

**NO. QUESTION**

- 1 As selling pets online becomes increasingly common, there is a need to regulate it. There are several animal welfare issues associated with internet pet trading. Potential purchasers may accidentally support puppy mill farms or improper breeding techniques by relying on images and vendor descriptions of animals. If a seller refuses to allow you to visit their premises, it's a red flag, according to the RSPCA's Smart Puppy Buyers Guide.

**Which among the statements, if true, best strengthens the argument?**

- A. On Gumtree, young animals were transferred more frequently, with most cats being nine months old and most dogs being 1.4 years old.
- B. Reports from animal buyers of sick or diseased animals increased, which potentially implies some malpractices of the sellers in growing these animals.
- C. The Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Kelpie, and American Staffordshire Terrier were the top three breeds on both Gumtree and PetRescue.
- D. The internet selling of pets is growing, with over 31,000 dogs and 24,000 cats sold each year on the online marketplace Gumtree alone.

- 2 Schools should not inculcate or impose their beliefs and lifestyles on children. Students come from a variety of cultural backgrounds and prefer to adhere solely to those principles. Academia should be the primary focus of schools.

**Which among the statements, if true, best strengthens the argument?**

- A. Integrating culture in schools could create risks of discrimination for ethnic students. Those who are of the school's belief system could mock students with differing beliefs.
- B. Students prefer to stick to their own principles and beliefs. This means that imposing lifestyles in school for them would be unproductive and a waste of effort.
- C. We can integrate certain beliefs in school once we have successfully prioritised academic agenda.
- D. What the school teaches as morally correct may not be the same as what the parents teach as morally correct which will, in turn, confuse the child.

- 3 Parents should allow their children, even below the age of 13, to use social media platforms. Social media is used by children to have fun, create and retain connections, share hobbies, explore identities, and develop relationships with family. It's a natural progression from their offline and face-to-face contacts. It's typically a crucial component of how they engage with other people across the world.

**Which among the statements, if true, best weakens the argument?**

- A. Social media is counterproductive towards connecting with other people because children are likely to just play games on these platforms.
- B. Cyberbullying, malware attacks, and the like are common threats for social media users who try to connect with people online.
- C. Children are often secretive of the people they meet in social media from their parents. This makes it hard for parents to keep their children away from online entities with malicious intentions.
- D. Connecting with family and friends online is a challenge that can be resolved outside of just social media.

- 4 Holidays, according to conventional knowledge, are best for recovering well-being and re-engaging your work. After all, you're spending time with friends or family doing activities you like during the holidays. The best part of holidays is that you're not at work, which gives you a break and improves stress management while also increasing your productivity.

**Which among the statements, if true, best weakens the argument?**

- A. Holidays are only effective for workers when enough money is spent doing a lot of recreational activities.
- B. As an employee who has taken up an adequate workload for some time, your long hiatus from your work could make you anxious about what you should have done in the past few days.
- C. Your commitment in the workplace can be questioned when you take a break during the holidays.
- D. More than a quarter of such employees cite the fear of being labelled as less devoted as one of the primary reasons for avoiding taking a vacation.
- E. There are other methods such as yoga that could also be good for recovering from work stress. Therefore, vacations aren't that necessary for workers to be well.

- 5 Dancing should be considered an Olympic sport. Dancers are athletes. The pressure placed on their body is comparable to that of any other athlete. Dancers, like sportsmen, experience pain and damage, yet they are unable to complain. If a dancer tears a muscle or strains an ankle on the dance floor, they must perform as if nothing has occurred; they do not get a time out or a physio rushing to aid.

**Which among the statements, if true, best weakens the argument?**

- A. The level of athleticism needed between dancers and athletes of other sports is different. Olympic sports tend to be more tedious with more possibilities of injury than dancing.
- B. Dancing is not often seen as a legitimate sport by most countries worldwide, making it impossible to be named as an Olympic sport.
- C. A sport must be popular to the majority of people in order to be considered as an Olympic sport.
- D. Injuries from dancing are not too bad nor vicious in contrast with olympic sports like basketball, soccer, and etc.

