

Best Summary of the Passage

Best Summary questions are designed to test students' ability to identify the main idea of the passage. The theme or summary is the most succinct idea that contains the essence of the passage. You will see such questions in the reading comprehension section: "what is the main idea of the passage" or "what is the theme of the passage". The best summary questions are similar to those; though, with a smaller passage. In the best summary questions, a passage will be given followed by four/five alternate summaries. You are expected to choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

How to solve the problem:

To solve the best summary questions, one should be able to identify the significant message that the author is trying to deliver through the passage. The following points should be kept in mind while eliminating the options in such questions:

- (i) **Extraneous or beyond the scope options:** These options may provide information or specific keywords which are not mentioned in the passage. The answer choices may also contain some facts/information, which are valid in the real world, but not at all given in the passage. One should be able to identify such options and eliminate those.
- (ii) **Narrow scope options:** These options, though technically correct, does not provide the complete information that the author is trying to deliver. For example, these options will have fewer details than needed to summarize the paragraph.
- (iii) **Misleading options:** These answer choices will provide information that may include the ideas discussed by the author, but cannot be concluded as the main idea. For example, the options may try to mislead students by providing a piece of information that is given for strengthening or weakening the main idea.
- (iv) **Vague or inconsistent options:** Such answer choices introduce a new idea (not given in the passage). These new ideas may be consistent or inconsistent with the given passage. For example, an option may have information built on the idea given in the passage; or, an idea which is contrary to what the author is trying to convey. Students should be able to sieve out such information.

Direction: *The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.*

Example 1 Privacy-challenged office workers may find it hard to believe, but open-plan offices and cubicles were invented by architects and designers who thought that to break down the social walls that divide people, you had to break down the real walls too. Modernist architects saw walls and rooms as downright fascist. The spaciousness and flexibility of an open plan would liberate homeowners and office dwellers from the confines of boxes. But companies took up their idea less out of a democratic ideology than a desire to pack in as many workers as they could. The typical open-plan office of the first half of the 20th century was a white-collar assembly line. Cubicles were interior designers' attempts to put some soul back in.

1. Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out the way their utopian inventors intended, as they became tools for the exploitation of labour.
2. Wall-free office spaces could have worked out the way their utopian inventors intended had companies cared for workers' satisfaction.
3. Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out as desired, and therefore, cubicles came into being.
4. Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out as companies don't believe in democratic ideology.

Explanation: The passage speaks of breaking the walls to conquer all the divisions of workers, but due to companies' self-centered approach, the outcome was different from the desired one. Let us have a look at the options:

Option 1 best captures the essence of the passage as it says that wall-free spaces didn't give the desired outcome; rather, it resulted in the exploitation of labour.

Option 2 speaks of workers' satisfaction, therefore, it can be eliminated.

Option 3 can be eliminated because it didn't speak about workers' exploitation.

Option 4 too didn't say about the exploitation of workers' therefore, it can also be eliminated.

Hence, option 1 is the correct answer.

Example 2 Both Socrates and Bacon were very good at asking useful questions. In fact, Socrates is largely credited with coming up with a way of asking questions, “the Socratic method,” which itself is at the core of the “scientific method”, popularized by Bacon. The Socratic method disproves arguments by finding exceptions to them, and can, therefore, lead your opponent to a point where they admit something that contradicts their original position. In common with Socrates, Bacon stressed it was as important to disprove a theory as it was to prove one - and real-world observation and experimentation were key to achieving both aims. Bacon also saw science as a collaborative affair, with scientists working together, challenging each other.

1. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated clever questioning of opponents to disprove their arguments and theories.

2. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated challenging arguments and theories by observation and experimentation.
3. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated confirming arguments and theories by finding exceptions.
4. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated examining arguments and theories from both sides to prove them.

Explanation: The summary of the paragraph can be inferred as “both Socrates and Bacon are of the opinion that arguments and theories can be confirmed only after examining them from both sides”. Option 1 can be eliminated as disproving the argument and theory is not the main argument of the paragraph. Option 2 can be eliminated as it does not cover the whole essence of the paragraph. Option 3 can be eliminated as “confirming argument and theory” is not discussed in the paragraph.

Hence, option 4 is the correct answer.

