

## Solutions for CAT 2017 VARC - Afternoon (Slot-2)

### Explanatory Notes for questions 1 to 24:

- (1), (2) and (3) are mentioned in the second paragraph, refer to “diverse populations” - (2), “new ideas” - (1) and “infrastructure for finance, organization” - (3). Choice (4)
- While (4) is beside the point, (1) does not address the question at hand. (3) goes contrary to received wisdom in the passage. (2) is explicitly mentioned in the third paragraph, refer to “what stanches creativity .... It's the very institutions”. Choice (2)
- Neither (2) nor (3) are mentioned as such in the passage. (4) is a recommendation, not the central idea of the passage. The passage is on creativity, and the central idea can be found in the first paragraph itself - “What fosters creativity? ... the presence of other creative people”, a theme that resonates throughout the passage. Choice (1)
- The alarming view in (2) is not echoed in the passage. (4) also runs contrary to the passage, Jane Jacobs argues in the fifth paragraph that all cities are filled with creative people. (1) is a lay opinion. Jane Jacobs argues that “some cities had more than their shares of leaders, people and institutions that blocked out that creativity”, hence we can safely infer that the more creative cities have leaders and institutions that do not block creativity. Choice (3)
- (1) again runs contrary to the passage, which places creativity as inversely proportional to age. (4) is not mentioned in the passage. (3) paints with too broad a brush. (2) is resonated in the third paragraph, “stanches creativity ... many of our schools”. Choice (2)
- (2) is not supported by the passage, refer to “the other 66 percent who toil” in the sixth paragraph. The recommendation in (3) is not the author's. (4) assumes that low-wage workers are creative, which is suspect. The author mentions “work which engages our creative faculties ... those of us who work with our minds”, the assumption then being that those who work with their hands are not creative. Choice (1)
- (4) refers to an analogy, which by itself cannot be the purpose of the passage. (2) does not mention how the subnivium is compromised by climate change. (1) also occupies a safe orbit. Paragraph 5 comes to the point - refer to “Scientists are now beginning to explore how climate change will affect the subnivium”. Hence, (3) is the answer. Choice (3)
- (1) finds mention in paragraph 5 - “Both depth and density of snow are sensitive to temperature”. (3) is mentioned in paragraph 2 - “a constant temperature of 32 degrees Fahrenheit can often be 30 to 40 degrees warmer than the air temperature”. (4) finds mention in the last paragraph - “In field experiments, researchers removed a portion of the snow cover to investigate the importance of the subnivium's insulation. They found that soil frost in the snow-free area resulted in damage to plant roots”. But positive effects of climate change, if any, cannot be discerned in the passage. Choice (2)
- If climate change is the critical factor, then regulations have to curb global warming. (1), (3) and (4) are stop-gap measures at best, and completely uncertain at worst. Hence, (2) is the apt answer. Choice (2)
- Examples of crowberry and alpine azalea demonstrate that shrubs help maintain higher depths of snow, which in turn keeps soils insulated and increases plant decomposition and nutrient release. Conversely, lower depths of snow results in soil frost which damages plants. (1) does not address this aspect at all. (2) also misses the point. Nor does (3) address the impact shrubs have on the subnivium. (4) mentions how shrubs can protect the subnivium, among other factors. Choice (4)
- Since equatorial and arid regions are not discussed in the passage, no conclusions as in (2) can be drawn. Likewise, we have no information to conclude whether the loss of the subnivium would affect only temperate and Arctic regions, so (4) is suspect. Which kind of blanket will provide maximum protection from the cold would trivialize the passage, hence (3) is ruled out. (1), however, can be inferred from the third paragraph of the passage. Refer to “disruptions to the subnivium brought about by climate change will affect everything from population dynamics to nutrient cycling through the ecosystem”. Choice (1)
- The example of blankets is used to demonstrate the benefits of greater depths of low-density snow to insulate the ground. Hence, (1), (2) and (4) which explain the mechanics of winter bedtime are rejected. The answer is thus (3). Choice (3)
- The sentence “ Ms Musk is selling a dream that the world wants to believe in” in the second paragraph gives a peep into the author's scepticism. The second sentence of the third paragraph talks about “unattainable self-fulfilment”. The subsequent sentences talk about how the potential car- buyer is never told of the traffic jams which will rob him of independence. Thus, the myth of independence of the private car is perpetuated. Choice (3)
- The 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph mentions clearly that in place of today's oil despots, there will be new undeserving despots – those who control these rare material for batteries - who will become fantastically rich. This makes 1 true; thus 1 is ruled out. “...once more breathable ..” in the same

