

COMMON ADMISSION TEST (CAT) — MOCK PRACTICE PAPER

SECTION I: VERBAL ABILITY & READING COMPREHENSION (VARC)

Time Allotted: 40 Minutes | Total Questions: 20 Questions

PART A: READING COMPREHENSION

DIRECTIONS for Questions 1 to 3: Read the accompanying passage carefully and choose the most appropriate option to answer each question.

PASSAGE 1: PHILOSOPHY & COGNITIVE SCIENCE

The classical view of human memory conceptualizes it as a static repository or archival filing cabinet where impressions, once acquired, are preserved intact until retrieved. This container metaphor has long dominated both folk psychology and early cognitive frameworks. However, contemporary neurological evidence and reconstructive theories of cognition paint a radically divergent picture. Memory is not a passive playback of a static recording; rather, it is an active, ongoing simulation—a fluid process of reimagining the past tailored precisely to the functional demands of the present.

When an individual recalls an event, the brain does not download a single consolidated file from a localized cortical storage zone. Instead, the act of retrieval triggers a widespread synchronization of disparate neural networks. Fragments of sensory data—the particular hue of an evening sky, the cadence of a voice, an ambient temperature—are stored across modularly segregated cortical networks. The hippocampus acts not as the storage vault itself, but as a dynamic indexer or conductor, binding these scattered components together on an as-needed basis. Every iteration of remembering is, fundamentally, an act of rebuilding.

Crucially, this reconstructive architecture leaves memory notoriously susceptible to distortion. As neural traces are reassembled, they become temporarily labile. In this highly malleable state, internal psychological biases, schema-driven expectations, and post-event misinformation can seamlessly weave themselves into the newly consolidated memory trace. This is not a pathological structural defect or an evolutionary failure. Rather, the plasticity of human memory is an adaptive feature of a cognitive apparatus designed primarily for prospective simulation.

Our evolutionary ancestors did not require a computationally expensive, high-fidelity recorder of historical minutiae. Survival demanded an agile system capable of extracting abstract operational rules from past occurrences to simulate hypothetical future scenarios. The primary evolutionary mandate of memory is predictive utility, not historic authenticity. By rendering past records flexible, the human brain can recombine components of experienced events into completely novel configurations, allowing individuals to mentally map threats, evaluate hypothetical decisions, and navigate complex social dynamics before committing physical actions. The price we pay for this predictive flexibility is the persistent illusion of our historical accuracy.

Q1. [Difficulty Level: Medium | Topic: RC - Inference]

Based on the passage, which of the following statements would the author most likely agree with regarding the fallibility of human memory?

- A) It represents a maladaptive evolutionary byproduct of a complex brain that failed to develop robust localized data-storage mechanisms.
- B) It is a structural concession necessary to sustain a cognitive system optimized for simulating future survival requirements.
- C) It occurs primarily because the hippocampus fails to function as an efficient indexer when modular cortical networks are overloaded.
- D) It is an illusion caused by the structural difference between folk psychology assumptions and actual neural processing systems.

Q2. [Difficulty Level: Hard | Topic: RC - Paragraph-specific / Specific Detail]

According to the second paragraph of the passage, the process of memory retrieval is best described as:

- A) an automatic download of complete, consolidated informational files from specific cortical zones directly to the hippocampus.
- B) a real-time consolidation of permanently stable sensory data fragments overseen by a central neural storage vault.
- C) a synchronized re-orchestration of distributed, modular sensory traces that are temporarily assembled during recall.
- D) an ongoing simulation that actively erases past sensory files to prioritize immediate psychological biases.

Q3. [Difficulty Level: Easy | Topic: RC - Author's Purpose]

The primary purpose of the author in writing this passage is to:

- A) critique traditional cognitive science for clinging to outmoded folk psychology models of the human mind.
- B) demonstrate that human memory is fundamentally flawed and unreliable for historical documentation.
- C) argue that the reconstructive and malleable nature of memory serves an adaptive, evolutionary purpose.
- D) explain the specific biochemical pathways through which the hippocampus binds fragmented sensory inputs.

DIRECTIONS for Questions 4 to 6: Read the accompanying passage carefully and choose the most appropriate option to answer each question.

PASSAGE 2: ECONOMICS & TECHNOLOGY

The structural transformation of contemporary market economies is increasingly characterized by what theorists term the "platformization of capital." In this paradigm, the traditional industrial firm—defined by its linear value chain, physical assets, and direct employer-employee contracts—is being eclipsed by digital ecosystems that act as programmatic matchmakers. These digital platforms do not primarily manufacture goods or deliver proprietary services; rather, they construct algorithmic infrastructures that organize, mediate, and monetize interactions between distributed groups of producers and consumers.

This shift radically alters the traditional economics of scale. In industrial manufacturing, supply-side economies of scale dictated that average costs decreased as physical volume increased, eventually hitting a ceiling bound by resource scarcity and managerial coordination costs. Digital platforms, by contrast, operate on demand-side economies of scale, propelled by powerful network effects. Every additional user who joins a platform increases the utility of the ecosystem for all other existing participants, creating a self-reinforcing loop. Because the marginal cost of replicating digital code or onboarding a new user approaches zero, platforms can achieve exponential growth scales that were mathematically and physically impossible for 20th-century industrial enterprises.