PRACTICE EXERCISES

PRACTICE EXERCISE

Direction for questions 1 to 10: *The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.*

- Q.1** You probably feel guilty at the thought of taking time off, but guilt is just another form of fear to conquer. There are people who can easily take time off for themselves, contemplate, or meditate without letting the “should” creep in. I am not one of them. It takes real commitment on my part to schedule alone time, but I make the time because I have learned that the payoff is always beyond my expectations. I give myself full permission to change my mind and go back to my “schedule”, but I seldom do.
- (a) Guilt is a form of fear, which has to be conquered – we should conquer it and take time off for ourselves. This is important to avoid the “should” in life.
 - (b) Schedule makes us free to practice our habit of contemplation. They should be intercepted with breaks for contemplation to enjoy the pay offs, which are beyond expectations.
 - (c) Guilt should be conquered and breaks taken from time to time. But the freedom to go back to one’s “schedule” must be there, even though one may not go back to it.
 - (d) Overcoming guilt and taking time off for ourselves is important. Making space allows advantages that far exceed the expectations.
- Q.2** In looking at how people might react and cope with a different information and technological future, it is also important to emphasize that managerial thought processes are affected not only by cognitive style, values and ego but also by an individual’s emotional make-up. Responding to other people and situations that are challenging (and which may involve a degree of conflict, stress and setback) has and always will have emotional consequences.
- (a) How people react to situations, is largely dependent on their own emotional make-up and, is therefore, an important factor to consider when giving managerial responsibilities to employees.
 - (b) The mindsets of managers pave the way for them to be either competent or confused in handling the challenges of people and situations.
 - (c) Emotional intelligence can not only help someone perform more effectively in the job, but it can also contribute to one’s physical well-being and sense of emotional stability.

- (d) In the analysis of managers’ ability to handle challenges, it is noteworthy that the capability of a manager to handle conflicting situations and people largely depends on his reasoning and insight along with his emotional make-up.

- Q.3** A common defense of sport hunting is that it serves a vital wildlife – management function, without which countless animals would succumb to starvation and disease. This defense leads to the overly hasty conclusion that sport hunting produces a healthier population of animals.
- (a) For many economically depressed families, hunting helps keep food on the table.
 - (b) Wildlife species encroach on farm crops when other food supplies become scarce.
 - (c) Though only partially true, overpopulation of a species results in less food available to the overall population.
 - (d) Sport hunters tend to pursue the biggest and healthiest animals in a population.
- Q.4** Products sold under a brand name used to command premium prices because, in general, they were superior to non – brand rival products. However, technical expertise, in product development, has become so wide spread that special quality advantages are very hard to obtain these days and even harder to maintain. As a consequence, brand name products generally neither offer higher quality nor sell at higher prices. Paradoxically, brand names are a bigger marketing advantage than ever.
- (a) Brand names are taken by consumers as a guarantee of getting a product as good as the best rival products.
 - (b) Consumers recognize that the quality of products sold under invariant brand names can drift over time.
 - (c) In many acquisitions of one corporation by another, the one acquiring is interested more in acquiring the right to use certain brand names than in acquiring existing production facilities.
 - (d) In the days when special quality advantages were easier to obtain than are now, it was also easier to get new brand names established.
- Q.5** Correctly measuring the productivity of service workers is complex. Consider, for example, postal workers: They are often said to be more productive if more letters are delivered per postal worker. But is this really true? What if more letters are lost or

delayed per worker at the same time that more are delivered?

- (a) Postal workers are the representatives of service workers in general.
- (b) The delivery of letters is the primary activity of the postal service.
- (c) Productivity should be ascribed to categories of workers, not individuals.
- (d) None of these

Q.6 It is human tendency to put aside one's own thinking and accept the thinking of others. Common to all of us is the pressure to go along with the group, at least to some extent. Also, people feel more comfortable, safer in a group; our opinions aren't attributable to us and we don't stand out. It's no accident that television sitcoms come complete with laugh tracks; people feel better about laughing out loud if they can hear others laughing too. But sitcoms come with "gasp" tracks and "awwwwww" tracks as well; your responses are being subjected to professional manipulation. What we may be timed about doing or saying as individuals, we will do or say in concert with others.

- (a) Staying in groups makes one feel secure but at the risk of losing one's identity. A budding talent may go wasted in a group. All those who realize this shy away from staying or moving in groups.
- (b) The present day fast life permits the whole family to sit together just once during a day (may be) and that too at dinner time but in front of a TV. The factor of togetherness gets lost when the responses of most of the individuals are mechanical. Instead of exchanging viewpoints and advices, precious time goes wasted watching TV.
- (c) Conditioning of the mind depends on the material it is fed with. It also correlates with the surrounding and its effects. A product sale may go up alarmingly because a thought process has been accepted by a section of the clientele and forms a trend. A mob is able to generate disturbance more effectively than an individual, here the factor of destruction rubs on, not even bothering to think of the consequences.
- (d) Human beings feel safe when they live in company. This temperament is very evident when we observe ourselves and others reserving opinion when asked individually and vociferously open when in a group. Just as we sometimes feel pressured by a group opinion, we also feel safe at other times in the anonymity within it.