paragraph makes 2 true ; thus 2 is ruled out. "Traffic jams will be abolished only when. . . ." in the last paragraph makes 3 true ; thus 3 is ruled out. Choice (4)

15. "The sleek and swift .... autonomy and power" at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph makes 4 the right choice. The other points : " more cost-effective than fossil fuel-driven cars", "tax subsidy for Tesla" or " the company upscaling charging stations ..." are not explicitly mentioned in the passage . Choice (4)
16. At the beginning of the last paragraph, the author says "the fantasy of autonomy comes full circle" . What the author suggests by the use of the term "comes full circle," is that it completes a cycle and returns to its beginnings. That is, there will be no autonomy. He goes on to say, through the balance part of the paragraph, that public transport will be reinvented. Thus, the future may well be public transport. Choice (3)
17. In the last paragraph, the author says through the sentence "The logical outcome of cars which need no driver is that they will need no owner either". This means that they will become public transport. The author clinches his point through phrases like "summoned at will". Choice (3)
18. Note the sentences in the last paragraph, "Traffic jams will be abolished only when the car becomes a public utility. What will happen to our fantasies of independence? We will all have to take to electrically powered bicycles". Since independence and autonomy are synonymous, the author suggests that we will need to consider bicycles if we want autonomy. Choice (2)
19. Throughout the passage, the author is explaining why the typewriter continues to be used even in today's digital age. Some of the reasons he has given are that they are personal and private. The information typed on a typewriter cannot be leaked out. He also talks about its nostalgic value. It does not need electricity and can, therefore, be used even in remote locations. Choice (1)
20. The fourth sentence of the passage "Type a document and lock it away and more or less the only way anyone else can get it is if you give it to them" clearly shows that it is possible to control who reads the document. Choice (4)
21. Options 1, 2 and 3 are positive in connotation. Even "noisier than computers" seems to be a welcome thing; look at "encouraging clack" of keys. Clearly, the only thing that is not welcome about the typewriter is that it is messier than that the computer. Choice (4)
22. The passage begins with "Despite their fierce reputation...". It goes on to suggest that the Vikings were traders too. The second paragraph begins with "Since the artifacts were found in marketplaces...". Thus, they had trade relations with Europe. Choice (3)

23. The second paragraph clearly says that the raids began in 793 while some of the artifacts are as old as 725. Clearly, the trade relations of the Vikings with Europe predated the raids. Choice (4)
24. Options 2, 3 and 4 are explicitly mentioned in the passage. The purpose for which the reindeer were brought to Denmark is not explicitly mentioned in the passage. Choice (1)