However, this hyper-scalable architecture introduces deep structural asymmetries. Platforms operate as private regulatory authorities, acting as de facto infrastructure monopolies while remaining decoupled from the traditional legal obligations of public utilities. By positioning themselves as mere "technological intermediaries" rather than employers or primary service providers, platform operators successfully externalize operating risks onto their distributed workforce and independent merchants. The platform controls the interface, dictates the terms of transactional access, collects the behavioral data, and extracts economic rent through transaction fees, while the physical risks, asset maintenance, and market volatility are borne entirely by the fragmented participants.

Consequently, the platform economy achieves an unprecedented separation of capital from responsibility. The algorithmic management systems that coordinate these marketplaces rely on continuous behavioral surveillance to optimize matching efficiency and maximize user engagement. This structural setup transforms the platform from a neutral marketplace into an active architect of market behavior, calling into question the classical economic assumption of sovereign, rational consumers operating in free and open competitive environments.

Q4. [Difficulty Level: Medium | Topic: RC - Main Idea]

Which of the following statements best captures the central argument of the passage?

- A) Digital platforms utilize supply-side economies of scale to systematically out-produce traditional industrial enterprises.
- B) The transition to platform capitalism replaces traditional production with algorithmic matchmaking, producing immense scale while separating economic rent from structural risk.
- C) Algorithmic management systems have eliminated traditional consumer sovereignty by forcing users onto monopolistic digital networks.
- D) The marginal costs of digital platforms prevent them from assuming the legal liabilities traditionally assigned to public utilities.

Q5. [Difficulty Level: Hard | Topic: RC - Inference]

Based on the passage's description of demand-side economies of scale, it can be inferred that digital platforms:

- A) face diminishing returns much faster than industrial manufacturers due to coordination constraints.
- B) rely on the physical reproduction of proprietary services to generate self-reinforcing loops of growth.
- C) experience an increase in value to their user base that is directly tied to the expansion of their participant network.
- D) are structurally insulated from market volatility because their marginal cost of onboarding participants is zero.

Q6. [Difficulty Level: Medium | Topic: RC - Inference]

The author's assertion that platforms function as "private regulatory authorities" implies that platform operators:

- A) collaborate directly with state governments to establish consumer safety standards within digital markets.
- B) govern the behavior and terms of access for users within their ecosystem without assuming equivalent legal accountability.
- C) prioritize the optimization of matching efficiencies over the collection and monetization of user behavioral data.
- D) seek to transform their digital infrastructures into publicly owned utilities to reduce operating risks.

PART B: VERBAL ABILITY

DIRECTIONS for Questions 7 to 10: The four sentences 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.

Q7. [Difficulty Level: Medium | Topic: VA - Para Jumbles]

1. This dual-processing mechanism allows individuals to quickly identify patterns without expending massive cognitive resources on repetitive stimuli.
2. The human brain manages complex environments by balancing rapid, unconscious heuristics with deliberate, analytical calculation.
3. However, when faced with entirely novel or high-stakes anomalies, this automated shortcuts system must be overrideable by slower conscious deliberation.
4. Heuristics operate as evolutionary shortcuts, filtering out background noise to construct immediate, functional approximations of reality.

Answer: []

Q8. [Difficulty Level: Hard | Topic: VA - Para Jumbles]

1. By decoupling economic compensation from localized labor hours, it transforms creative output into a continuously tradeable digital asset class.
2. The rapid monetization of intellectual property via decentralized ledger protocols represents a structural shift in artist remuneration models.
3. Historically, creators relied on centralized gatekeepers like publishers or record labels to manage rights distribution and capture transactional values.
4. This decentralized framework eliminates these traditional intermediaries, letting creators directly program automated fractional royalty collections into smart contracts.

Answer: []

Q9. [Difficulty Level: Medium | Topic: VA - Para Jumbles]

1. To survive in these barren landscapes, they rely on complex subterranean root structures that capture transient deep-water flows before they evaporate.
2. Xerophytic plants have evolved specialized metabolic adaptations that allow them to withstand prolonged periods of extreme hyper-arid desiccation.
3. These structural architectures are complemented by cellular mechanisms that minimize transpirational moisture loss during intense peak daylight hours.
4. Furthermore, their cuticles are coated with dense, waxy secretions that reflect solar radiation and lower internal thermal pressures.

Answer: []

Q10. [Difficulty Level: Easy | Topic: VA - Para Jumbles]

1. This feedback loop creates a self-fulfilling prophecy where initial algorithmic preferences morph into fixed cultural realities.
2. Recommendation engines do not merely discover user tastes; they actively shape them over time through selective visibility.
3. As users are repeatedly exposed to these curated feeds, their consumption choices gradually narrow around the platform's computational baselines.
4. By prioritizing high-engagement content, the software subtly conditions audiences to prefer specific stylistic patterns over more avant-garde alternatives.