- 6 Building confidence, creating a stronger emotional bond between family members, improving communication skills, improving school performance, and reducing behavioural issues are just a few of the advantages of spending time with family. It also allows you to create memories based on fun, laughter, and togetherness. Eating, jogging in the park, reading a book, telling stories, and playing video games are just some activities that families can do to spend time together. The bond between family members is important. That is why families are highly encouraged to spend time together everyday.

**Which of the following statements, if true, best strengthens the above argument?**

- A. Spending time with family means less time for hanging out with friends, which leads to poor socialisation skills.
- B. Children who always spend time with their family are better at sharing their thoughts and opinions with other people.
- C. Because of long school hours, children do not have much time to spend with their families.
- D. Eating out is a great way to spend time with family but it is very costly.

- 7 Toy-filled environments are overstimulating and have an influence on newborns, toddlers, and younger children's capacity to learn and play imaginatively. Too many toys in the house can make it difficult for children to focus, learn, and develop crucial play skills. According to research, having fewer toys at a time allows children to focus on one object at a time, strengthen concentration skills, and play more imaginatively.

**Which among the statements, if true, best strengthens the passage above?**

- A. Fewer toys result in a calmer, less stressful atmosphere, which lowers overstimulation in youngsters and helps to greater behavioural regulation.
- B. Decluttering is easier said than done, but organising toys offers several advantages for both children and adults.
- C. Reducing the number of toys available might also provide more opportunities for youngsters to develop healthy practices to avoid frustration tolerance.
- D. Toys enhance learning while also retaining a child's attention, and they should be safe and long-lasting.

- 8 Memes are a highly effective tool for communicating culturally relevant ideals, whereas social media offers a venue for communication. A meme is a picture or video that symbolises a specific audience's thoughts and feelings. The majority of memes are captioned photographs intended to be humorous. Most media outlets use memes to convey important news to make it more appealing to wider audiences.

**Which among the statements, if true, best weakens the passage above?**

- A. Memes can easily be digested by people in social media, making it an effective tool in spreading information online.
- B. Social media is dominated by younger audiences. Memes are often used by kids to express their sentiments toward different things.
- C. The humorous nature of memes make it difficult to reassure that people would acknowledge the message and information seriously.
- D. Using memes with pictures and graphics could potentially cause cyberattacks and bullying to those who share them.

- 9 People who are optimistic are happier because they visualise pleasant events more vividly and anticipate them occurring sooner. All of this heightens the delectable sensation of anticipation, which grows stronger the more delightful the expected event is, the more vividly we can visualise it, the more likely it is to occur, and the sooner it occurs. It stands to reason that having a sense of hope and an optimistic outlook on the future would make us happier in the present.

**Which among the statements, if true, best weakens the passage above?**

- A. Optimism, at times, can make you blind to the expenses and implications of a situation. It's possible to overstate the positivity while underestimating the costs of your actions.
- B. Thinking positively makes it easier for one to accomplish his or her tasks with no hassle or problem.
- C. Being optimistic could sometimes make a person arrogant in front of everyone.
- D. It is a little too off to encourage someone to think high of themselves.

- 10 There have been multiple criticisms toward the world's prioritisation of space exploration. Some argue that exploring planets and stars does not benefit humans on earth. In contrast, critics are more in favour of prioritising deep sea exploration, believing that it could best discover resources that could help sustain humanity in the adversity of global warming.

**Which among the statements, if true, best strengthens the passage above?**

- A. Space exploration allows us to explore a new habitable planet to migrate in case earth's crisis on global warming becomes irreversible.
- B. Underwater resources are much easier to grasp for humans. Thus, it is more likely for scientists to find groundbreaking discoveries for humans in the sea than in space.
- C. Deep sea exploration could provide for more discoveries such as algae that could alter the effects of climate change towards earth in comparison to what we can get from studying the cosmos.
- D. Earth's need for cutting edge technology such to uplift the lives of many can be resolved by exploring oceans and seas.

