

Verbal Ability

Directions for questions 1 to 3: The passage given below is followed by a set of questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

At an early period in their intellectual development the Greeks reached that critical point in the history of every civilized nation, when speculative invades the domain of revealed truth, when the spiritual ideas of the people can no longer be satisfied by the lower, material conceptions of their inspired writers, and when men find it impossible to pour the new wine of free thought into the old bottles of a narrow and a trammeling creed.

From their Aryan ancestors they had received the fatal legacy of a mythology stained with immoral and monstrous stories which strove to hide the rational order of nature in a chaos of miracles, and to mar by imputed wickedness the perfection of God's nature - a very shirt of Nessos in which the Heracles of rationalism barely escaped annihilation. Now while undoubtedly the speculation of Thales, and the alluring analogies of law and order afforded by physical science, were most important forces in encouraging the rise of the spirit of skepticism, yet it was on its ethical side that the Greek mythology was chiefly open to attack.

It is difficult to shake the popular belief in miracles, but no man will admit sin and immorality as attributes of the Ideal he worships; so the first symptoms of a new order of thought are shown in the passionate outcries of Xenophanes and Heraclitos against the evil things said by Homer of the sons of God; and in the story told of Pythagoras, how that he saw tortured in Hell the "two founders of Greek theology", we can recognise the rise of the Aufklärung as clearly as we see the Reformation foreshadowed in the Inferno of Dante.

Any honest belief, then, in the plain truth of these stories soon succumbed before the destructive effects of the *a priori* ethical criticism of this school; but the orthodox party, as is their custom, found immediately a convenient shelter under the aegis of the doctrine of metaphors and concealed meanings.

1. Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?
 - (a) The inferiority of a skeptic vision of thought in the developmental stages of ancient Greece
 - (b) The rise of intellectuality and the speculative nature of ancient Greece, where mythology and religious beliefs had been the norm
 - (c) The efforts of Pythagoras, Xenophanes and Heraclitos in ancient Greece
 - (d) The various mythological truths, which were to be overshadowed later by skepticism
2. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the given passage?
 - (a) Pythagoras was against various fallacies circulated by Greek mythology.
 - (b) Greek mythical beliefs were not entirely quashed by the rise of Greek intellectuality and rationality.
 - (c) The Greeks have always followed a logical chain of thought.
 - (d) The Greeks had followed the Aryan mythologies which were mostly irrational.

3. Which of the following can be inferred from the statement “...but no man will admit sin and immorality as attributes of the Ideal he worships”?
- (a) God is perfect.
 - (b) Man regards all mythology as the absolute truth.
 - (c) Man finds it difficult to concede to the possibility of any vice in the Absolute Being.
 - (d) Any Ideal worshipped by man, that falls short of perfection in any sense, will be rebuffed by him.

Directions for questions 4 to 6: The passage given below is followed by a set of questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

When innovation is the goal, however, organizations need variation in what people do, think about, and produce. What might be called errors and mutations in a system meant to do old things in old ways are the lifeblood of innovation. People need to constantly find and produce new ideas, which, like mutations in plants and animals, often fail to endure and spread. The notion that diversity, new combinations, and mutations of existing forms are required for creating new forms is, of course, inspired by Darwin’s theory of evolution.

The biologist Stephen Jay Gould explains why amplifying, rather than dampening, variation leads to excellence in social systems, not just biological systems.

“Excellence is a range of differences, not a spot. Each location on the range can be occupied by an excellent or an inadequate representative — and we must struggle for excellence at each one of these varied locations. In a society driven, often unconsciously, to impose a uniform mediocrity upon a former richness of excellences...an understanding and defense of full ranges as natural reality might help stem the tide and preserve the rich raw material of any evolving system: Variation itself.”

Hundreds of behavioral scientists have borrowed and modified Darwin’s theory of evolution. One of the most robust findings in this vast literature is that variance in people, knowledge, activities, and organizational structures is crucial to creativity and innovation. Research by Dean Keith Simonton shows that the success of individual geniuses like Mozart, Shakespeare, Picasso, Einstein, and Darwin himself, is best understood from an evolutionary perspective, where excellence results from “a range of differences.” These famous creators generated a wider range of ideas and completed more products than their contemporaries. They didn’t succeed at a higher rate than others. They simply *did more*. So they had both more successes and more failures. There are renowned geniuses who defy this trend, but they usually have less impact than their more productive counterparts. The great artist Vermeer created fewer than 50 paintings in his lifetime, all in a similar style. He achieved a singular excellence that, despite the stunning beauty of his art, adds something less than Picasso’s astonishing range and history-changing influence.

Research on groups and organizations suggests that variation is just as important to collective creativity. New ideas are generated when groups and organizations have people who act and think in diverse ways, express diverse opinions, are connected to diverse knowledge networks outside the organization, and store and constantly make use of diverse technical knowledge. The belief that innovation depends on a broad palette of ideas was around long before academics started studying innovation. Thomas Edison remarked that inventors need “a pile of junk.” His West Orange laboratory had a “well-stocked storeroom and a collection of apparatus and equipment left over from previous experiments” that included “machine tools, chemicals, electrical equipment, loads of supplies — not only lengths of steel and pipe, but rare and exotic materials such as seahorse teeth and cow hair.” This “big scrap heap” provided the raw materials that Edison and his staff used to invent new things.