Q.7 Sometimes we all experience situations as we go from one room to another to fetch something. However, the moment we are in the room, we just forget the

thing we wanted to fetch. To remember it we need to go back to the starting point, and the starting point reminds us of the thing we wanted. This is called reintegration. In other words, according to the law of reintegration, one is in a better position to remember a thing if circumstance and surroundings at the time of recalling are similar to that at the time of learning.

- (a) Certain situations are inevitable. A state of absent-mindedness makes you wander aimlessly. You lose valuable time and energy.
- (b) Certain situations may make one shrink with fear at the very thought of amnesia. You may get depressed.
- (c) Certain situations are no-brainers. They are just correlated to the circumstances and surroundings, which help one recall.
- (d) Certain circumstances are like relating one to the point of the initial start in order to bring him back into equal participation with the situation.

Q.8 Daydreams, like night dreams, are experienced differently by each of us. You may enjoy yours, whereas your best friend worries about or is distracted by his. But perhaps you are not even sure what we mean by "daydreams", and you wonder if you have them at all. This question is not surprising. Daydreams are elusive entities, hard to pin down, and equally hard to define. Someone has suggested that daydreams are personal reveries, internal monologues, or fantasies (which to my mind is just a fancy name for daydreams).

- (a) "Daydreams" are extensions of the night dreams as they are representations of personal monologues.
- (b) "Daydreams" are more enjoyable as they are viewed in broad daylight with no fear of power cuts.
- (c) "Daydreams" are mere illusions and tend to take the viewer to fantasy land.
- (d) "Daydreams" cannot be defined as they cannot be narrated, but yet they enamour or detract a person from his routine.

Q.9 North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars (*Amorpha juglandis*) look like easy meals for birds, but they have a trick up their sleeves—they produce whistles that sound like bird alarm calls, scaring potential predators away. At first, scientists suspected birds were simply startled by the loud noise. But a new study suggests a more sophisticated mechanism: The caterpillar's whistle appears to mimic a bird alarm call, sending avian predators scrambling for cover. When pecked by a bird, the caterpillars whistle by compressing their bodies like an accordion and forcing air out through specialized holes on their sides. The whistles are impressively loud - they have been measured at over 80 dB from 5 cm away

from the caterpillar - considering they are made by a two-inch long insect.

- (a) North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars will whistle periodically to ward off predator birds - they have a specialized vocal tract that helps them whistle.
- (b) North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars can whistle very loudly; the loudness of their whistles is shocking as they are very small insects.
- (c) North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars, in a case of acoustic deception, produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.
- (d) North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars, in a case of deception and camouflage, produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.

Q.10 A fundamental property of language is that it is slippery and messy and more liquid than solid, a gelatinous mass that changes shape to fit. As Wittgenstein would remind us, "usage has no sharp boundary". Often, the only way to determine the meaning of a word is to examine how it is used. This insight is often described as the "meaning is use" doctrine. There are differences between the "meaning is use" doctrine and a dictionary-first theory of meaning. "The dic-

tionary's careful fixing of words to definitions, like butterflies pinned under glass, can suggest that this is how language works. The definitions can seem to ensure and fix the meaning of words, just as the gold standard can back a country's currency." What Wittgenstein found in the circulation of ordinary language, however, was a free-floating currency of meaning. The value of each word arises out of the exchange. The lexicographer abstracts a meaning from that exchange, which is then set within the conventions of the dictionary definition.

- (a) Dictionary definitions are like "gold standards" - artificial, theoretical and dogmatic. Actual meaning of words is their free exchange values.
- (b) Language is already slippery; given this, accounting for "meaning in use" will only exasperate the problem. That is why lexicographers "fix" meanings
- (c) Meaning is dynamic; definitions are static. The "meaning in use" theory helps us understand that definitions of words are culled from their meaning in exchange and use and not vice versa.
- (d) The meaning of words in dictionaries is clear, fixed and less dangerous and ambiguous than the meaning that arises when words are exchanged between people.

PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS

CAT 2019 (MORNING SLOT)

- Q.1** The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

A distinguishing feature of language is our ability to refer to absent things, known as displaced reference. A speaker can bring distant referents to mind in the absence of any obvious stimuli. Thoughts, not limited to the here and now, can pop into our heads for unfathomable reasons. This ability to think about distant things necessarily precedes the ability to talk about them. Thought precedes meaningful referential communication. A prerequisite for the emergence of human-like meaningful symbols is that the mental categories they relate to can be invoked even in the absence of immediate stimuli.