Answer: []

DIRECTIONS for Questions 11 to 13: Read the passage given below and choose the option that best captures its essence.

Q11. [Difficulty Level: Medium | Topic: VA - Para Summary]

For decades, urban planners treated the expansion of public transit networks as a straightforward remedy for spatial socio-economic inequality. The underlying logic was intuitive: connecting isolated, low-income peripheral neighborhoods to dense central business districts would democratize employment access and foster economic mobility. However, recent empirical studies indicate that infrastructure investments absent robust municipal zoning protections frequently trigger the opposite outcome. Known as "transit-induced gentrification," the introduction of high-speed transit hubs drastically escalates surrounding land values. Speculative real estate capital flows into newly accessible corridors, driving up residential rents and driving out the very low-income populations the transit lines were originally built to serve, displacing them to even more remote zones devoid of infrastructural access.

- A) Public transit networks fail to mitigate economic inequality because low-income workers generally prefer living near peripheral industrial zones rather than central business districts.
- B) Expanding public transit networks inadvertently worsens spatial inequality unless accompanied by municipal zoning protections that counter real estate speculation and the subsequent displacement of low-income residents.
- C) Transit-induced gentrification can be entirely eliminated if municipal governments halt all speculative real estate investments along public transportation corridors.
- D) Although connecting peripheral neighborhoods to urban centers improves short-term economic mobility, the long-term maintenance costs of transit networks inevitably increase peripheral residential rents.

Q12. [Difficulty Level: Hard | Topic: VA - Para Summary]

The standard narrative of the Scientific Revolution credits the birth of modern empirical science to a sudden, insular European intellectual rupture away from medieval scholasticism. This Eurocentric model isolates figures like Galileo, Kepler, and Newton within an exceptionalist cultural vacuum, framing their breakthroughs as products of unique Western rationalism. Yet, a rigorous global mapping of early modern scientific networks reveals that this intellectual leap was profoundly dependent on cross-cultural trade and translation. The mathematical tools underpinning Cartesian coordinate geometry drew heavily from Islamic algebraic treatises, while early European botanical classification relied directly on indigenous knowledge systems cataloged via colonial trading companies. Modern science did not emerge from an isolated continental awakening; it was the synthesized product of global transactional exchanges.

- A) The Scientific Revolution was not an isolated European intellectual breakthrough but a global synthesis heavily dependent on cross-cultural trade, translation, and non-Western knowledge systems.
- B) European scientists like Galileo and Newton plagiarized Islamic algebraic concepts and indigenous botanical classification systems to claim credit for the Scientific Revolution.
- C) The exceptionalist narrative of the Scientific Revolution is accurate because cross-cultural exchanges were minimal compared to the core developments of Western rationalism.
- D) Cross-cultural translation networks were established by colonial trading companies primarily to help European scholasticism overcome its mathematical deficiencies.

Q13. [Difficulty Level: Medium | Topic: VA - Para Summary]

In behavioral economics, the "endowment effect" describes the cognitive bias where individuals assign a significantly higher value to a good simply because they own it. Classical economic theory assumes a symmetric valuation baseline: an item's objective utility should dictate that an individual's maximum willingness to pay (WTP) to acquire a good equals their minimum willingness to accept (WTA) compensation to part with it. Neuroimaging studies, however, reveal that losing an item activates the insular cortex—the same neurological region associated with the processing of physical pain and disgust. This suggests that the endowment effect is not driven by an irrational overvaluation of an asset's positive utility, but rather by an instinctual aversion to the psychological pain of loss, rendering the divestment process fundamentally asymmetric to acquisition.

- A) Classical economics correctly identifies utility as the primary driver of market transactions, whereas neuroimaging overemphasizes the emotional processing occurring in the insular cortex.
- B) The endowment effect violates classical economic symmetry because the prospect of losing an asset triggers neural pain responses, making divestment psychologically costlier than acquisition.
- C) Individuals assign higher value to owned items because they possess unique structural insights into the item's objective utility that non-owners cannot observe.
- D) The insular cortex prevents consumers from accurately calculating their willingness to pay, resulting in persistent economic inefficiencies across retail marketplaces.

DIRECTIONS for Questions 14 to 16: Five jumbled 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 out and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.

Q14. [Difficulty Level: Medium | Topic: VA - Odd Sentence Out]

1. Deep-sea hydrothermal vents support complex ecosystems that operate completely independent of solar energy, relying instead on chemosynthesis.
2. In these abyssal zones, specialized tectonic bacteria oxidize toxic hydrogen sulfide compounds emitting from the Earth's crust to generate cellular energy.
3. This chemosynthetic energy matrix serves as the primary trophic baseline for unique communities of giant tube worms, blind shrimp, and crabs.
4. Astrobiologists analyze these terrestrial extreme environments to model potential biosphere architectures on ice-covered moons like Europa.
5. Consequently, these deep-ocean organisms thrive under hydrostatic pressures that would instantaneously rupture the cell walls of surface species.