4. Which of the following would be the most suitable title for the given passage?
(a) Excellence through Variation
(b) Darwin and his musings
(c) The importance of Variation
(d) Today's mediocre society
5. Which the following can be inferred from the given passage?
(a) Darwin was responsible for pointing out that variation is responsible for excellence.
(b) A bag of junk can be a source of great creativity for most people.
(c) The society is responsible for the death of creativity.
(d) Variance in knowledge, experience often leads to a variety of ideas.
6. The author mentions Mozart and Einstein in order to
(a) give examples of the geniuses variance has created.
(b) name a few creative people in history.
(c) give examples of geniuses who were victims of a mediocre society.
(d) name some of the most creative people in their respective fields.

Directions for questions 7 to 10: In each of the following questions, the word in **bold** has been used in the given sentences in four different ways. Choose the option corresponding to the sentence in which the usage of the word is *incorrect* or *inappropriate*.

7. **Crack**
(a) Do not put the china in the sink; it may crack.
(b) Don't crack at your head over this problem.
(c) He noticed the crack in her voice.
(d) He was simply not the genius he was cracked up to be.
8. **Faint**
(a) She collapsed down in a dead faint.
(b) She made a faint attempt to hide her sadness.
(c) I was not able to hear her clearly; the noise was very faint.
(d) She suffered a fainted spell.
9. **Over**
(a) He shouted over the top of his voice.
(b) There are three people over him.
(c) There is a picture hung over the wall.
(d) The airport was right over on the far side of Newcastle.
10. **Open**
(a) The roads will open up to inspection.
(b) The minister will open the exhibition.
(c) Whether or not he intended this outcome, is open to question.
(d) The President promised an open dialogue.

Directions for questions 11 to 15: In each of the following questions, a sentence/paragraph with two gaps is given. From the pairs of words given, choose the one that fills the gaps most appropriately.

11. The recent, more _____ tone from Tehran is being seen in Washington as the best hope of an end to the _____ stand-off with the Islamic Republic since Obama came to office in 2009.
- (a) sugar-coated, nasty (b) conciliatory, hostile
(c) assuaging, critical (d) fawning, bitter
12. Wronski's theories are now _____ though his contemporaries had always shown _____ for him.
- (a) authoritative, fondness (b) unchallenged, disdain
(c) didactic, contempt (d) preferred, disgust
13. _____ of identity politics argue that those who do not share the identity and life experiences which it brings to the members of a/an _____ group cannot understand what it means.
- (a) Founders, outclassed (b) Champions, suppressed
(c) Proponents, oppressed (d) Advocates, depressed
14. Dalton, like Greeks, _____ that atom is the smallest particle. It cannot be cut further into smaller _____.
- (a) concluded, particles (b) thought, ingredients
(c) presumed, components (d) announced, bits
15. The Minister for HRD expressed _____ for the _____ in standards of science education in the country.
- (a) fear, decrease (b) concern, decline
(c) apprehension, reduction (d) disquiet, down

Directions for questions 16 to 18: In each of the following questions, five sentences labeled A, B, C, D and E are given. They need to be arranged in a logical order to form a coherent paragraph/passage. From the given options, choose the most appropriate one.

16. A. Not so in Portugal, where artists shone at making azulejos, glazed ceramic tiles that were fashioned into narrative.
B. The most revered visual artists in Europe traditionally excelled at fresco, oil painting and sculpture.
C. What makes these creations so winning is their exuberance, not skillful mastery of technique or sophisticated drawing.
D. In the 16th-18th centuries entire walls of grand palaces and richly endowed churches were covered with this work, some of it very large.
E. A stupendous blue-and-white panorama of Lisbon, made not long before the destructive earthquake of 1755, measures almost 795 feet (242.3 metres) in length, and was even longer before elements from both ends were lost.
- (a) BADEC (b) BCADE (c) BAEDC (d) BDEAC