- (a) Thoughts are essential to communication and only humans have the ability to think about objects not present in their surroundings.
- (b) The ability to think about objects not present in our environment precedes the development of human communication.
- (c) Displaced reference is particular to humans and thoughts pop into our heads for no real reason.
- (d) Thoughts precede all speech acts and these thoughts pop into our heads even in the absence of any stimulus.

- Q.2** The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

Physics is a pure science that seeks to understand the behaviour of matter without regard to whether it will afford any practical benefit. Engineering is the correlative applied science in which physical theories are put to some specific use, such as building a bridge or a nuclear reactor. Engineers obviously rely heavily on the discoveries of physicists, but an engineer's knowledge of the world is not the same as the physicist's knowledge. In fact, an engineer's know-how will often depend on physical theories that, from the point of view of pure physics, are false. There are some reasons for this. First, theories that are false in the purest and strictest sense are still sometimes very good approximations to the true ones, and often have the added virtue of being much easier to work with. Second, sometimes true theories apply only under highly idealized conditions which can only be created under controlled experimental situations. The engineer finds that in the real world, theories rejected by physicists yield more accurate predictions than the ones that they accept.

- (a) The relationship between pure and applied science is strictly linear, with the pure science directing applied science, and never the other way round.
- (b) Though engineering draws heavily from pure science, it contributes to knowledge, by incorporating the constraints and conditions in the real world.
- (c) The unique task of the engineer is to identify, understand, and interpret the design constraints to produce a successful result.
- (d) Engineering and physics fundamentally differ on matters like building a bridge or a nuclear reactor.

- Q.3** The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

Vance Packard's *The Hidden Persuaders* alerted the public to the psychoanalytical techniques used by the advertising industry. Its premise was that advertising agencies were using depth interviews to identify hidden consumer motivations, which were then used to entice consumers to buy goods. Critics and reporters often wrongly assumed that Packard was writing mainly about subliminal advertising. Packard never mentioned the word subliminal, however, and devoted very little space to discussions of "subthreshold" effects. Instead, his views largely aligned with the notion that individuals do not always have access to their conscious thoughts and can be persuaded by supraliminal messages without their knowledge.

- (a) Packard argued that advertising as a hidden persuasion understands the hidden motivations of consumers and works at the subliminal level, on the subconscious level of the awareness of the people targeted.
- (b) Packard argued that advertising as a hidden persuasion works at the supraliminal level, wherein the people targeted are aware of being persuaded, after understanding the hidden motivations of consumers and works.
- (c) Packard held that advertising as a hidden persuasion builds on people's conscious thoughts and awareness by understanding the hidden motivations of consumers and works at the subliminal level.
- (d) Packard held that advertising as a hidden persuasion understands the hidden motivations of consumers and works at the supraliminal level, though the people targeted have no awareness of being persuaded.

CAT 2019 (EVENING SLOT)

- Q.1** The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

Language is an autapomorphy found only in our lineage, and not shared with other branches of our group such as primates. We also have no definitive evidence that any species other than *Homo sapiens* ever had language. However, it must be noted straightaway that “language” is not a monolithic entity, but rather a complex bundle of traits that must have evolved over a significant time frame... Moreover, language crucially draws on aspects of cognition that are long established in the primate lineage, such as memory: The language faculty as a whole comprises more than just the unique linguistic features.

- (a) Language, a derived trait found only in humans, has evolved over time and involves memory.
- (b) Language evolved with linguistic features building on features of cognition such as memory.
- (c) Language is not a single, uniform entity but the end result of a long and complex process of linguistic evolution.
- (d) Language is a distinctively human feature as there is no evidence of the existence of language in any other species.

- Q.2** The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

Social movement organizations often struggle to mobilize supporters from allied movements in their efforts to achieve critical mass. Organizations with hybrid identities—those whose organizational identities span the boundaries of two or more social movements, issues, or identities—are vital to mobilizing these constituencies. Studies of the post-9/11 U.S. anti-war movement show that individuals with past involvement in non anti-war movements are more likely to join hybrid organizations than individuals without involvement in non-anti-war movements. In addition, they show that organizations with hybrid identities occupy relatively more central positions in interorganizational contact networks within the anti-war movement and thus recruit significantly more participants in demonstrations than non-hybrid organizations.

- (a) Post 9/11 studies show that people who are involved in non anti-war movements are likely to join hybrid organizations.
- (b) Movements that work towards social change often find it difficult to mobilize a critical mass of supporters.
- (c) Hybrid organizations attract individuals that are deeply involved in anti-war movements.
- (d) Organizations with hybrid identities are able to mobilize individuals with different points of view.