Answer: []

Q15. [Difficulty Level: Hard | Topic: VA - Odd Sentence Out]

1. This stylistic austerity was a direct ideological rebellion against the ostentatious, aristocratic ornamentation favored by the absolute monarchies of the Ancien Régime.
2. Neoclassical architecture emphasized clean geometric symmetry, unadorned surfaces, and structural simplicity inspired by classical Roman ideals.
3. Instead of constructing decorative environments, these early modern architects prioritized civic functionality and public accessibility.
4. The historical preservation of ancient Greek ruins faced severe financial constraints during the turbulent economic crises of the late eighteenth century.
5. By aligning architectural design with democratic values, the movement sought to visually institutionalize the secular concepts of the Enlightenment.

Answer: []

Q16. [Difficulty Level: Medium | Topic: VA - Odd Sentence Out]

1. Behavioral psychologists attribute this cognitive pattern to the "prestige bias," an evolutionary copycat strategy used to navigate social hierarchies.
2. By mimicking the consumption habits and linguistic style of successful leaders, lower-status individuals attempt to minimize social exclusion risks.
3. This adaptive mimicry accelerates the transmission of complex cultural innovations across structurally fragmented tribal communities.
4. However, the overconsumption of calorie-dense luxury goods frequently triggers long-term physiological metabolic imbalances.
5. In ancestral settings, observing and replicating the behaviors of high-status figures served as a highly efficient, low-risk survival heuristic.

Answer: []

DIRECTIONS for Questions 17 and 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.

Q17. [Difficulty Level: Medium | Topic: VA - Sentence Placement]

Sentence: *This structural transition shifts the cost burden of information filtering from the sender to the recipient.*

Passage: The proliferation of digital communication platforms has fundamentally altered the economics of human attention. In the pre-digital era, physical printing costs, institutional distribution networks, and scarcity of media real estate acted as structural filters on content production. (1). Because broadcasting required significant capital deployment, information was thoroughly vetted for quality before dissemination. (2). In contemporary digital networks, however, the marginal cost of publishing a piece of information is practically zero, leading to an exponential surge in content volume. (3). Individuals must now invest significant personal cognitive resources to actively sort, evaluate, and verify the endless stream of data inundating their daily feeds. (4).

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

Q18. [Difficulty Level: Easy | Topic: VA - Sentence Placement]

Sentence: *To establish absolute political authority, he systematically stripped regional assemblies of their historical legislative veto powers.*

Passage: Louis XIV's domestic strategy was a masterclass in the centralization of absolute monarchical power. Upon assuming personal governance, the young king immediately sought to weaken the independent feudal aristocracy that had historically threatened the crown. (1). He compelled the most powerful nobles to reside at the Palace of Versailles for extended periods of the year. (2). There, trapped in an expensive maze of courtly etiquette and localized rivalries, they were effectively neutralized as military or regional threats. (3). Having isolated the aristocracy, the King turned his focus toward institutional governance to cement his control. (4). Through these sweeping legal restructuring measures, provincial judicial bodies were transformed into compliant administrative arms of the crown.

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

DIRECTIONS for Questions 19 and 20: *The paragraph given below has a missing sentence at the end. From the options given below, choose the one that logically completes the paragraph.*

Q19. [Difficulty Level: Hard | Topic: VA - Paragraph Completion]

The philosophical debate over "semantic externalism" challenges the long-held internalist assumption that the meanings of our words are entirely contained within our private conscious states. Internalists argue that when a speaker refers to a concept, the meaning is fixed by an internal mental representation or psychological image. Externalism, by contrast, asserts that meaning is inherently relational, tethered directly to the objective physical and social environments that the speaker inhabits. As philosopher Hilary Putnam famously declared, "meanings just ain't in the head." If a speaker's physical environment changes in ways they cannot perceptually detect, the true references of their terms shift regardless of their unchanged internal psychological status. _____.

- A) Therefore, internal psychological states remain the only reliable foundation for establishing objective communicative intent.
- B) Consequently, linguistic meaning is determined, at least in part, by environmental factors external to the human mind.
- C) This implies that speakers are always fully conscious of the external physical variations that alter their vocabulary.
- D) As a result, the social context of a conversation has no bearing on the validity of an individual's mental images.

Q20. [Difficulty Level: Medium | Topic: VA - Paragraph Completion]

For deep-set conservation reasons, environmental scientists are increasingly focused on establishing "rewilding corridors"—unbroken stretches of natural habitat designed to connect fragmented wilderness reserves. As urban sprawl, highway networks, and agricultural fields segment land, wildlife populations become isolated in ecological pockets. This isolation severely limits gene flow, rendering species highly vulnerable to localized inbreeding and catastrophic climate disruptions. By creating continuous land bridges, rewilding initiatives allow apex predators and migratory herbivores to safely traverse human-dominated landscapes. This migratory freedom restores historical predator-prey dynamics and dynamic vegetation patterns across disparate ecosystems. _____.