- 11 People should pursue a job that pays well regardless if they are passionate about it rather than a job that they are passionate about but pays low. The necessity to sustain one's needs such as food and shelter is a bigger factor to consider when developing a career. Thus, giving more priority on a job you love but gives you little compensation is not the best choice to make.

**Which among the statements, if true, best weakens the passage above?**

- A. Even if you are paid well, being employed to a high paying job that demands you to do tasks that you are not confident and satisfied with would lead you to feel a huge sense of disappointment.
- B. You can still do tasks and activities that you are passionate about while choosing to get employed on a rigorous corporate job.
- C. Employees must sacrifice their own wellbeing in order to provide for the needs of their families through their salaries.
- D. One can improve their abilities on the things they are passionate about in order to be paid well in that regard.

- 12 It is feared that the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology could make people around the world unemployed. Technological advancements have shown how AI technology could outperform human activities with more precision, speed, and accuracy. This can be manifested in factories and production sites.

**Which among the statements, if true, best weakens the passage above?**

- A. AI technologies in factories would require frequent maintenance. This specific need brings about new job opportunities on the technical aspect of AI to more people.
- B. The advancement of artificial intelligence would push factories and companies to give monetary compensation to their employees who would lose their jobs
- C. There is a need for AI to take over human activity in order to reassure better productivity in various industries around the world
- D. It is important to deliver quality outputs and products. Thus, it is necessary to leave some people unemployed if it entails a more cost-efficient and quality rate of production for factories.

- 13** Studies show that workers who bring their own lunch at work are more productive in the workplace compared to those who eat their lunch at the cafeteria. Given this discovery, most companies have closed their respective cafeterias in hopes for their employees to become more active at their work desks.

**Which among the statements, if true, best weakens the passage above?**

- A. Cafeterias within companies are well-known for offering a wide variety of healthy lunch options.
- B. Workers who bring their lunch usually have healthier lifestyle practices than to those who eat lunch at the cafeteria.
- C. Workers have expressed concern about the ingredients that are used in food options in cafeterias. This complaint led to the making of more healthier meals in the cafeteria.
- D. An on-site cafeteria doesn't necessarily prioritise putting nutritious food in their menu.

- 14** Fire is caused by a chemical reaction between oxygen and fuel, where putting water on it is not the only option to put it out. Simply remove one of those three elements — fuel, oxygen, or heat — to extinguish a fire. Water puts out the fire because it coats the fuel, keeping the oxygen away, which eventually leads to the fire being put out since oxygen is required to react with the fuel to continuously produce fire.

**Which among the statements, if true, best strengthens the passage above?**

- A. To start a fire, you need three things: fuel (such as wood or gasoline), oxygen, and heat.
- B. When the fire is regulated, removing the fuel is simple; for example, when you turn off the gas valve on a propane grill, the fuel stops flowing and the fire goes out.
- C. When water comes into contact with fire, it boils, transforms to steam, and floats away, carrying some heat with it.
- D. Fire extinguishers can put out the fire with the use of low-pressurised gas, inhibiting the contact between fuel and oxygen.

- 15** Dogs bark when they are scared of something. Barking in dogs can unite a pack to protect against a threat that cannot be handled alone. This is what causes dogs to bark. They're contacting their support group for assistance with something they're not sure they can handle on their own.

**Which among the statements, if true, best weakens the passage above?**

- A. Dogs also bark out of excitement especially when they greet or encounter people they are familiar with such as their owner.
- B. Only when dogs feel very unsafe and when they would like to call for help do they bark.
- C. Dogs bark to unite a pack not only for the purpose of protecting themselves from a threat but also by preparing to attack their prey as a pack.
- D. Although dog barks are not a word, this is their way of telling people more about themselves.

**16** Azkals Soccer Club has announced that it will host children's soccer exhibitions two hours before matches start, typically at noon, in an effort to reduce congestion in-stadium entryways immediately before matches begin. As a result, some fans will have an incentive to arrive at the stadium early, clearing the entryways before the game begins.

