

CAT 2023 Slot 3 VARC Solutions

Ques 1. From the passage we can infer that the author is likely to advise poor, but

archaeologically-rich source countries to do all of the following, EXCEPT:

A fund institutes in other countries to undertake archaeological exploration in the source country reaping the benefits of cutting-edge techniques.

B allow foreign countries to analyse and exhibit the archaeological finds made in the source country.

C to find ways to motivate other countries to finance archaeological explorations in their country.

D adopt China's strategy of dropping its cultural property laws and carrying out archaeological research through international collaboration.

Solu. Let us examine the given choices -

Option A: The passage emphasises the benefits of international collaboration and suggests that source countries could reap the benefits of new archaeological discoveries through such collaboration. Funding institutes in other countries to undertake exploration may not align with this perspective, as it involves outsourcing the exploration rather than fostering collaboration within the source country. Thus, Option A is an unlikely recommendation.

Option B: This aligns with the idea of international collaboration and suggests that the author might advise source countries to permit foreign analysis and exhibition of archaeological finds. The passage does suggest that strict cultural property laws may hinder opportunities to hold, display, and study uncovered artefacts.

Option C: We are told that strict cultural property laws might reduce incentives for foreign governments, NGOs, and educational institutions to

invest in overseas exploration. Therefore, the author would support a proactive approach to encourage these entities to invest in expeditions in source countries.

Option D: The passage highlights China's shift in strategy from strict cultural property laws to embracing collaborative international archaeological research. The author suggests that this approach has led to an increase in archaeological discoveries and recognition. Hence, this would be a relevant recommendation.

Hence, Option A is the correct choice.

Ques 2. It can be inferred from the passage that archaeological sites are considered important by some source countries because they:

A are a symbol of Western imperialism.

B are subject to strict patrimony laws.

C generate funds for future discoveries.

D give a boost to the tourism sector.

Solu. D

The author suggests that archaeological sites are important to some source countries because they can reap benefits from new archaeological discoveries, and one of the mentioned benefits is that such discoveries typically increase tourism. The passage emphasizes the economic and cultural advantages associated with tourism, which includes enhancing cultural pride and potentially attracting visitors to explore archaeological sites. Option D correctly presents this point. None of the other choices can be considered as valid inferences.

Ques 3. Which one of the following statements, if true, would undermine the central idea of the passage?

A Affluent archaeologically-rich source countries can afford to carry out their own excavations.

B Museums established in economically deprived archaeologically-rich source countries can display the antiques discovered there.

C UNESCO finances archaeological research in poor, but archaeologically- rich source countries.

D Western countries will have to apologise to countries for looting their cultural property in the past century.

Solu. C

The central idea of the passage is that strict cultural property laws, although popular, may reduce incentives for foreign entities to invest in overseas archaeological exploration. The passage suggests that this reduction in incentives could be detrimental to archaeological discoveries and, consequently, to the tourism and cultural pride of source countries. Among the given options, the only statement that would undermine the central idea is presented in Option C- it introduces the idea that there is external financial support for archaeological research in these countries. If true, then the lack of discoveries could potentially be attributed to a completely different factor/variable that the author might have failed to account for.

Ques 4. Which one of the following statements best expresses the paradox of patrimony laws?

A They were aimed at protecting cultural property, but instead reduced business for auctioneers like Sotheby's.

B They were intended to protect cultural property, but instead resulted in the neglect of historical sites.

C They were intended to protect cultural property, but instead resulted in the withholding of national treasure from museums.

D They were aimed at protecting cultural property, but instead reduced new archaeological discoveries.

Solu. D

The primary purpose of patrimony laws is stated in the passage as being "aimed at protecting cultural property," implying that the intention behind these laws is to preserve and safeguard a country's cultural heritage. However, the paradox lies in the unintended consequence of these laws, as highlighted in the passage. The author argues that, despite the good

intentions of protecting cultural property, the strict implementation of patrimony laws has led to a reduction in new archaeological discoveries. This reduction is attributed to diminished incentives for foreign entities, such as governments, NGOs, and educational institutions, to invest in overseas archaeological exploration. In other words, the very laws designed to protect cultural property end up hindering the process of making new archaeological discoveries. This underscores the tension between preserving cultural heritage and the potential negative impact on the exploration and understanding of that heritage. Option D aptly captures this point.

Ques 5. The author endorses Pinker's views on the importance of logical reasoning as it:

A provides a moral compass for resolving important ethical dilemmas.

B focuses public attention on real issues like development rather than sensational events.

C equips people with the ability to tackle challenging practical problems.

D helps people to gain expertise in statistics and other scientific disciplines.