CAT 2018 (MORNING SLOT)

- Q.1** The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

Production and legitimization of scientific knowledge can be approached from a number of perspectives. To study knowledge production from the sociology of professions, perspective would mean a focus on the institutionalization of a body of knowledge. The professions approach informed earlier research on managerial occupation, business schools, and management knowledge. It, however, tends to reify institutional power structures in its understanding of the links between knowledge and authority. Knowledge production is restricted in perspective to the selected members of the professional community, most notably to the university faculties and professional colleges. Power is understood as a negative mechanism, which prevents the non-professional actors

from offering their ideas and information as legitimate knowledge.

- (a) Professions approach aims at the institutionalization of knowledge but restricts knowledge production as a function of a select few.
- (b) The study of knowledge production can be done through many perspectives.
- (c) Professions approach focuses on the creation of institutions of higher education and disciplines to promote knowledge production
- (d) The professions approach has been one of the most relied upon perspectives in the study of management knowledge production.

- Q.2** Artificial embryo twinning is a relatively low-tech way to make clones. As the name suggests, this technique mimics the natural process that creates identical twins. In nature, twins form very early in development when the embryo splits in two. Twin-

ning happens in the first days after egg and sperm join, while the embryo is made of just a small number of unspecialized cells. Each half of the embryo continues dividing on its own, ultimately developing into separate, complete individuals. Since they developed from the same fertilized egg, the resulting individuals are genetically identical.

- (a) Artificial embryo twinning is low-tech and mimetic of the natural development of genetically identical twins from the embryo after fertilization.
- (b) Artificial embryo twinning is low-tech, unlike the natural development of identical twins from the embryo after fertilization.
- (c) Artificial embryo twinning is just like the natural development of twins, where during fertilization twins are formed.
- (d) Artificial embryo twinning is low-tech and is close to the natural development of twins where the embryo splits in two identical twins.

Q.3 The conceptualization of landscape as a geometric object first occurred in Europe and is historically

related to the European conceptualization of the organism, particularly the human body, as a geometric object with parts having a rational, three-dimensional organization and integration. The European idea of landscape appeared before the science of landscape emerged, and it is no coincidence that Renaissance artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, who studied the structure of the human body, also facilitated an understanding of the structure of landscape. The landscape which had been a subordinate background to religious or historical narratives, became an independent genre or subject of art by the end of the sixteenth century or the beginning of the seventeenth century.

- (a) Landscape became a major subject of art at the turn of the sixteenth century.
- (b) The three-dimensional understanding of the organism in Europe led to a similar approach towards the understanding of landscape.
- (c) The study of landscape as an independent genre was aided by the Renaissance artists.
- (d) The Renaissance artists were responsible for the study of landscape as a subject of art.

CAT 2018 (EVENING SLOT)

Q.1 The early optimism about sport's deterrent effects on delinquency was premature as researchers failed to find any consistent relationships between sports participation and deviance. As the initial studies were based upon cross-sectional data and the effects captured were short-term, it was problematic to test and verify the temporal sequencing of events suggested by the deterrence theory. The correlation between sport and delinquency could not be disentangled from class and cultural variables known. Choosing individuals to play sports in the first place was problematic, which became more acute in the subsequent decades as researchers began to document just how closely sports participation was linked to social class indicators.

- (a) Sports participation is linked to class and cultural variables such as education, income, and social capital.
- (b) Contradicting the previous optimism, latter researchers have proved that there is no consistent relationship between sports participation and deviance.
- (c) Statistical and empirical weaknesses stand in the way of inferring any relationship between sports participation and deviance.
- (d) There is a direct relationship between sport participation and delinquency, but it needs more empirical evidence.

Q.2 A Japanese government panel announced that it recommends regulating only genetically modified organisms that have had foreign genes permanently introduced into their genomes and not those whose endogenous genes have been edited. The only stipulation is that researchers and businesses will have to register their modifications of plants or animals with the government, with the exception of microbes cultured in contained environments. Reactions to the decision are mixed. While lauding the potential benefits of genome editing, an editorial opposes across the board permission. Unforeseen risks in gene editing cannot be ruled out. All genetically modified products must go through the same safety and labelling processes regardless of method.

- (a) A government panel in Japan says transgenic modification and genome editing are not the same.
- (b) Exempting microbes cultured in contained environments from the regulations of genome editing is premature.
- (c) Exempting from regulating the editing of endogenous genes is not desirable as this procedure might be risk-prone.
- (d) Creating categories within genetically modified products in terms of transgenic modification and genome editing advances science but defies laws.