**Which among the statements, if true, best weakens the passage above?**

- A. The Azkals Soccer Club has discovered that discounting all concessions up to an hour before kickoff is the best way to encourage spectators to arrive early.
- B. The stadium used by Azkals Soccer Club has fewer entryways than any other stadium in the surrounding area due to its original design.
- C. Most Azkals Soccer Club fans take the train to the stadium every four hours, beginning at 11:30 AM.
- D. Some Azkals Soccer Club fans must travel for several hours to attend games at the stadium.

**17** The Earth and all other planets are not perfectly spherical. A "perfect sphere" is something that is perfectly spherical in every direction, according to scientists. During the formation of the earth and other planets, molten rocks are accumulated by gravity, which usually points toward the centre of a mass. This force of gravity compressed the planet's material evenly (in terms of force) in all directions and eventually formed a ball when it cooled and solidified.

**Which among the statements, if true, best strengthens the passage above?**

- A. The Earth was formed from a gas cloud that slowly rotated in one direction around an axis.
- B. All planets are circular due to gravity, and since they rotate at varying rates, some have thicker equators than their poles.
- C. Gravity is a force generated by practically anything that has mass, which is a measure of how much material is in something.
- D. The ancient Greeks used basic observations of the Sun to verify the Earth's roundness and size almost 2,000 years ago.

**18** Dogs should not be placed in cages because it is not their natural habitat. Long-term confinement has been demonstrated to be harmful to animals' physical and psychological well-being, according to studies. Allowing dogs to roam around the house gives them the freedom to express their normal behaviour. Dogs that lack exercise tend to be obese and weak. Therefore, dogs are allowed to roam around the house and backyard.

**Which of the following statements, if true, best strengthens the above argument?**

- A. Animals caged for extended periods can develop many different disorders, including the following: aggression and withdrawal.
- B. When animals are caged, they would not be able to bite other people.
- C. Dogs would be safer if they are placed in a cage because no other animal could hurt them while playing.
- D. Putting dogs in cages keeps the house clean because if dogs are allowed to roam around, they will pee everywhere and the house will stink.

- 19 Many people associate the term "Big Bang" with a massive explosion of matter like a bomb detonating. But the Big Bang was not a destructive explosion. It was the genesis of our universe, the beginning of both space and time. It was a very quick expansion, rather than an explosion, that started the universe becoming bigger and bigger.

Which among the statements, if true, best strengthens the passage above?

- A. Aristotle, taking the no-beginning side, invoked the principle that out of nothing, nothing comes.
- B. The idea of the Big Bang first came about back in the 1920s and 1930s.
- C. Hubble-Lemaître's law states how fast galaxies are moving away in proportion to distance.
- D. The Big Bang is the fundamental story of modern cosmology: a bold proclamation that our cosmos, like us, had a beginning and has a limited lifespan.

- 20 Individuals who pay their own utility bills have a direct financial incentive to use less energy. However, in the majority of our country's residential rental properties, the owner pays the utility bill, not the tenant who directly consumes that property's energy. To reduce our country's energy consumption, we should make tenants responsible for paying utility bills in residential rental properties.

Which among the statements, if true, best weakens the passage above?

- A. When landlords are responsible for utility bills, they are more likely to ensure that the appliances and furnaces in their rental properties are the most energy-efficient models available.
- B. Most rental properties are rented by younger people, and younger people are more conscious of environmental issues such as energy consumption.
- C. Other countries have had success in lowering energy consumption by providing rental subsidies to tenants whose energy consumption falls below certain thresholds.
- D. Energy bills are calculated not only based on the amount of energy consumed, but also on the time of day.

- 21 In a recent incident, Lizzo decided to remove her latest single GRRRLS after being called out for its ableist slur and discriminatory effect. Upon further consideration, she released a new version with new lyrics that no longer feature the controversial derogatory words. This act proves how celebrities should properly make use of their platforms and become accountable. If there are more incidents of celebrities being called out, other celebrities must follow Lizzo's approach in responding as it shows how social change can be achieved through actions and not just words.