Solu. C

The passage emphasises Pinker's focus on sequential reasoning and the tools of rationality, suggesting that greater mastery of these tools can improve decision-making in various practical contexts where individuals must act on 'uncertain and shifting information. The author's endorsement or support for Pinker's work is centred on the idea that logical reasoning "equips people with the ability to tackle challenging practical problems" [Option C].

Option A is incorrect - while the author acknowledges that rationality is seen by Pinker as a moral virtue, he adds that this role of moral and ethical education is underexplored in Pinker's work. Option B presents a very specific use case of Pinker's views and fails to capture the broader

message. Option D is similarly limited in scope - the emphasis is more on the broader applicability of rationality in decision-making. Hence, Option C is the correct choice.

Ques 6. According to the author, for Pinker as well as the ancient Greek philosophers, rational thinking involves all of the following EXCEPT:

- A an awareness of underlying assumptions in an argument and gaps in one's own knowledge**
- B the belief that the ability to reason logically encompasses an ethical and moral dimension.**
- C the primacy of conscious sequential reasoning as the basis for seminal human achievements.**
- D arriving at independent conclusions irrespective of who is presenting the argument.**

Solu. C

Based on the discussion, the option that is NOT associated with Pinker's view of rational thinking (as well as that of the ancient Greek philosophers) is Option

C - the passage suggests that while sequential reasoning is valuable, many profound human achievements come from moments of epiphany or insight rather than solely from conscious, sequential reasoning.

In relation to this thought, we are told that the emphasis on rational thought involves an understanding of the gaps in one's own knowledge [Option A] and also 'arriving at independent conclusions' [Option D]: {"Even Plato's Socrates who anticipated many of Pinker's points by nearly 2,500 years, showing the virtue of knowing what you do not know and examining all premises in arguments, not simply trusting speakers' authority or charisma..."}

Towards the end of the passage, we are informed of an ethical and moral dimension [Option B] to rationality, which the author asserts that Pinker considers but does not elaborate on.

Hence, Option C is the correct choice.

Ques 7. The author refers to the ancient Greek philosophers to:
A show how dreams and visions have for centuries influenced subconscious behaviour and pathbreaking inventions.
B indicate the various similarities between their thinking and Pinker's conclusions.
C reveal gaps in Pinker's discussion of the importance of ethical considerations in rational behaviour.
D highlight the influence of their thinking on the development of Pinker's arguments.

Solu. C

In the passage, the author notes that Pinker recognises rationality as both "a cognitive and moral virtue." However, the author points out that this "profoundly important" connection between rationality and morality is not thoroughly developed in Pinker's book. By bringing up the ancient Greek philosophers who, according to the text, subtly explored the connection between moral character and rationality, the author is implying that Pinker's work could benefit from a more in-depth consideration of the ethical dimension of rational behaviour. Option C accurately reflects this point none of the other choices correctly capture the intention behind mentioning the Greek philosophers

Ques 8. The author mentions Kekulé's discovery of the structure of benzene and Mozart's symphonies to illustrate the point that:
A great innovations across various fields can stem from flashes of intuition and are not always propelled by logical thinking.
Pinker's conclusions on sequential reasoning are belied by European achievements which, in the past, were more rooted in unconscious bursts of genius.
C it is not just the creative arts, but also scientific fields that have benefitted from flashes of creativity.
D unlike the sciences, human achievements in other fields are a mix of logical reasoning and spontaneous epiphanies.

Solu. A

In the case of Kekulé, the discovery of the benzene structure reportedly came to him in a dream, showcasing how creative insights can emerge unexpectedly and unconsciously. Similarly, Mozart's symphonies, considered masterpieces of classical music, are often seen as products of his musical genius and creative intuition. Therefore, the examples support the notion that groundbreaking achievements in both scientific and artistic domains may involve moments of inspiration, intuition, or epiphany, challenging the idea that all significant accomplishments are the result of conscious and sequential reasoning. This aligns with the broader point that while conscious reasoning is valuable, there are also subconscious and intuitive processes at play in the generation of innovative ideas and creations. Option A correctly captures this idea.

Ques 9. All of the following can be inferred from the reviewer's discussion of "The Nutmeg's Curse", EXCEPT:

A the history of climate change is deeply intertwined with the history of colonialism.

B the contemporary dominant perception of nature and the environment

was put in place by processes of colonialism.

C environmental preservation policy makers can learn a lot from non-European and/or pre-colonial societies.

D academic discourses have always served the function of raising awareness about environmental preservation.