- A) Ultimately, these physical land bridges prove that human agricultural expansion has minimal impact on regional biodiversity.
 - B) Consequently, localized wilderness reserves must be completely fenced off to prevent species from interacting with neighboring ecosystems.
 - C) Therefore, connectivity, rather than static isolation, is essential to rebuilding resilient, self-sustaining natural biosystems.
 - D) Thus, the primary goal of modern conservation is to ensure that migratory herbivores are permanently separated from apex predators.
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ANSWER KEY & DETAILED EXPLANATIONS

Q1. Correct Answer: B

Step-by-step Explanation: The passage argues that memory is not an archival playback system but a tool adapted for future survival simulations (Paragraphs 3 and 4). Paragraph 4 explicitly states that our ancestors did not need a high-fidelity recorder; they needed a predictive machine. The text states: *"The price we pay for this predictive flexibility is the persistent illusion of our historical accuracy."* Thus, memory distortion/fallibility is a necessary trade-off (structural concession) for future simulation capability.

Why the option is right: Option B accurately maps onto the core thesis developed across Paragraphs 3 and 4—that the plasticity of human memory is an adaptive feature serving prospective simulation.

Why other options are wrong:

- *Option A* is incorrect because the passage explicitly frames memory distortion as *not* an evolutionary failure or pathological structural defect.
- *Option C* invents an unmentioned causal mechanism; the text never suggests that the hippocampus fails because modular networks are "overloaded."
- *Option D* over-extends and distorts the passage; the fallibility is described as an actual cognitive distortion of empirical memory data, not just a subjective mismatch between folk psychology and neural wiring.

CAT Elimination Strategy: Eliminate choices containing highly negative modifiers like "failure," "maladaptive," or "defect" when the author frames the target phenomenon as an "adaptive feature" or structural necessity.

Q2. Correct Answer: C

Step-by-step Explanation: Reviewing Paragraph 2, the author states: *"the act of retrieval triggers a widespread synchronization of disparate neural networks. Fragments of sensory data... are stored across modularly segregated cortical networks... Every iteration of remembering is, fundamentally, an act of rebuilding."*

Why the option is right: Option C accurately captures this dynamic process: a "synchronized re-orchestration" of "distributed, modular sensory traces" that are "temporarily assembled" during retrieval.

Why other options are wrong:

- *Option A* describes the classical "container metaphor" or download system that the author is actively refuting.
- *Option B* uses the phrase "permanently stable sensory data," which directly contradicts the author's statement that reassembled neural traces are "temporarily labile" and "malleable."
- *Option D* introduces an extreme distortion; memory does not intentionally or actively *erase* past files to favor psychological biases—distortion is a byproduct of the reconstructive architecture.

CAT Elimination Strategy: Watch out for absolute modifiers like "permanently stable" or "completely erase" unless they are explicitly backed by extreme terminology within the passage text.

Q3. Correct Answer: C

Step-by-step Explanation: The author details the neuro-cognitive re-orchestration of memory (Paragraph 2), demonstrates its resultant susceptibility to distortion (Paragraph 3), and concludes by defending its overarching value as a mechanism designed for prospective simulation and survival (Paragraph 4).

Why the option is right: Option C smoothly traces the overall trajectory of the passage, summarizing both the feature (reconstructive/malleable nature) and its core rationale (evolutionary adaptive utility).

Why other options are wrong:

- *Option A* isolates a minor hook statement from Paragraph 1 and elevates it to the purpose of the entire text.
- *Option B* shifts the tone entirely into an unbacked negative claim, missing the author's emphasis on memory's adaptive, predictive advantages.
- *Option D* is a technical distortion; the passage discusses macro cognitive/neurological frameworks, not specific "biochemical pathways."

CAT Elimination Strategy: Primary Purpose options must cover the macro-narrative of the text, avoiding choices that focus on a localized introductory hook or an illustrative detail from a single paragraph.

Q4. Correct Answer: B

Step-by-step Explanation: The passage establishes the "platformization of capital," defines how demand-side economies of scale drive its massive growth scales (Paragraph 2), exposes how risk is structuralized away from the platform operators (Paragraph 3), and summarizes how it separates capital from traditional structural responsibility (Paragraph 4).

Why the option is right: Option B completely distills this architectural arc—noting the shift to algorithmic matchmaking, the immense scale metrics, and the asymmetry of risk vs rent extraction.

Why other options are wrong:

- *Option A* is factually incorrect based on the text; digital platforms rely on *demand-side* economies of scale, not supply-side.
- *Option C* uses overly extreme language ("eliminated traditional consumer sovereignty"), whereas the passage asserts a more academic, tentative warning ("*calling into question the classical economic assumption*").
- *Option D* reverses the text's logic; platforms actively decouple themselves from legal responsibilities to externalize operational risk, rather than being fundamentally prevented from doing so by marginal costs.

CAT Elimination Strategy: Discard options that mix up or swap foundational dichotomies established by the author (e.g., confusing "supply-side" with "demand-side").