- Q.3** Should the moral obligation to rescue and aid persons in grave peril, felt by a few, be enforced by the criminal law? Should we follow the lead of a number of European countries and enact bad Samaritan laws? Proponents of bad Samaritan laws must overcome at least three different sorts of obstacles. First, they must show laws are morally legitimate in principle, that is, the duty to aid others is a proper candidate for legal enforcement. Second, they must show that this duty to aid can be defined in a way that can be fairly enforced by the courts. Third, they must show

that the benefits of laws are worth their problems, risks and costs.

- (a) A number of European countries that have successfully enacted bad Samaritan laws may serve as model statute.
- (b) Everyone agrees that people ought to aid others, the only debate is whether to have a law for it.
- (c) If bad Samaritan laws are found to be legally sound and enforceable they must be enacted.
- (d) Bad Samaritan laws may be desirable but they need to be tested for legal soundness.

CAT 2017 (MORNING SLOT)

Directions for the question: *Identify the most appropriate summary for the paragraph.*

- Q.1** To me, a “classic” means precisely the opposite of what my predecessors understood: A work is classical by reason of its resistance to contemporaneity and supposed universality, by reason of its capacity to indicate human particularity and difference in that past epoch. The classic is not what tells me about shared humanity—or, more truthfully put, what lets me recognize myself as already present in the past, what nourishes in me the illusion that everything has been like me and has existed only to prepare the way for me. Instead, the classic is what gives access to radically different forms of human consciousness for any given generation of readers, and thereby expands for them the range of possibilities of what it means to be a human being.
- (a) A classic is able to focus on the contemporary human condition and a unified experience of human consciousness.
 - (b) A classical work seeks to resist particularity and temporal difference even as it focuses on a common humanity.
 - (c) A classic is a work exploring the new, going beyond the universal, the contemporary, and the notion of a unified human consciousness.
 - (d) A classic is a work that provides access to a universal experience of the human race as opposed to radically different forms of human consciousness.

Directions for the question: *Identify the most appropriate summary for the paragraph.*

- Q.2** A translator of literary works needs a secure hold upon the two languages involved, supported by a good measure of familiarity with the two cultures. For an Indian, translating work in an Indian language into English, finding satisfactory equivalents in a generalized western culture of practices and symbols in the original would be less difficult than gaining fluent control of contemporary English. When a

westerner works on texts in Indian languages the interpretation of cultural elements will be the major challenge, rather than control over the grammar and essential vocabulary of the language concerned. It is much easier to remedy lapses in language in a text translated into English, than flaws of content. Since it is easier for an Indian to learn the English language than it is for a Briton or American to comprehend Indian culture, translations of Indian texts are better left to Indians.

- (a) While translating, the Indian and the westerner face the same challenges but they have different skill profiles and the former has the advantage.
- (b) As preserving cultural meanings is the essence of literary translation Indians’ knowledge of the local culture outweighs the initial disadvantage of lesser fluency in English.
- (c) Indian translators should translate Indian texts into English as their work is less likely to pose cultural problems which are harder to address than the quality of language.
- (d) Westerners might be good at gaining reasonable fluency in new languages, but as understanding the culture reflected in literature is crucial, Indians remain better placed.

Directions for the question: *Identify the most appropriate summary for the paragraph.*

- Q.3** For each of the past three years, temperatures have hit peaks not seen since the birth of meteorology, and probably not for more than 1,10,000 years. The amount of carbon dioxide in the air is at its highest level in 4 million years. This does not cause storms like Harvey - there have always been storms and hurricanes along the Gulf of Mexico - but it makes them wetter and more powerful. As the seas become warm, they evaporate more easily and provide energy to storm fronts. As the air above them warms, it holds more water vapour. For every half a degree

Celsius in warming, there is about a 3% increase in atmospheric moisture content. Scientists call this the Clausius-Clapeyron equation. This means the skies fill more quickly and have more to dump. The storm surge was greater because sea levels have risen 20 cm as a result of more than 100 years of human-related global warming which has melted glaciers and thermally expanded the volume of sea water.

- (a) The storm Harvey is one of the regular, annual ones along the Gulf of Mexico; global warming and Harvey are unrelated phenomena.
- (b) Global warming does not breed storms but makes them more destructive; the Clau-

sius-Clapeyron equation, though predicts potential increase in atmospheric moisture content, cannot predict the scale of damage storms might wreck.

- (c) Global warming melts glaciers, resulting in seawater volume expansion; this enables more water vapour to fill the air above faster. Thus, modern storms contain more destructive energy.
- (d) It is naive to think that the rising sea levels and force of tropical storms are unrelated; Harvey is destructive as global warming has armed it with more moisture content, but this may not be true for all storms.