Solu. D

Option D cannot be directly drawn from the passage. The passage discusses the historical perspective on climate change presented in "The Nutmeg's Curse" and emphasizes the impact of colonialism on the contemporary dominant perception of nature and the environment. It suggests that there are alternative views from non-European and/or pre-colonial societies that can provide insights for environmental preservation policy makers. However, the passage does not explicitly state

that academic discourses have always served the function of raising awareness about environmental preservation.

The passage connects the history of climate change with colonialism (Option A), highlights that colonial processes shaped the contemporary perception of nature and the environment (Option B) and suggests that non-European and/or pre-colonial societies hold valuable insights for environmental preservation policy makers (Option C).

Ques 10. Which one of the following best explains the primary purpose of the discussion of the colonisation of the Banda islands in "The Nutmeg's Curse"?

A To illustrate the role played by the cultivation of certain crops in the plantation mode in contributing to climate change.

B To illustrate the first instance in history when the processes responsible for climate change were initiated.

C To illustrate how systemic violence against the colonised constituted the cornerstone of colonialism.

D To illustrate how colonialism represented and perpetuated the mindset that has led to climate change.

Solu. D

"These are the two points to which Ghosh returns through examples from around the world. One, how European colonialists decimated not only indigenous populations but also indigenous understanding of the relationship between humans and Earth. Two, how this was an invasion not only of humans but of the Earth itself, and how this continues to the present day by looking at nature as a 'resource' to exploit"

The passage discusses how the colonization of the Banda islands, as presented in "The Nutmeg's Curse," is used to illustrate the broader idea that colonialism played a significant role in shaping the mindset and practices that have led to climate change. The exploitation of both indigenous populations and the Earth's resources during colonialism is portrayed as a key factor in perpetuating the mindset that views nature as a resource to be exploited, contributing to the environmental challenges faced today. Therefore, the primary purpose of discussing the colonization

of the Banda islands is to highlight how colonialism represented and perpetuated the mindset that has led to climate change. Therefore Option D is the correct answer.

Ques 12. On the basis of information in the passage, which one of the following is NOT a reason for the failure of policies seeking to address climate change?

A The greed of organisations benefiting from non-renewable energy resources.

B The global dominance of oil economies and international politics built around it.

C The marginalised status of non-European ways of looking at nature and the environment.

D The decentralised characteristic of renewable energy resources like solar power.

Solu. D

"Those observing global climate negotiations know about the Latin American way of looking at Earth as Pachamama (Earth Mother). They also know how such a framing is just provided lip service and is ignored in the substantive portions of the negotiations. In *The Nutmeg's Curse*, Ghosh explains why. He shows the extent of the vested interest in the oil economy - not only for oil-exporting countries, but also for a superpower like the US that controls oil drilling, oil prices and oil movement around the world. Many of us know power utilities are sabotaging decentralised solar power generation today because it hits their revenues and control."

From the highlighted part we can clearly infer Options A, B and C. The passage does not suggest that the decentralised characteristic of renewable energy resources like solar power is a reason for the failure of climate change policies. Instead, it mentions that power utilities may be sabotaging decentralized solar power generation because it affects their revenues and control, but it does not frame the decentralised nature of renewable energy as a cause for failure. Therefore Option D is not a reason for the failure of policies seeking to address climate change.

Ques 13. According to the romantics, aesthetics:

A should be confined to a specific domain separate from the practical and theoretical aspects of life.

B is primarily the concern of philosophers and artists, rather than of ordinary people.

C is widely considered to be irrelevant to human existence.

D permeates all aspects of human life, philosophical and mundane.

Solu. D

"The most characteristic romantic commitment is to the idea that the character of art and beauty and of our engagement with them should shape all aspects of human life. Being fundamental to human existence, beauty and art should be a central ingredient not only in a philosophical or artistic life, but also in the lives of ordinary men and women."

According to the passage, the romantics rejected the idea of confining aesthetics to a specific domain separate from practical and theoretical aspects of life. Instead, they believed that aesthetics, encompassing the character of art and beauty, should permeate all aspects of human existence, not only in philosophical or artistic lives but also in the lives of ordinary men and women. Therefore Option D is the correct answer.

Ques 15. Which one of the following statements is NOT supported by the passage?

A Characterising romantic aesthetics is both possible and desirable, despite the challenges involved.

B Recent studies on romanticism seek to refute the differences between national romanticisms.

C Romantic aesthetics are primarily expressed through fragments, aphorisms, and poems.

D Many romantics rejected the idea of aesthetics as a domain separate from other aspects of life.

Solu. B

The passage suggests that recent studies on romanticism do not seek to overlook the differences between national romanticisms but rather attempt

to characterize romanticism in terms of particular philosophical questions and concerns. The focus is on understanding romanticism without ignoring the diversity among different national expressions of it. Therefore Option B is the correct answer as it is not supported by the passage.