Which of the following statements, if true, best strengthens the above argument?

- A. Correcting one's actions is a good way to market oneself to the public by appearing to be genuine and socially aware.
- B. Correcting one's actions is necessary since social change relies on celebrities to act given their platforms.
- C. Correcting one's actions shows how social change is better achieved when people do what they preach and defend what they stand for.
- D. People should not be calling out artists for what they create. Doing so creates a form of censorship and prevents real artistic expression.

Soil fertility is an important factor to consider in the journey towards achieving sustainable food production in Australia. Farmers can only produce a sufficient amount of goods when they have the resources they need.



**Jim:** "As long as there are fertilisers for sale, the food prices should become cheaper."



**Which one of the following best expresses the flaw in the statement?**

- A. It does not provide a clear explanation of what these fertilisers are made from.
- B. It does not consider the existence of other evidence that might change the concept of fertilisers.
- C. The conclusion was not based on scientific proof that was peer-reviewed and tested.
- D. The conclusion showed a leap between two events without showing how they will happen.

- 23** Academic textbooks are way too expensive for what they offer. These books tend to be overpriced but upon opening them, people realise how none of their content is comprehensive enough for students. This means that it is not worth it to pay for such books. In line with this, the pirate industry has been rising in recent years to address the issue of overpriced textbooks. More students should just subscribe to these acts of piracy because if this continues, publishers will realise the true problem and start pricing these books reasonably.

**Which of the following statements, if true, best weakens the above argument?**

- A. The textbook industry scams students by creating hard-to-read materials which require assistance from the instructors who are in partnership with the publishers.
- B. Committing a crime to prove a point is immoral and only adds more problems since the victims of overpriced books become the oppressors of other people.
- C. Capitalism has forced our students to resort to such means in order to get by. It is not their fault the system was built against them.
- D. Publishers are less likely to listen to people who pirated their books and even if they do, the prices of books still won't change as these depend on the author's copyright fees and laws.



The variations and unpredictability of clothing are boundless as these are made from various materials. It makes them not suitable for current recycling processes, which need a continuous and reliable source of raw materials.



**Mark:** "If only people did not become obsessed with high fashion and designer clothes, we won't end up with clothing that cannot be recycled."

**Which one of the following best expresses the flaw in the statement?**

- A. Mark used the term 'clothes' in a different context making it not applicable to the main statement.
- B. Mark's argument derived the conclusion without any proof that the cause presented was really true.
- C. Mark's argument was derived from a general statement which does not apply to all similar cases.
- D. Mark relied on the opinion of an uninformed person making it likely to be wrong.

- 25** People should first learn to read a language before writing it. According to linguists, a language will be harder to learn if people directly proceed with writing after knowing the characters. Writing also requires a person to actually know how each character or letter mixes with the other set of characters for the sentences to make sense. This is where reading makes more sense since a person who knows how to read a text from a certain language will be more familiar with how words should be written. Therefore, learning best happens when the skill of reading is acquired prior to the skill of writing.

**Which of the following statements, if true, best strengthens the above argument?**

- A. Learning a new language is often caused by migration or the necessity to communicate quickly. Delaying the writing process makes communication harder for the person to connect with others.
- B. A person who knows how to read is more likely to have a broad vocabulary and mastery of language-exclusive idioms, making the task of writing an easier thing to do.
- C. Acquiring the skill of reading before writing makes the learning process more complex yet fun for the learner allowing them to appreciate the language on a deeper level.
- D. Language is dynamic which means creating a one-size-fits-all approach is ineffective. It will be better to assess which skills a person is more comfortable doing rather than guessing.

The rise of child entertainers on social media, particularly Youtube, has brought some serious concerns from parents. These children are prone to be exploited in the name of money and the pranks they are featured in could influence the young viewers negatively.



**Leo:** “Everyone is just jealous because these children have earned thousands at such a young age. They need to let go of their insecure mindset and let children earn their bucks.”

