

## Solutions for CAT 2017 VARC - Morning (Slot-1)

1. A thorough reading of the passage, with particular focus on the first sentence of the second paragraph "Given such a long period of .... considered to be on the top" and the second and third sentences of the last paragraph "It's tempting to.. at all" points to 2 being the correct choice; the passage corrects the misconception that Columbus and Megallan played a key role in north being decided as the top. Choice (2)
2. North was not put at the top because it was the source of darkness (refer to the second paragraph). It was not put at the top because other religions like Christianity and Islam considered east and south respectively as the top (refer to the fourth paragraph). It was not put at the top because in early Christianity, east was considered sacred (refer to the third and fourth paragraphs). Choice (2)
3. The last three sentences of the third paragraph, particularly the phrase "look up to him", make 2 the clear choice. Choice (2)
4. The last paragraph, particularly some of the last sentences "When Columbus describes the world, it is in accordance with east being at the top. Columbus says he is going towards paradise, so his mentality is from a medieval mappa mundi" clearly shows that he used an eastward orientation for religious reasons; please note from the previous paragraph that mappa mundi were Christian maps of that era. Choice (3)
5. Please refer to the last paragraph, particularly the last sentence "We have got to remember that at the time, no one knows what they are doing and where they are going". This clearly shows that it is not clear as to what the biggest contributory factor to making the map north-oriented was. p Choice (4)
6. After the passage, particularly the first two paragraphs, is read carefully, it is easy to arrive at 1 as the apt choice. Also, the subsequent paragraphs establish that factors like religion and deference to authority – and not natural phenomena – played a role in the map-making of the others. Choice (1)
7. The first part of the second paragraph points to 1 being the apt choice. The other choices are far-fetched or off the mark. Choice (1)
8. Please refer to the second paragraph. The sentence "The printing press offered the prospect that tyrants would never be able to kill a book or suppress an idea" (read with the second part of the fourth paragraph) means that 1 is true. The phrase "diminishing the sway of quacks" means that 2 is true. The first sentence and the last sentence of this paragraph show that books and pamphlets could now be printed much faster. This means that 3 is true. Choice (4)
9. The first sentence of the fifth paragraph "Not long after Steve Jobs introduced his iPhone, he said the bound book (which means the printed book) was headed for history's attic. Clearly, he meant that reading these printed books would become a thing of the past. Choice (3)
10. Although this sentence is in the fourth paragraph, elaboration of this is in the last paragraph. The sentences in this paragraph "The hope of the iPhone, and the Internet in general, was that it would free people in closed societies. But the failure of the Arab Spring, and the continued suppression of ideas in North Korea, China and Iran, has not borne this out" means that the author means to say that the iPhone has not been able to do the good that was done to religion and democracy by the printing press. Choice (3)
11. The part of the fourth paragraph, "... the printing press opened more minds than anything else. it is hard to imagine the French or American revolutions without those enlightened voices in print" makes 2 the clear choice. Choice (2)
12. Look at the sentences of the last paragraph, "The hope of the iPhone, and the Internet in general, was that it would free people in closed societies." and "But I am not sure if the world changed for the better with the iPhone – as it did with the printing press- or merely changed". These mean that the new technology, exemplified by iPhone and the Internet, have not been as successful as the printing press in opening the closed minds of people. Choice (2)
13. The central idea of the passage is summed up in the last sentence of the passage - "Malls ... were built for patterns of social interaction that increasingly don't exist". The passage signifies malls as "gathering places", "societies have congregated around a central marketplace", "mall was an ecosystem" and "a combination of community and commercialism" and so on and so forth. Moreover, malls are not missed by America today, given the all-encompassing scope of digital lives. Hence, the advantages and disadvantages of malls, as given in (2) is irrelevant. People's shopping trends are not the focus of this particular passage, so (4) is ruled out. (1) is not at all true, given that "A growing number of Americans ... don't see the need to go to any Macy's at all." Hence, (3) is the answer. Choice (3)
14. (2) is suspect, would all malls and distribution centers be located in the same area? Anyway, this is beside the point. Nowhere in the passage is it indicated that Amazon is assisting brands to go online, so (3) is also suspect. The change in the shopping habits of Americans have been mentioned much later in the passage in a different context altogether, so the point is not