Option A: Although the passage acknowledges the challenges in characterizing romantic aesthetics, it also argues that it is not impossible or undesirable. Scholars recognize the difficulty but still emphasize the importance of discovering the nature of romanticism.

Option C: The passage mentions that the views of romantics on art and beauty are often found in fragments, aphorisms, and poems rather than in fully developed theoretical accounts. This emphasizes the elusive and suggestive nature of their expressions.

Option D: The passage notes that many romantics rejected the identification of aesthetics with a circumscribed domain of human life that is separated from the practical and theoretical domains of life. Instead, they believed that the character of art and beauty should shape all aspects of human life.

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: Beyond undermining the monopoly of the State on the use of force, armed conflict also creates an environment that can enable organized crime to prosper.

Paragraph: (1). Linkages between illicit arms, organized crime, and armed conflict can reinforce one another while also escalating and prolonging violence and eroding governance. _ (2) _ Financial gains from crime can lengthen or intensify armed conflicts by creating revenue streams for non-State armed groups (NSAGs) _ (3). In this context, when hostilities cease and parties to a conflict move towards a peaceful resolution, the widespread availability of surplus arms and ammunition can contribute to a situation of 'criminalized peace' that obstructs sustainable peacebuilding efforts._(4).

A Option 4

B Option 3

- C Option 1**
- D Option 2**

Solu. B

The Sentence best fits in Blank 3 because it directly relates to the theme introduced in before Blank 3. Before Blank 3 the passage discusses the linkages between illicit arms, organized crime, and armed conflict, and the provided sentence explains how armed conflict creates an environment favorable for organized crime to thrive. Therefore, Blank 3 is the appropriate placement for the sentence, enhancing the coherence and thematic continuity of the paragraph.

Blank 1 and 4 can be easily eliminated as the Sentence in question does not serve as a proper introductory or a concluding statement.

The provided sentence introduces a different aspect, focusing on the broader Impact of armed conflict on organized crime rather than the financial dynamics discussed after Blank 2.

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. Boa Senior, who lived through the 2004 tsunami, the Japanese occupation and diseases brought by British settlers, was the last native of the island chain who was fluent in Bo.**
- 2. The indigenous population has been steadily collapsing since the island chain was colonised by British settlers in 1858 and used for most of the following 100 years as a colonial penal colony.**
- 3. Taking its name from a now-extinct tribe, Bo is one of the 10 Great Andamanese languages, which are thought to date back to pre-Neolithic human settlement of south-east Asia.**
- 4. The last speaker of an ancient tribal language has died in the Andaman Islands, breaking a 65,000-year link to one of the world's oldest cultures.**

5. Though the language has been closely studied by researchers of linguistic history, Boa Senior spent the last few years of her life unable to converse with anyone in her mother tongue.

Solu. 2

Sentence 2 doesn't fit well with the others, which focus on the language Bo and its last native speaker, Boa Senior. The other sentences provide information about the language, its history, and the last fluent speaker, creating a coherent narrative. Sentence 2 introduces a different topic about the decline of the indigenous population without directly contributing to the discussion about the tribal language and its last speaker.

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. Veena Sahajwalla, a materials scientist at the University of New South Wales, believes there is a new way of solving this problem.**
- 2. Her vision is for automated drones and robots to pick out components, put them into a small furnace and smelt them at specific temperatures to extract the metals one by one before they are sent off to manufacturers for reuse.**
- 3. E-waste contains huge quantities of valuable metals, ceramics and plastics that could be salvaged and recycled, although currently not enough of it is.**
- 4. She plans to build microfactories that can tease apart the tangle of materials in mobile phones, computers and other e-waste.**

Solu. 3142

Sentence 3 introduces the issue, highlighting that e-waste contains valuable materials that are not being efficiently recycled. This sets context for the discussion to be followed.

Now if we consider Sentences 1, 2 and 4, we can see that Sentence 2 and 4 are referencing a "She" and "Her". Considering these 3 sentences, they

can only reference Veena Sahajwalla. Therefore Sentence 1 must follow Sentence 3.

Now Sentence 1 states that she has a new way of solving the problem. Sentence 4 provides details about Sahajwalla's plan, stating that she intends to build microfactories to extract valuable materials from e-waste. Therefore Sentence 4 must be following Sentence 1. Sentence 2 logically follows Sentence 4 by elaborating on Sahajwalla's vision, explaining how automated drones and robots will be utilized in the process of extracting metals from e- waste, providing a clear and detailed picture of the proposed solution.

Therefore the correct order is 3-1-4-2