**Which one of the following best expresses the flaw in the statement?**

- A. The statement made by Leo contained distractions that did not portray the real meaning of his argument.
- B. Leo used a personal attack by stating how they are just jealous of children who can earn money.
- C. Leo used a comparison that was not relevant to the topic at hand and expected a similar response.
- D. Leo’s statement was an exaggeration of the real consequence that could happen when children could become influencers.

- 27** A country derives income from various sources such as taxes, foreign investments, licence fees, and cash inflow from exported goods. Among these sources, the taxes imposed on people often create a heavy burden on them since it makes prices of commodities higher while decreasing their purchasing power due to the decreased amount of money they can bring home to their families. Since the government already has other sources of income, it will be better if people will no longer be made to pay taxes. This way, both the country and its people can become richer.

**Which of the following statements, if true, best weakens the above argument?**

- A. There are other ways for a person to become rich aside from not paying their taxes. They can do so by working hard and creating a business.
- B. Foreign investments continue to grow in recent years as globalisation encourages more countries to unite. This makes investments a stable source of income for the government.
- C. Constant amendments to the tax code made taxes even more unfair to the taxpayers. Imposing this burden can lead to dissatisfaction from the citizens.
- D. Taxes are the main source of income for governments. If people won’t pay it, government services and public protection cannot function, making people less likely to be rich.

Kirby has been caught cheating by his teacher and was reprimanded. He was told that his scholarship will be revoked and depending on the consensus of the committee, he may also get expelled from the school for violating the rules.



**Kirby:** "Please don't kick me out of the school! I was sick last night and I could not focus on studying so I had to do this. It won't happen again. I promise."

**Which one of the following best expresses the flaw in the statement?**

- A. Kirby tried to appeal to the emotions of his teacher as if that was going to provide a valid excuse for his actions.
- B. Kirby tried to distract his teacher by giving a separate scenario from the one at hand in hopes of his teacher forgetting his actions.
- C. Kirby assumed that his statement will lead to an event that will favour him even if there was no evidence stated.
- D. Kirby failed to acknowledge the possible existence of evidence that might disprove his claim.

- 29** Mia and Nina are discussing dramatised violence on television. Nina says that it is harmless because it is not real violence. Mia replies: "That is obviously untrue. What people see on television influences their attitudes and their behaviour. Violent programmes can have serious consequences." Both of them also discussed how television, being a form of media, can direct societal changes and command certain narratives directed to the viewers. Mia and Nina concluded that television plays a vital role in portraying violence to the public.

**Which of the following statements, if true, best strengthens the above argument?**

- A. Violence is a fact of life, and banning it on television won't stop it from happening.
- B. Seeing violence on television can help people understand its consequences.
- C. Television advertising is very effective in influencing people's behaviour.
- D. People who don't want to see violent programmes don't have to watch them.

A family in Sweden did not feed their child guest during dinner even if they knew that he was going to play at their house all day. This was shown to be an example of a difference in culture among countries in the west and might have also been influenced by financial reasons.



**Marlon:** "The fact that one family from Sweden could bear not to feed a child guest in their home shows how heartless all these Swedes are. I must say, all of the people from Sweden are just as rude as them."

**Which one of the following best expresses the flaw in the statement?**

- A. Marlon created his conclusion without any proof that supports his claim and the said statement was probably lifted from the internet.
- B. Marlon's conclusion was made during his emotional outburst making it unreliable.
- C. The result stated by Marlon failed to consider the reasons why the family did not feed the child guest in their home.
- D. Marlon generalised an entire sector based on an example that did not represent the entire population.

**31** After The Guardian's research revealed several instances of plagiarism, John Hughes' book *The Dogs* was removed from the Miles Franklin Prize longlist. Questions about the nature of influences, literary pastiche, and the attribution of sources in novels have been raised as a result of Hughes's stealing of portions from other books and platforms, particularly on Twitter. According to Hughes, the plagiarism incident was unintentional, despite copying entire lines, and being original was impossible due to the large number of ideas being shared. Since people often have similar ideas, plagiarism should not be punished since no one is hurt and it cannot be avoided anyway.