- really pertinent here. Thus, (4) is also ruled out. The sentence in question is just an ironic observation of the author (“opened .... shutter (closed)”), which is likewise mentioned in passing, hence there is no need to read too much into it. The answer is (1). Choice (1)
- 15.** To “court” is to pay special attention to someone in an attempt to win his/ her support or favour. The sentence, thus, suggests that real estate developers were pursuing brand-name anchor outlets once upon a time in the past ; note the word “once”. Clearly, real estate developers are no longer pursuing brand-name anchor outlets. Choice (2)
- 16.** The mall as an ecosystem is qualified in the passage as a combination of community and commercialism, so there is no need to look beyond (3). (1) skips the commercial aspect. (2) is on track, but though it mentions ‘eat’, it does not mention ‘meet’. Nor does (4) touch upon the community aspect. Choice (3)
- 17.** The passage signifies malls as gathering places, and adds that “societies have congregated around a central marketplace”. That being the case, (4) is the answer. The restrictions in (1) are not mentioned in the passage. (2) is straightaway rejected, given in the third paragraph that “America went for far more than shopping”. (3) is maudlin, given that families only get a passing mention as “family photos” in the third paragraph. Choice (4)
- 18.** We have to link the given quote to “Think of your mall. Or think of the one you went to as a kid”. These sentences open the floodgates of memory. So (1) is the answer. (2) misses the point that malls are disappearing, hence the sense of urgency for the nostalgia trip down memory lane. (3) makes light of the ambience of malls - “fountains splashing below the skylights” and thus can be ruled out. The case in (4) – the smell of malls, and what contributes to the same, is beside the point. Choice (1)
- 19.** (1) is tricky, as it does not come to the point – if Mayr was wrong, what was ‘right’? What is Ehrich and Raven’s case? Likewise (2) is evidence, where is the thesis? State your point of view on the topic directly and in one sentence! (4) gets close, refer to “gene flow was not as predictable and ubiquitous as Mayr ... maintained....”. So? The answer is (3) – refer to the third paragraph again - “isolation and gene flow were less important to evolutionary divergence than natural selection”. And the answer is (3). Choice (3)
- 20.** That gene flow contributes to evolutionary divergence is acknowledged by Ehrlich and Raven in the third paragraph – refer to “isolation and gene flow were less important to evolutionary divergence than natural selection”, which admits that isolation and gene flow is important to evolutionary divergence to some extent. This point is also reiterated in the last sentence of the passage. Hence, (2) is correct. (3) is supported by information in the first paragraph “when a population was separated ... over geologic scales of time”. (4) is supported by information in the second paragraph - “there were three groups that rarely interacted despite their very close proximity”. Choice (2)
- 21.** Nowhere in the passage is it suggested that evolution is a sensitive or controversial topic, so (1) is ruled out. Whether Ehrlich and Raven’s thesis superceded Mayr’s is not determined in the passage, so (2) is also ruled out. The merits or otherwise, of checkerspot butterflies, cannot be determined from the passage, so (4) is also ruled out. The passage mentions Mayr, Ehrlich and Raven in the context of the theories of speciation, so (3) is the answer. Choice (3)
- 22.** Whether the “lion’s share” mentioned in the first paragraph is divided equally among the three organising committees or not is beside the point as far as the passage is concerned, so (1) is ruled out. Sources of revenue, whether from ‘ticket sales’ or “advertisements” or both, are not even mentioned in the first paragraph, so (2) is also ruled out. The discouraging view in (4) is not reflected in the first paragraph. The passage mentions that “The trick is converting ... a basis for long-term economic returns”, which is specifically found in (3). Choice (3)
- 23.** (2) is suspect, because nowhere is it mentioned that the sports facilities in question are located away from the city centre. Indifference on the part of authorities, as suggested by (2), is not reflected in the passage, so (3) is also ruled out. The passage also does not mention that the sports facilities get outdated due to poor planning, so (4) is ruled out. The passage mentions the sports facilities in Beijing and Sydney in the context of the large scale of an Olympic stadium and the huge operating costs to maintain it. Thus, (1) is the answer. Choice (1)
- 24.** (1) is mentioned in the third paragraph - “Even if they have future use, are they the best use of precious urban real estate?”. (2) is explicitly mentioned in the fourth paragraph - “Residential areas often are razed ... citizens relocated”. (3) is implied in the last sentence of the passage - “other productive uses that can be made of vanishing fiscal resources”. But visitors have not been cited as an Olympic headache as such in the passage, so (4) is the answer. Choice (4)
- 25.** The author of the paragraph defines a classic as giving access to very different forms of human consciousness for any reader at any time, enabling them to experience the different possibilities of being a human being. That being

the case, (1) and (4) which advocate a unified experience of human consciousness are ruled out. Even (2) which refers to a common humanity is thus ruled out. Only (3) faithfully sticks to the classical experience going beyond the notion of a unified human consciousness to give access to different forms of human consciousness.

