine it.

Ques 17. 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: And probably much earlier, moving the documentation for kissing back 1,000 years compared to what was acknowledged in the scientific community.

Paragraph: Research has hypothesised that the earliest evidence of human lip kissing originated in a very specific geographical location in South Asia 3,500 years ago. (1). From there it may have spread to other regions, simultaneously accelerating the spread of the herpes simplex virus 1. According to Dr Troels Pank Arbøll and Dr Sophie Lund Rasmussen, who in a new article in the journal Science draw on a range of written sources from the earliest Mesopotamian societies, kissing was already a well-established practice 4,500 years ago in the Middle East. (2). In ancient Mesopotamia, people wrote in cuneiform script on clay tablets. (3) . Many thousands of these clay tablets have survived to this day, and they contain clear examples that kissing was considered a part of romantic intimacy in ancient times. (4) "Kissing could also have been part of friendships and family members' relations," says Dr Troels Pank Arbøll, an expert on the history of medicine in Mesopotamia.

A Option 3

B Option 4

C Option 1

D Option 2

Solu. D

The sentence best fits in Blank 2. Placing it there provides additional information about the timeline and challenges the previously acknowledged timeline in the scientific community, creating a logical flow in the paragraph. The sentence does not fit in Blank 1 as it does not add anything to the Sentence preceding Blank 1. Placing the sentence in Blank 3 would disrupt the flow of the passage as there is a direct link between the sentence preceding and the sentence following Blank 3. (script on clay tablets..... Many thousands of these clay tablets".) Similarly placing the Sentence in Blank 4 would disrupt the flow of the passage.

Ques 18. 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: Dualism was long held as the defining feature of developing countries in contrast to developed countries, where frontier technologies and high productivity were assumed to prevail.

Paragraph: (1). At the core of development economics lies the idea of 'productive dualism': that poor countries' economies are split between a narrow 'modern' sector that uses advanced technologies and a larger 'traditional' sector characterized by very low productivity. (2). While this distinction between developing and advanced economies may have made some sense in the 1950s and 1960s, it no longer appears to be very relevant. A combination of forces have produced a widening gap between the winners and those left behind. (3) Convergence between poor and rich parts of the economy was arrested and regional disparities widened. (4) As a result, policymakers in advanced economies are now grappling with the same questions that have long preoccupied developing economies: mainly how to close the gap with the more advanced parts of the economy.

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

Solu. B

The sentence best fits in Blank 2 because it directly elaborates on the concept of 'productive dualism' introduced in before Blank 2. It provides additional information about the distinction between the "modern" and "traditional" sectors in poor countries' economies and highlights the historical perspective that contrasts developing and developed countries. This sentence helps set the stage for the subsequent discussion about the relevance of this distinction in the present context.

Ques 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. Self-care particularly links to loneliness, behavioural problems, and negative academic outcomes.

2. "Latchkey children" refers to children who routinely return home from school

to empty homes and take care of themselves for extended periods of time.

3. Although self-care generally points to negative outcomes, it is important to consider that the bulk of research has yet to track long-term consequences.

4. In research and practice, the phrase "children in self-care" has come to replace latchkey in an effort to more accurately reflect the nature of their circumstances.

5. Although parents might believe that self-care would be beneficial for development, recent research has found quite the opposite.

Solu. Sentence 3 is the odd one out because it introduces a different perspective.

While the other sentences discuss the negative outcomes associated with self-

care in children, Sentence 3 suggests a need to consider that the bulk of research has yet to track long-term consequences. This sentence introduces a

more neutral or balanced viewpoint that doesn't align with the general theme of the other sentences, which focus on the negative aspects of self-care for children.

The remaining sentences (1, 2, 4, and 5) can be put together to form a coherent paragraph discussing the concept of self-care in relation to children, particularly those referred to as "Latchkey children."