**Which of the following statements, if true, best weakens the above argument?**

- A. There have been thousands of creative writers throughout history which means whatever original idea a writer has today might have already been written in the past.
- B. Plagiarism occurs when people deliberately or accidentally copy an idea or entire phrase from authors. It is no longer a matter of similarity but an act of stealing someone's property.
- C. Despite similar ideas, the individual perspective of a writer makes things distinct and become unique in their own special way.
- D. Originality is not an issue when bigger problems are happening all over the world. They should prioritise those matters over words.

Having different professionals from different sectors work together can make the entire process faster and more reliable. This is further made efficient when the government imposes strict requirements to become professionals in their different fields.



**Luke:** “My school imposes strict requirements for the students to pass the entrance screening. Since professionals must pass strict requirements as I did, then I must be a professional, too.”

**Which one of the following best expresses the flaw in the statement?**

- A. Luke’s conclusion exaggerates the results of one scenario to another, making it irrelevant due to the lack of logical link.
- B. Luke fails to distinguish the difference between the implementing bodies of the requirements, such as the government and his school, making him create wrong findings.
- C. Luke conflates the relationship between two drastically different variables which makes him think having strict requirements indicates a similar result.
- D. Luke did not consider the possibility that his conclusion needed more evidence for it to make sense.

**33** Journalist-environmentalist, George Monbiot, discusses issues with agriculture both today and in the future in his latest book *Regeneration*. He also provides instances of how agriculture might be enhanced to sustainably generate wholesome food. By fusing his personal experiences with an amazing understanding of the literature, he accomplishes this in an interesting way. According to him, “Soil health and its components are important to human survival because soil processes heavily influence what happens above ground.” He further argues that irresponsible disposal of chemicals can ruin the quality of the soil which can harm people in the long run.

**Which of the following statements, if true, best strengthens the above argument?**

- A. Nitrogen and Potassium levels within the ground are greatly affected by the substances that interact with the soil.
- B. Dirty soil can stick to the plants that we eat and if unwashed properly, it can affect our health.
- C. As long as people are diligent in buying their vegetables and fruits from clean stores, the risk of contracting diseases from dirty soil is negligible.
- D. Consuming small amounts of dirt helps in strengthening the immune system of a person.

Piracy is the act of reproducing certain materials like movies and music illegally usually with the intent of profiting from them. It is a crime that has plagued different businesses since millions of dollars can be generated once these stolen goods continue to be reproduced without limits. Piracy should be stopped.



**Rio:** "Piracy has to stop since aside from the monetary loss, it also makes travelling through seas very dangerous and full of risks."

**Which one of the following best expresses the flaw in the statement?**

- A. Rio's conclusion did not have enough evidence to prove his point about piracy being the cause of dangerous sea travels.
- B. Rio's conclusion was based on his misinterpretation of a certain word which has different meanings based on the context it was used.
- C. Rio personally attacked the idea of piracy as if by doing so, he would automatically prevent it from further happening.
- D. Rio tried to shift the attention of the listeners by talking about his hobbies such as sailing and travelling through the seas.

- 35** Prices for iceberg lettuces that were \$2.80 a year ago have increased by a factor of two to three. Bean prices have increased significantly; in rural places, they are now \$5 to \$6 per kilogram or more. In the event that you can even locate such produce. Leafy greens are frequently missing from supermarket shelves. This offers a compelling explanation for the steep price increase. These price increases are being caused by a lack of supply, as crops and stockpiles in eastern Australia were destroyed by rain and floods, in addition to growers experiencing increasing input costs, in line with pressures driving up food prices globally. In order to fix this price increase, the government should strengthen farming industries away from eastern Australia as the region is prone to floods.