17. A. China is on a roll – and not just because it's the world's economic juggernaut.
 B. But what Beijing gains most, and what many in Taiwan most fear, is a binding of the two economies – a prelude, in China's mind, to eventual unification.
 C. In a few quick days, Beijing augmented its influence over Taiwan, which it dearly wants to possess, and Hong Kong, which it already does.
 D. The deal, another sign of warming across the Strait, also gives Chinese companies more access to the island.
 E. In the Chinese megalopolis of Chongqing (where Mao Zedong and Chiang Kai-shek once talked peace), Beijing and Taipei signed a trade and investment pact, dramatically boosting Taiwan's opportunities in China.
- (a) CEDBA (b) AEDBC (c) ACEDB (d) EDBAC
18. A. Governments are eager to unload some responsibility for waste management onto manufacturers, especially for products that are hard to recycle or may be toxic, such as electronics, batteries, paint, car parts and pesticide containers.
 B. For seasoned shoppers, "buyer's remorse" is a familiar feeling.
 C. Governments also hope that EPR laws will encourage firms to rethink the way they make products, designing them for longevity and recyclability rather than for the landfill.
 D. "Seller's remorse" may also become common soon, as ever more governments order manufacturers to assume the cost of disposing of their products after consumers are done with them.
 E. It helps them cut costs, for one thing – handy for local authorities short of cash in the recession.
- (a) ABDEC (b) BDAEC (c) ACEBD (d) BDEAC
19. Given below are five sentences or parts of sentences that form a paragraph. Identify the sentence(s) or part(s) of sentence(s) that is/are *incorrect* in terms of grammar and usage. Then, choose the most appropriate option.
- A. At the California General Meeting,
 B. the CEO enumerated the feature of the offdocs 2000 (a new software) that
 C. made them so distinguishable. No one
 D. needed an office anymore; everyone can use their laptops
 E. connected to the internet and achieve results similar to those obtained in an office.
- (a) A, B and C (b) B, C and D (c) D and E (d) B, C and E
20. Given below are five sentences or parts of sentences that form a paragraph. Identify the sentence(s) or part(s) of sentence(s) that is/are *correct* in terms of grammar and usage. Then, choose the most appropriate option.
- A. Out of a population of 10 million,
 B. only 10% had access of water facility (supply)
 C. but only 20% had access of sanitation.
 D. We can look forward to the problem
 E. by improving the infrastructure of the city.
- (a) A, D and E (b) A, B and E (c) A and E (d) C and D

Directions for questions 21 and 22: In each of the following questions, a paragraph is given from which the last sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the one that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate way.

21. Life in the forest was hard and painful – and endless sacrifice. Gradually two kinds of ascetics emerged, side by side, competing with each other for new members. The hermit detached himself physically from the village and human society, dwelt in the forest subsisting on roots and fruits, and practiced *tapas*. The hermit could not consume food grown in the settlement, but he could eat the flesh of an animal that had been killed by other predators. His whole demeanor partook of the wild.
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- (a) The renouncer was more radical, his withdrawal physical than ideological.
- (b) He had to practice iron self-discipline and control his speech and senses.
- (c) He was a man of the forest, the obverse of the settled householder.
- (d) The rationale for this rigorous asceticism was given in the Aranyakas, the 'Forest Texts', which developed an esoteric interpretation of the old rites.

22. David Chang was asleep in his aisle seat on a recent flight to Melbourne when searing pain jolted him awake: a flight attendant had accidentally spilled boiling water on his arm. That the worst scalding of the Manhattan mega chef's life occurred in business class rather than in a busy kitchen was perhaps surprising. But that was nothing compared with what awaited him on the ground. Soon after he landed, news of the accident made the Australian papers and then, thanks to the global hum of diligent foodies at their keyboards, quickly appeared on websites around the world.
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- (a) The shocking headline: "Chef Burned."
- (b) It's been a few decades since we started turning cooks into stars.
- (c) There's a reason restaurant food sales in the U.S. have increased.
- (d) The flight attendant was made to apologize profusely.

23. Four sentences are given below labeled (a), (b), (c) and (d). Of these, three sentences need to be arranged in a logical order to form a coherent paragraph/passage. From the given options, choose the one that does not fit the sequence.

- (a) Since fuel is required for generating electricity, energy has become expensive.
- (b) America too was once a land without electricity.
- (c) Today, it not only has adequate electricity, but also surplus to sell.
- (d) But as soon as electricity reached its shores, America learned to capitalize on this gift.

Directions for questions 24 and 25: In each of the following questions, four sentences are given. Each sentence has a pair of words that are *italicized*. From the italicized words, select the most appropriate words (A or B) to form correct sentences. The sentences are followed by options that indicate the words, which may be selected to correctly complete the set of sentences. From the options given, choose the most appropriate one.

24. A. His voice was *discreet* (A) / *discrete* (B) so we could not hear him.
B. The election head position was *ceremonious* (A) / *ceremonial* (B) in nature.
C. She was *likely* (A) / *liable* (B) to faint.
D. Sometimes I feel like the *errant* (A) / *errand* (B) child who is chided all the time by everybody.
- (a) ABAA (b) AAAB (c) BABB (d) BBBA
25. A. The classic jacket *complements* (A) / *compliments* (B) her look which is both smart and causal.
B. A *grizzly* (A) / *grisly* (B) crime was committed.
C. "Pay back the *principle* (A) / *principal* (B) amount at least," he said.
D. Before entering the room, she *titillated* (A) / *titivated* (B) her hair.
- (a) AAAB (b) ABAB (c) BABA (d) AB BB

Answer Key

1	b	2	c	3	c	4	a	5	d	6	a	7	b	8	d	9	a	10	a
11	b	12	b	13	c	14	a	15	b	16	a	17	c	18	b	19	b	20	c
21	c	22	a	23	a	24	a	25	d										