Q5. Correct Answer: C

Step-by-step Explanation: Paragraph 2 states: *"Digital platforms, by contrast, operate on demand-side economies of scale, propelled by powerful network effects. Every additional user who joins a platform increases the utility of the ecosystem for all other existing participants, creating a self-reinforcing loop."*

Why the option is right: Option C accurately paraphrases this mechanic: the increase in value to the existing user base is directly linked to the expansion of the user network.

Why other options are wrong:

- *Option A* contradicts the text, which says industrial manufacturing hits a ceiling due to coordination costs, while digital platforms achieve "exponential growth scales."
- *Option B* introduces the "physical reproduction of proprietary services," which completely contradicts the passage's characterization of platforms as asset-light digital matchmakers.
- *Option D* is a logical leap; while onboarding costs are near zero, platforms remain exposed to systemic market forces, and the text notes that volatility is *externalized onto participants*, not neutralized for the system itself.

CAT Elimination Strategy: When dealing with direct definitions explicitly provided within the text, the correct answer option must reflect that exact logical link (user expansion = enhanced utility).

Q6. Correct Answer: B

Step-by-step Explanation: In Paragraph 3, the author states that platforms act as *"private regulatory authorities, acting as de facto infrastructure monopolies while remaining decoupled from the traditional legal obligations of public utilities."* They control the interface and dictate access but position themselves as mere intermediaries.

Why the option is right: Option B correctly deduces that they exercise internal rule-making authority over users ("govern the behavior and terms of access") while evading equivalent public accountability.

Why other options are wrong:

- *Option A* contradicts the core meaning of a "private" authority decoupled from traditional legal or public oversight.
- *Option C* sets up a false dichotomy; data collection and matching efficiency work hand-in-hand to optimize rent extraction.
- *Option D* runs directly counter to the passage; platforms decouple themselves from public utility constraints to protect their private economic rent.

CAT Elimination Strategy: Look for choices that match the critical, academic tone of structural critique present in the passage. Terms like "private regulatory authority" naturally imply power detached from conventional accountability.

Q7. Correct Sequence: 2-4-1-3**Step-by-step Explanation:**

- Sentence **2** functions as the anchor sentence introducing the macro-topic: how the human brain manages complex environments using a dual balance (heuristics vs analytical calculation).
- Sentence **4** follows **2** immediately because it singles out and defines the first component of that dual balance: "heuristics."
- Sentence **1** forms a mandatory pair with **4** via the demonstrative noun phrase "*This dual-processing mechanism*," explaining the processing benefit of the automated shortcuts established in 4.
- Sentence **3** concludes the sequence by introducing the counter-perspective via the transition word "*However*," explaining how the slow deliberation half of the system must override shortcuts during novel anomalies.

Key Shortcut / Link: Pronoun/Demonstrative linkage ("*This dual-processing mechanism*" in 1 resolves the components outlined in 2 and 4).

Q8. Correct Sequence: 2-3-4-1**Step-by-step Explanation:**

- Sentence **2** is the optimal introductory statement, introducing the core topic: the structural shift in artist remuneration models via decentralized ledger protocols.
- Sentence **3** introduces the historical baseline required to understand the shift ("*Historically, creators relied on...*").
- Sentence **4** pairs directly with **3** by offering a contrast point: "*This decentralized framework eliminates these traditional intermediaries*," referencing back to the centralized gatekeepers (publishers/labels) detailed in 3.
- Sentence **1** concludes by summarizing the broader economic implication of the smart contracts described in 4 ("*By decoupling economic compensation...*").

Key Shortcut / Link: Chronological signposting ("*Historically*" in 3 -> Present framework in 4), and noun-pronoun pairing ("*traditional intermediaries*" in 4 refers directly to publishers and record labels in 3).

Q9. Correct Sequence: 2-1-3-4**Step-by-step Explanation:**

- Sentence **2** serves as the macro topic sentence, establishing that xerophytic plants have evolved adaptations to withstand extreme hyper-arid desiccation.
- Sentence **1** follows **2** by establishing spatial continuity ("*these barren landscapes*" refers back to hyper-arid settings) and highlighting the primary adaptation: subterranean roots.
- Sentence **3** complements **1** via an explicit structural link: "*These structural architectures are complemented by...*" (referencing back to the root structures of sentence 1).
- Sentence **4** adds a final layer of physical defense using the additive transition word "*Furthermore*," detailing the waxy cuticle layers.

Key Shortcut / Link: Spatial demonstratives ("*these barren landscapes*" in 1 points to hyper-arid zones in 2) and structural summation modifiers ("*These structural architectures*" in 3 points back to the root networks in 1).

Q10. Correct Sequence: 2-4-3-1**Step-by-step Explanation:**

- Sentence **2** functions as the generic opening thesis statement, introducing recommendation engines and their active conditioning of user tastes.
- Sentence **4** clarifies the method of this behavior: *"By prioritizing high-engagement content, the software subtly conditions..."*
- Sentence **3** traces the timeline of this conditioning: *"As users are repeatedly exposed to these curated feeds..."*
- Sentence **1** delivers the final synthesis of this system: *"This feedback loop creates a self-fulfilling prophecy..."* where programmatic visibility hardens into cultural reality.