#### Explanatory Notes for questions 25 to 34:

25. Option 1 cannot be the appropriate summary because it fails to mention that the walnut sphinx moth caterpillars make use of acoustic deception to ward off predators. Further, it is not stated in the paragraph that they have specialized vocal chords. Even option 2 fails to capture the essence of the paragraph as it does not mention the point – the acoustic deception used by the caterpillars to mimic bird alarm calls. Between options 3 and 4, the former is appropriate as option 4 talks about deception and not "acoustic deception" which is employed by the birds. Further, it is not mentioned in the paragraph that the caterpillars use "camouflage" to trick the predators. Hence option 3 captures the essence of the paragraph. Ans : (3)
26. It can be understood from the paragraph that both Socrates and Bacon believed that arguments and theories can be validated only by examining them from both sides. This point is stated only in option 4. Option 1, which states that Socrates and Bacon advocated clever questioning in order to disprove the arguments and theories put forth by opponents, is not the appropriate summary of the paragraph. Option 2 captures only a part of the argument. Option 3 is a distortion of the paragraph. Ans : (4)
27. The main point of the paragraph is that language is fluid and its meaning is derived from usage and exchange. Lexicographers abstract the meaning from that exchange and this meaning is then set within the meaning of the dictionary definition. This point is covered only in option 3. Options 2 and 4, which suggest the converse of what is stated in the paragraph, are easy eliminations. Option 1 captures only a part of the paragraph as it does not mention that the definitions of words are extracted from their meaning in exchange. Ans : (3)
28. Statement 2, which is general statement, begins the paragraph declaring that the stories that we tell reflect the world around us. 5 complements 2 stating that as soon as we capture a story, the world we were trying to capture has changed. 3 carries the discussion forward by emphasizing that we cannot but retell the stories that we value. 4 is linked to 3 - "never quite right" (statement 3) and "even if we manage to get them quite right" (statement 4). 1 concludes the para stating that the implications of retelling stories takes on a new meaning in a modern India. Therefore, 25341 is the appropriate sequence. Ans : (25341)

29. 5 begins the paragraph by talking about the importance of lightning. 3, which states that lightning starts the series of chemical reactions that need to happen to nitrogen, and ultimately helps it to nourish the earth, is a continuation of 5. 4 follows 3 by explaining how nitrogen nourishes the earth with its ubiquitous presence over each square mile on earth. 2 follows by describing that nitrogen, in its aerial form is insoluble and that it is in need of transformation. 1 complements 2 explaining how nitrogen must undergo transformation similar to the way that food undergoes transformation in our digestive machinery. The logical sequence is 53421.

Ans : (53421)

30. 2 begins the paragraph describing placebo effect and goes on to state that placebo effect used to be dismissed by researchers as a psychological effect. 5 follows 2 stating that placebo effects are now being studied as a potential portal into the self-healing powers of the body. 4 follows 5 elaborating on the effectiveness of placebo effect in empowering chronic patients to believe in the notion of our bodies' capacity for self-healing. 3 carries forward the discussion stating that the placebo effect is not based only on believing in treatment and that the clinical setting in which treatments are administered is also important. 1 concludes the paragraph reiterating the importance of placebo effect in providing effective treatment. The appropriate sequence is 25431.

Ans : (25431)

31. 4 begins the paragraph describing how the dictionary was a necessity for the 18<sup>th</sup> century reader and this cause was championed by a vigorous and practical champion. 3 follows 4 describing this champion – Samuel Johnson and

goes on to describe Johnson's qualities. 5 follows 3 by elaborating on Johnson's watchwords, stating that Johnson believed that language must have a daily practical use. 1 complements 5 elaborating on how Johnson treated English very practically. 2 concludes the paragraph with the statement that Johnson masked a profound inner torment and found solace in compiling words.

Ans : (43512)

32. Statement 1, which states that although we are born with the gift of language, we are not skilled when it comes to communicating with others. 5 follows 1 explaining how we end up being unskilled in communicating with others. 3 and 4 further elaborate on how we are unskilled while communicating others. Therefore, 1,5,3 and 4 form a sequence and 2, which has an advisory tone and mentions how we must orchestrate our speech if we want to achieve our goals, conveys a different idea and is, therefore, the odd man out.

Ans : (2)

33. It's elementary to pair (2) and (1) as "similar impression" in (1) refers to "the sense of timelessness" in (2). (3) comes to the point and identifies the "one ...finest champions" as Roger Federer. (5) follows by giving reasonable reasons for his longevity. However, (4) refers to match specifics, which is out of the broad scope of this particular paragraph.

Choice (4)

34. (2) introduces the Commonwealth Bank logo and (5) ups the ante for the bank logo. (4) explains what designers do thus to enhance a brand value and (3) takes the paragraph into a "deeper" context. Again, (1) makes reference to symbols, whereas only a 'logo' is specified in the passage, hence the answer is (1).

Choice (1)