ANSWER KEYS

PRACTICE EXERCISE

PRACTICE EXERCISE

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (?) 4. (a) 5. (d) 6. (d) 7. (d) 8. (d) 9. (c) 10. (c)

PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS

CAT 2019 (MORNING SLOT)

1. (b) 2. (b) 3. (d)

CAT 2019 (EVENING SLOT)

1. (b) 2. (d)

CAT 2018 (MORNING SLOT)

1. (a) 2. (a) 3. (c)

CAT 2018 (EVENING SLOT)

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (d)

CAT 2017 (MORNING SLOT)

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (c)

HINTS AND EXPLANATIONS

PRACTICE EXERCISE

1. Option (d) correctly captures the essence of the paragraph. Option (a) and (c) do not address the payoffs and option (b) is in contradiction to the paragraph.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

2. Option (b) most effectively sums up the paragraph. Option (a) suggests an important aspect to bear in mind while giving managerial responsibilities to employees. This factor is not mentioned in the paragraph. Option (c) is irrelevant in the given context as it only lists advantages of emotional intelligence. Option (d) is incorrect as it suggests the handling of only conflicting situations.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

3. Option (a) is not at all related to the passage. Option (b) may be correct but does not relate to the context. Option (d) is not mentioned in the passage (related to the size of the animals hunted). Option (c) appears the most appropriate conclusion.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

4. Option (c) can be outrightly eliminated, as the passage does not mention acquiring a firm. Option (d) focuses on establishing a brand, which is not the primary concern of the passage. Passage hints at harder to maintain quality advantages, and not 'drifts.' Thus option (b) is eliminated. Option (a) is the theme of passage (which is also mentioned in the first few lines), and the only option left.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

5. As the passage is concerned about complexity in measuring the productivity of the service workers, none of the options (a), (b), and (c) represent the theme of the passage.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

6. The paragraph discusses group dynamics and the preference of people for groups. This is effectively summarized in option (d). Option (a), (b) and (c) are incorrect as these are irrelevant in the given context.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

7. This paragraph, very subtly, deals with the human aspect of forgetfulness, which is a very common feature. Resourcing and retaining the lost mental ground is all that has been summed up here. Option (d), Option (a) and (b) are incorrect as they are irrelevant in the given context. Option (c) is incorrect as the paragraph nowhere maintains certain situations as no-brainers.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

8. Night dreams are a true psychological process. However, "daydreams" are like "building castles in the air" and hence not realistic, but they take the person to the cloud of imagination and false intuition. This is very well summarized in option (d). Option (a), (b), and (c) are incorrect as they are irrelevant in the given context.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

9. Option (a) can be eliminated as a "specialized vocal tract" has not been discussed in the passage. Option (b) can be eliminated as it doesn't speak about the acoustic deception. Option (d) can be eliminated as a case of "camouflage" is not discussed in the passage.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

10. The summary of the paragraph can be inferred as "language is liquid, the meaning is dynamic, and the definition is static in nature, language, is a free-floating currency of meaning. The lexicographer abstracts a meaning from the exchange, and the meaning is then set in the dictionary's definition". This summary is best covered in option (c). Options (b) and (d) can be eliminated as they contradict the author's claim in the paragraph regarding "meaning".

Option (a) can be eliminated as it does not cover the complete essence of the paragraph.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

CAT 2019 (MORNING SLOT)

1. Option (a) is confined to humans' ability to think only. Thus, it cannot be the answer.

Option (c) can be overlooked because the displace reference is the distinctive feature of language and not that of humans as option (c) suggests.

Option (d) can be overlooked because it says thoughts precede all speech acts, though it may be correct at

one instance but can't be correct always as there may be other meaningful communications that are preceded by thoughts.

Option (b) is concise and is not deviating from the passage; therefore, it best summarizes the passage.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

2. The passage comprehensively discusses the contrast between pure science (physics) and applied science. Enhancing the contrast, the author says that engineers can apply even those theories which are generally false in physics.

Option (a) is contradicting the second part of the discussion in the passage, therefore, can be ruled out.

Option (c) is confined only to engineers, therefore, can be ruled out

Option (d) is irrelevant to the discussion in the passage, therefore, can be ruled out.

Option (b) correctly summarizes the discussion in the passage.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

3. The passage discusses that Packard has confidence in supraliminal images, not subliminal ones for advertising.

Option (a) and (c) are of the view of subliminal images and hence can be ruled out.

Option (b) is of the view that people are aware of being persuaded, which is not the case.

Option (d) is of the view that people are not aware of being persuaded.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

CAT 2019 (EVENING SLOT)

1. Option (a) can be eliminated because it speaks about the derived trait, whereas the passage speaks about the human trait.

Option (b) captures the complete essence of the passage.

Option (c) can be eliminated as it does not speak about the major “aspect of cognition”.