Key Shortcut / Link: Cause-and-effect progression, tracking the algorithm's mechanical criteria (4) to the user's chronic exposure (3) to the macro systemic feedback loop (1).

Q11. Correct Answer: B

Step-by-step Explanation: The passage explains that while public transit networks were historically deployed to remedy economic inequality, empirical studies show that without municipal zoning protections, they induce gentrification, escalate land speculation, and displace low-income residents.

Why the option is right: Option B preserves all necessary structural premises: transit expansion, the risk of real estate speculation/displacement, and the absolute requirement for municipal zoning protections to prevent worsening inequality.

Why other options are wrong:

- *Option A* creates an unsupported psychological premise concerning low-income worker living preferences.
- *Option C* relies on extreme, unbacked wording ("*entirely eliminated*," "*halt all speculative real estate investments*"), which changes a pragmatic zoning protection argument into an unrealistic market ban.
- *Option D* introduces an unmentioned external cause, attributing rent spikes to the "long-term maintenance costs of transit networks," whereas the text explicitly points to speculative capital inflows.

CAT Elimination Strategy: Eliminate summary options that introduce outside causal factors (such as maintenance costs) that find no mention in the primary text.

Q12. Correct Answer: A

Step-by-step Explanation: The passage systematically challenges the exceptionalist, Eurocentric narrative of the Scientific Revolution by documenting how early European breakthroughs relied on cross-cultural trade, translations, and non-Western inputs (Islamic algebra and indigenous botany).

Why the option is right: Option A captures the core summary: it rejects the isolated continental narrative and highlights the global synthesis driven by trade and translation.

Why other options are wrong:

- *Option B* distorts the tone of academic dialogue into a sensationalist accusation ("*plagiarized*"), which misrepresents the text's argument about integrated global transactional exchanges.
- *Option C* directly contradicts the fundamental takeaway of the passage.
- *Option D* misrepresents the causal relationship, claiming that trading companies were established *primarily to help European scholasticism overcome its mathematical deficiencies*, which changes a historical byproduct into an intentional cause.

CAT Elimination Strategy: Eliminate choices that warp an objective, historical, or academic text into an aggressive or emotional indictment (e.g., changing "conceptually dependent on cross-cultural networks" to "plagiarized").

Q13. Correct Answer: B

Step-by-step Explanation: The text notes that the endowment effect causes individuals to overvalue items they own, violating classical economic symmetry. Neuroimaging shows that losing an item activates the insular cortex (the pain/disgust processor), proving that the bias is an instinctual aversion to the psychological pain of loss, making divestment fundamentally asymmetric to acquisition.

Why the option is right: Option B correctly matches the economic anomaly (violating classical symmetry) with its discovered neurological driver (loss triggers neural pain responses, increasing psychological divestment costs).

Why other options are wrong:

- *Option A* takes a position favoring classical economic theory, which the passage is actively correcting with behavioral/neural data.
- *Option C* invents an unmentioned rational explanation ("unique structural insights into objective utility"), which contradicts the author's description of an emotional, instinctual survival mechanism.
- *Option D* draws an overbroad market conclusion about persistent retail inefficiencies that goes far beyond the text's localized focus on cognitive architecture.

CAT Elimination Strategy: A comprehensive summary option must include the core explanatory breakthrough of the text (here, the insular cortex pain response) rather than just repeating the initial problem definition.

Q14. Correct Answer: 4**Step-by-step Explanation:**

- Sentences **1, 2, 3, and 5** build a highly unified paragraph describing the biological and physical properties of Earth's deep-sea hydrothermal vent ecosystems (1 outlines chemosynthesis, 2 details tectonic bacteria oxidizing toxic hydrogen sulfide, 3 establishes this matrix as the trophic baseline for worms/shrimp/crabs, and 5 describes the hydrostatic pressure adaptations of these organisms).
- Sentence **4** introduces astrobiologists analyzing extreme environments to model potential biosphere architectures on ice-covered moons like Europa. While topically related to extreme biologies, sentence 4 introduces a separate analytical domain (space exploration/astrobiology) that breaks up the continuous description of Earth's deep-sea vent ecology, making it the odd sentence out.

Key Reason for Elimination: Structural focus shift from terrestrial biological description to extraterrestrial planetary modeling.

Q15. Correct Answer: 4**Step-by-step Explanation:**

- Sentences **2, 1, 3, and 5** construct a coherent paragraph detailing the architectural principles and ideological goals of the Neoclassical architecture movement (2 defines the clean symmetry and Roman ideals, 1 links this stylistic choices to an ideological rebellion against the ornamentation of the Ancien Régime, 3 emphasizes civic functionality over decoration, and 5 notes how it aimed to visually institutionalize Enlightenment values).
- Sentence **4** introduces the financial and economic crises that constrained the historical preservation of ancient Greek ruins in the late eighteenth century. Although it contains a related chronological marker, it details preservation funding rather than the *ideological design philosophy of early modern Neoclassical architects*, making it the odd sentence out.

Key Reason for Elimination: Focus shift from architectural theory and design ideology to preservation finance and ruins management.