Choice (3)

26. The paragraph essentially reveals that an Indian translating works in an Indian language to English would find cultural equivalents in the western world easily, whereas a Westerner would find it very difficult to interpret cultural elements into English. Hence, it is better if an Indian translates Indian texts into English, as lapses in language are easily addressed, whereas flaws of content are a strict no-no! (4) does not mention translation at all and is thus found wanting. (3) does not explicitly recommend that Indians do the said translation either, hence it is also found wanting. (1) also does not sufficiently press that Indians translate Indian texts. (3) comprehensively reframes the paragraph.

Choice (3)

27. The paragraph argues that global warming causes sea levels to rise and fill the skies with water vapour, thus leading to wetter and more damaging storms and hurricanes. (1) contradicts received wisdom by stating that global warming and rampaging storms are unrelated. (2) focuses on the downsides of the Clausius-Clapeyron equation, which are not mentioned in the paragraph at all. (4) is verbose, refer to 'but this may not be true of all storms', an uncertain statement anyway from the paragraph point of view. (3) faithfully captures the essence of the paragraph.

Choice (3)

28. Statement 5 introduces the paragraph stating that tradition is by default the opposite of innovation. 4 contradicts what is stated in 5 saying that it is now axiomatic to say that traditions are not handed down unchanged, but are invented. 1 follows 4 explaining what handing down means – it does not imply a passive transfer but some contention on what exactly needs to be handed down. 3 elaborates on the “contestation” on what exactly needs to be handed down, saying that every generation selects what it requires from the past and makes its innovations. 2, which says that the selection is even more apparent wherever Western scholars have worked on the Indian past, is the concluding statement. Therefore, the logical sequence is 54132.

Ans: (54132)

29. Statement 1 introduces the paragraph describing the achievement made by the scientists in editing genes in a human embryo to repair a genetic mutation. 1 follows 5 explaining how the mutation, which results in hypertrophic cardio myopathy, was corrected. 2 follows 5 describing the consequences of cardio myopathy. 4 follows 2 explaining how cardio myopathy is caused – by

a mutation in a particular gene which will cause a child to suffer even it inherits only one copy of the mutated gene. 3 concludes the paragraph with the reassuring statement that if the mutation in the gene is corrected the child can lead a healthy life and it also prevents the transmission of the gene to the future generations. Statements 15243 form a coherent paragraph. Ans: (15243)

30. Please refer to the "CAT 2017 – Questions With Possible Issues" page for this question.

31. 3 begins the paragraph stating that turning the pages of family albums, which belonged to the pre-digital era, would reconfirm our basic instinct of documenting our presence in a particular scene on an important occasion, with those who matter to us. 2 follows 3 stating that there is nothing new in framing the vision of who we are, visually or otherwise, on social media such as our Facebook page. “This visual turn” in 1 refers to “framing the vision in our Facebook page”.

Therefore, 1 follows 2 stating that “this visual turn” has accentuated “the announcing instinct of ours”. 4 carries forward the paragraph stating that framing the vision on social media empowers us to act as celebrities within the confinement of our respective friend lists. 5 concludes the paragraph talking about the ease with which the broadcast operation can be executed and how this often provokes (un)anticipated responses from beyond one's location. Therefore, statements 3, 2, 1, 4, 5 form an appropriate sequence. Ans: (32145)

32. Only statement 1 can begin the paragraph as all the other statements have cross references and cannot, therefore, make sense as opening statements. 2 follows 1 describing how “they” (meaning the people who study children's language) make films and examine them carefully to see whether the babies show any signs of understanding what the adults say. 4, which says that sometimes the signs are subtle, is a continuation of 2. 5 concludes the paragraph elaborating on the “subtle signs”. Therefore, statements 1, 2, 4 and 5 form a sequence and 3, which says that babies begin to react to language from the moment they are born, does not form a part of this sequence and is, therefore, the odd man out. Ans: (3)

33. 1 begins the paragraph stating that neuroscientists have begun to study the impact of exercise within brain cells. 2 follows 1 reporting the findings. 3 follows 2 elaborating on the signs of the body's influence on the mind. 5, which states that each new discovery – made by the neuroscientists – adds awe-inspiring depth to the picture, forms an ideal conclusion to the paragraph. Statement 4, which is a very generalized statement conveys a different idea and does not form a part of the sequence 1, 2, 3, 5. Hence, 4 is the odd man out. Ans: (4)

34. Please refer to the "CAT 2017 – Questions With Possible Issues" page for this question.