Ques 20. 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. The banning of Northern Lights could be considered a precursor to censoring books for "moral", world view or religious reasons.**
- 2. Attempts to ban books are attempts to silence authors who have summoned immense courage in telling their stories.**
- 3. Now the banning and challenging of books in the US has escalated to an unprecedented level.**
- 4. The widely acclaimed fantasy novel Northern Lights was banned in some parts of the US, and was the second most challenged book in the US.**
- 5. The American Library Association documented an unparalleled number of reported book challenges in 2022, about 2,500 unique titles.**

Solu. 2

Sentence 2 is the odd one out because it introduces a broader statement about attempts to ban books and silence authors, while the other sentences are specifically focused on the banning and challenging of books in the US. Sentences 1, 3, 4, and 5 collectively form a coherent paragraph discussing the banning of Northern Lights and the escalation of book challenges in the US, while Sentence 2 introduces a different perspective that doesn't directly contribute to the flow of the paragraph regarding the specific incidents and trends mentioned in the other sentences.

Ques 22. The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3 and 4) given below, when properly sequenced, would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer.

- 1. Contemporary African writing like 'The Bottled Leopard' voices this theme using two children and two backgrounds to juxtapose two varying cultures.**
- 2. Chukwuemeka Ike explores the conflict, and casts the Western tradition as condescending, enveloping and unaccommodating towards local African practice.**
- 3. However, their views contradict the reality, for a rich and sustaining local African cultural ethos exists for all who care, to see and experience.**
- 4. Western Christian concepts tend to deny or feign ignorance about the existence of a genuine and enduring indigenous African tradition.**

Solu. The correct order is 4-3-1-2.

Sentence 4 introduces the conflict between Western Christian concepts and indigenous African tradition. This gives context for the discussion to be followed.

Now we can see that Sentence 3 starts with "However..." which implies that this sentence is challenging the views presented in Sentence 4 by asserting the existence of a rich indigenous African cultural ethos.

Therefore Sentence 3 must be following Sentence 4.

Sentence 2 introduces Chukwuemeka Ike and provides additional information about Chukwuemeka Ike's exploration of the conflict, adding depth to the discussion. Sentence 1 introduces an example of contemporary African writing that explores the conflict. It makes sense that first we give an example and then elaborate on it. Sentence 1 introduces the book; it is a logical inference that Ike must be the author of this book. Therefore Sentence 2 must be following Sentence 1. Therefore the correct order is 4-3-1-2

Ques 24. The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

People spontaneously create counterfactual alternatives to reality when they think "if only" or "what if" and imagine how the past could have been different. The mind computes counterfactuals for many reasons. Counterfactuals explain the past and prepare for the future, they implicate various relations including causal ones, and they affect intentions and decisions. They modulate emotions such as regret and relief, and they support moral judgments such as blame. The ability to create counterfactuals develops throughout childhood and contributes to reasoning about other people's beliefs, including their false beliefs.

A Counterfactuals help people to prepare for the future by understanding intentions and making decisions.

B People create counterfactual alternatives to reality for various reasons, including reasoning about other people's beliefs.

C Counterfactual alternatives to reality are created for a variety of reasons and is part of one's developmental process.

D Counterfactual thinking helps to reverse past and future actions and reason out false beliefs.

Solu. C

The passage discusses the phenomenon of counterfactual thinking, highlighting that people spontaneously create counterfactual alternatives to reality for various reasons. These reasons include explaining the past, preparing for the future, implicating various relations (including causal ones), affecting emotions, and supporting moral judgments. Additionally, the passage mentions that the ability to create counterfactuals develops throughout childhood and contributes to reasoning about other people's beliefs. Option C effectively encompasses these key points, making it the most accurate summary of the passage.

Option A focuses primarily on the preparation for the future aspect, neglecting the broader reasons for creating counterfactual alternatives.

Option B does not emphasize the developmental aspect and various reasons for creating

Option D inaccurately suggests that counterfactual thinking helps reverse past and future actions, which is not the main point of the passage, and it oversimplifies the role of counterfactuals.