**Which of the following statements, if true, best weakens the above argument?**

- A. Flooding is a symptom of the bigger problem caused by global warming which affects the entire world. Thus, even Western Australia can be flooded and lose its agricultural yield.
- B. Western Australia has richer soil since it is known for being rich in both natural resources and available manpower.
- C. Lettuces and Beans can be grown within the individual gardens of people making the rising prices pose a lower level threat.
- D. Abandoning a regional sector won't address the high input costs and damaged goods due to the flood; rather, it will further increase the cost of products due to a lower supply.

The virus that causes monkeypox was first identified in 1958. On the surface, the word "monkeypox" does not appear stigmatising, but others have noted that since monkeys are not frequently linked with the Western world and are more commonly found in the global South, this linkage may be problematic. The term "monkeypox" is also inaccurate because rodents—not monkeys—are the disease's typical hosts.

Which of the following best states the main conclusion of the passage?

- A. Rodents are the main carriers of monkeypox and not monkeys.
- B. The monkeypox name has created misconceptions and ideas that may be harmful.
- C. Monkeypox is an old virus and treating it as a new one creates misconceptions.
- D. Monkeypox is not stigmatising for people in the Western world due to their privilege.

- 37 Coral reefs offer a lot of ecosystem services. These reefs provide food for fish species, act as buffer zones for storm and water surges, and are a massive driver of ecotourism benefits. However, coral reefs are endangered by global warming, induced by anthropogenic activities. Too much heat leads to a phenomenon called coral bleaching, where corals expel their algae as they can no longer adapt to the warm water. Coral reef restoration has been one of the major agendas for climate change mitigation and response.

What is the main conclusion of the passage?

- A. Coral reefs are aesthetic organisms that make the ocean beautiful.
- B. Coral reef systems are threatened by global warming as well as the services they provide.
- C. Coral reef ecosystems are important in the environment because of their many benefits.
- D. Climate change can affect the beauty of our oceans.

- 38 Teenagers engaged in organisational work and volunteer drives appear to be among the most productive. Due to this, their skills in managing their time well, setting up their priority list, and doing the tasks efficiently through mentorship and camaraderie are enhanced. Through which, they are also exposed to enhancing their communication and networking skills. Being involved in these activities gives teenagers the experience of nation-building and working towards sustainable development.

What is the main conclusion from the passage?

- A. Teenagers can only be productive if they participate in organisational work and volunteer drives.
- B. Teenagers are productive when they spend their time well and fulfil their responsibilities accordingly.
- C. Organisational work and volunteer drives empower teenagers to develop leadership and management skills.
- D. Productivity is best achieved when you have many organisations and volunteer drives.

**39** In a random conversation under the apple tree in front of the school, Harvey and JR discussed and talked about world peace. For Harvey, world peace is a collaboration between countries to work on a single goal and set aside their differences. JR agrees with Harvey and added that world peace is also an individual effort, and that our single interaction with the people we meet every day also translates to bigger societies. Both of them believe that we can start small, by being kind and putting our biases apart from the goodness that we should reverberate to our community.

**What do you think Harvey and JR conclude from their talk?**

- A. World peace should be a priority in community-level discussions and forums.
- B. World peace is both an individual and a collective effort.
- C. World peace means sharing kindness with everyone we meet and making them feel loved.
- D. World peace is needed for countries to work together and achieve global solidarity.

**40** Our world is evolving more quickly than anyone anticipated. Freshwater supplies are already declining; agricultural outputs are declining; our forests are burning; and the oceans are becoming more acidic due in part to a warming climate. Our way of life changes as the natural world around us does. As insurance costs rise, coastal home values decline; farmers' crops and animals have less water and feed due to the drought, and both children and adults with asthma and allergies are more likely to experience asthma attacks due to increased pollen and dust in the air.

**What is the main conclusion of the passage?**

- A. Climate change is inevitably affecting our environment and social ecosystems.
- B. Climate change should be addressed to avoid the risks of incessant overexploitation of resources.
- C. The environment is an extension of one's self, therefore, one must conserve it.
- D. Global issues are affected by the impending climate crisis, and we need more efforts to combat it.