Q16. Correct Answer: 4**Step-by-step Explanation:**

- Sentences **1, 5, 2, and 3** form a tightly structured paragraph examining the evolutionary psychology framework of the "prestige bias" (1 introduces the bias, 5 frames its role as a low-risk survival heuristic in ancestral settings, 2 details how lower-status individuals execute this copycat mimicry via leader consumption/linguistic habits, and 3 details how this mimicry accelerates cultural innovation transmission).
- Sentence **4** discusses the physiological metabolic imbalances triggered by the overconsumption of calorie-dense luxury goods. While it contains the peripheral word "luxury goods," it abandons the core paragraph theme of social hierarchy mimicry, prestige bias heuristics, and cultural innovation transmission, making it the odd sentence out.

Key Reason for Elimination: Focus shift from evolutionary psychology and social mimicry mechanics to clinical physiological/metabolic outcomes.

Q17. Correct Answer: C (Option 3)

Step-by-step Explanation: The missing sentence states: *"This structural transition shifts the cost burden of information filtering from the sender to the recipient."*

- The passage sets up an explicit contrast between the pre-digital era (where high printing and capital costs forced the sender to filter information for quality before broadcasting) and the contemporary digital era.
- Position **3** is the perfect fit because the sentence immediately preceding it specifies the digital shift where the *marginal cost of publishing for the sender drops to zero*, creating an exponential surge in content volume. The missing sentence acts as the structural connector, explaining the immediate consequence of that drop: the filtering cost shifts to the recipient. The sentence following position 3 perfectly completes this line of thought by demonstrating *how* the recipient pays that cost: *"Individuals must now invest significant personal cognitive resources to actively sort... data."*

Key Link: Logical matching of economic entities ("cost burden... to the recipient" in the missing sentence directly pairs with "Individuals must now invest personal cognitive resources" in the final sentence).

Q18. Correct Answer: C (Option 3)

Step-by-step Explanation: The missing sentence states: *"To establish absolute political authority, he systematically stripped regional assemblies of their historical legislative veto powers."*

- Sentences 1, 2, and 3 establish a clear narrative block focusing specifically on Louis XIV's direct, physical containment of *individual aristocrats and powerful nobles* at the Palace of Versailles. Inserting the missing sentence at position 1 or 2 would interrupt this thematic continuity.
- Sentence 4 marks a shift in theme: *"Having isolated the aristocracy, the King turned his focus toward institutional governance to cement his control."*
- Position **3** (which sits immediately after sentence 4) is the ideal home for the missing sentence because it provides the concrete mechanism of that institutional governance strategy (stripping regional assemblies of veto powers). This perfectly sets up the final sentence, which references these actions using the summary phrase: *"Through these sweeping legal restructuring measures..."*

Key Link: Conceptual sequencing, moving from the introduction of an institutional governance strategy (sentence 4) to the specific legal example (missing sentence) to the summary reflection (final sentence).

Q19. Correct Answer: B

Step-by-step Explanation: The paragraph outlines semantic externalism, emphasizing that linguistic meaning is a relational concept dependent on a speaker's objective physical and social environments, rather than being entirely contained within private mental states.

Why the option is right: Option B directly completes the structural explanation by summarizing the foundational conclusion of the externalist argument: linguistic meaning is determined, at least in part, by environmental factors external to the human mind.

Why other options are wrong:

- *Option A* asserts the core internalist assumption, completely reversing the logical path developed throughout the paragraph.
- *Option C* introduces an unbacked claim ("speakers are always fully conscious of external physical variations"), whereas the text explicitly states that environments can shift in ways speakers *cannot perceptually detect*.
- *Option D* introduces an irrelevant statement claiming that social context has no bearing on the mental images, which does not follow from the text's environment-tethered focus.

CAT Elimination Strategy: The concluding sentence of a paragraph explaining a conceptual dichotomy must align with the target perspective (Externalism) rather than introducing claims from the counter-perspective (Internalism).

Q20. Correct Answer: C

Step-by-step Explanation: The paragraph tracks the ecological purpose of rewilding corridors. It notes how urban segmentation isolates wildlife, limits gene flow, and makes populations vulnerable, and details how continuous land bridges restore healthy migration patterns, predator-prey dynamics, and vegetation health across ecosystems.

Why the option is right: Option C synthesizes this entire narrative into a clear takeaway statement: ecological connectivity, rather than static isolation, is essential to building resilient, self-sustaining biosystems.

Why other options are wrong:

- *Option A* claims that human expansion has a "minimal impact," which directly contradicts the paragraph's opening warning that urban fields and highways cause dangerous fragmentation.
- *Option B* recommends completely fencing off reserves, which advocates for the exact opposite of the passage's open corridor and connectivity land bridge strategy.
- *Option D* states that conservation aims to permanently separate migratory herbivores from predators, which directly contradicts the text's assertion that corridors serve to *restore historical predator-prey dynamics*.

CAT Elimination Strategy: Eliminate final sentence options that advocate for a policy measure or state an inference that directly contradicts the core logical mechanics built up by the author.