Option (d) can be eliminated because it does not cover the essence viz. “evolution of language”.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

2. The essence of the passage is that “the hybrid organizations attract more participants effortlessly as compared to non-hybrid organizations”.

Option (a) can be eliminated because it speaks only of the 9/11 impact and non- anti-war movement.

Option (b) can be eliminated because it didn’t speak about hybrid organizations.

Option (c) can be eliminated because hybrid organizations may also attract people other than anti-war movement.

Option (d) captures the best essence of the passage.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

CAT 2018 (MORNING SLOT)

1. The main idea of the passage is that “institutionalization of knowledge production can be from various perspectives, but it is restricted in few professional communities and prevents others from offering their ideas”. Option (a) best captures the author’s stand. Option (b) can be inferred but does not capture the full essence of the passage. Options 3 and 4 are the opposite of the author’s position.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

2. The main idea of the passage is that artificial embryo twinning is low-tech, mimics the natural process, and developed after fertilization are genetically identical.

Option (a) captures the essence of the passage.

Option (b) is the opposite of the author’s idea about artificial embryo twinning, and therefore, can be eliminated.

Option (c) can be eliminated as it claims that twins are formed during fertilization, whereas the author’s view is that twins are formed after fertilization.

Option (d) can be eliminated.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. Option (a) can be eliminated as it states landscape becomes a “major subject” whereas the passage says “landscape becomes an independent genre”.

Option (b) can be eliminated as it is not the “three-dimensional understanding of the organism that led to a similar approach towards the understanding of landscape” rather it’s a “geometrical understanding of the organism”.

Option (c) best captures the essence of the passage and the same can be seen from the sentence, “Renaissance artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, who studied the structure of the human body, also facilitated an understanding of the structure of the landscape”.

Option (d) can be eliminated as Renaissance artists actually “facilitated an understanding” rather than “being responsible”.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

CAT 2018 (EVENING SLOT)

1. The passage is about sports participation and delinquency, and the relationships between sports participation and deviance is not yet inferred as there are many obstacles in its way.

Option (a) can be eliminated as it says that “Sports participation is linked to class and cultural variable” but there is no such link yet as per the passage.

Option (b) can be eliminated as it states that “latter researchers have proved that there is no consistent relationship”, but the claim in the option has not been confirmed in the passage.

Option (c) captures the author’s view promptly regarding the relation between sports participation and deviance.

Option (d) can be eliminated as it claims of “direct relationship”, which is not the case.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

2. The passage is about the Japanese government’s recommendation of regulating only genetically modified organisms and not other organisms. As per the author, there is a chance of unforeseen risk in it.

Option (a) can be eliminated as it does not cover the important point of regulating only genetically modified organisms.

Option (b) can be eliminated as it doesn’t focus on the main summary.

Option (c) captures the summary at its best.

Option (d) can be eliminated as it goes beyond the idea of the passage.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

3. The passage is about bad Samaritan laws. It further says that proponents of bad Samaritan laws must overcome three obstacles and need to be tested.

Option (a) can be eliminated as it does not capture the main essence of the passage.

Option (b) can be eliminated as there is no evidence of “everyone agreeing” in the passage.

Option (c) can be eliminated because it speaks of “must be enacted” which the passage does not mention.

Option (d) best captures the main essence of the passage.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

CAT 2017 (MORNING SLOT)

1. The main point of the passage is to define classic, and the author defined it in the last sentence of the paragraph as “it gives access to radically different forms of human consciousness for any given generation of readers, and thereby expands for them the range of possibilities of what it means to be a human being”. Option (a) and (f) define classic as “unified human consciousness” which is just opposite of the author’s suggestion; thus they can be eliminated. Option (b) is eliminated as it claims the “focuses on common humanity” which is not the case. Only option (c) best captures the definition of “classic” as stated by the author.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

2. The paragraph is about the translating work, and claims that “an Indian translating works in an Indian language into English will find equivalents in western culture easily as compared to the Western who find it very difficult to find equivalents in Indian culture. Translation of Indian texts is better left for Indians as

it is easier to learn language than to comprehend culture”. Option (a) is eliminated as it does not focus on letting Indians translate Indian text. Option (b) is eliminated as it is not the author’s major concern. Option (c) best captures the main essence of the paragraph. Option (d) does not speak about translation; thus can be eliminated.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

3. The paragraph can be summarized as “global warming causes melting of glaciers as a result sea level rises and therefore the air is filled with water vapour, thus causes the wetter and more powerful storm and hurricanes”. Option (a) is eliminated as it is opposite of the common understanding. Option (b) is eliminated, as it is not mentioned in the paragraph. Option (c) best captures the main essence of the paragraph. Option (d) is eliminated, as it cannot be confirmed from the paragraph.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.