

Read the stories below then answer the questions that follow.

Extract A: Renewable Energy: The Clean Facts

Solar and wind power are sustainable energy revolutions. As innovation drives down costs and begins to fulfil the promise of a clean energy future, renewable energy is thriving. Solar and wind power generation in the United States are smashing records and are being incorporated into the national power system without affecting dependability.

This indicates that renewables are replacing "dirty" fossil fuels in the electricity industry, resulting in fewer carbon and other types of pollution emissions. However, not all "renewable" energy sources are favourable to the environment. When considering the influence on wildlife, climate change, and other issues, biomass and huge hydroelectric dams present challenging trade-offs.

What constitutes renewable energy? Renewable energy, sometimes known as clean energy, is derived from naturally replenishing sources or processes. Sunlight and wind, for instance, continue to shine and blow even if their availability depends on time and weather.

Despite the perception that renewable energy is a new technology, nature's power has been used for heating, transportation, lighting, and more for centuries. Wind has propelled ships over the oceans and powered windmills to process grain. The sun has supplied warmth throughout the day and aided in maintaining fires into the evening. In contrast, during the past 500 years or more, humanity has progressively turned to less expensive and dirtier energy sources, such as coal and fracked gas.

Now that novel and less expensive methods exist for capturing and storing wind and solar energy, renewables are becoming an increasingly major source of energy, accounting for more than 12% of U.S. energy production. The rise of renewable energy is occurring on both large and small stages, from massive offshore wind farms to rooftop solar panels that can sell power back to the grid. Even rural neighbourhoods rely on renewable energy for heating and lighting. A significant objective will be to modernise the United States' power system, making it smarter, more secure, and more connected across regions as renewable energy use continues to increase.

Multiple forms of renewable energy sources exist. This consists of solar energy. For thousands of years, humans have utilised solar energy to grow crops, remain warm, and dehydrate food. According to the national renewable energy laboratory, the sun provides more energy to the earth in one hour than the entire human population uses in one year. Today, the sun's rays are utilised in a variety of ways to heat houses and businesses, warm water, and power equipment.

Solar, or photovoltaic (PV), cells are composed of silicon or other substances that directly convert sunlight into electricity. Distributed solar systems provide electricity locally for homes and businesses, either through rooftop panels or neighbourhood-wide community projects. Using mirrors to focus sunlight across acres of solar cells, solar farms can produce enough energy for thousands of houses. Floating solar farms, or "photovoltaics," can be an efficient use of non-sensitive wastewater facilities and bodies of water.

Solar energy systems do not produce air pollutants or greenhouse gases, and as long as they are installed in a responsible manner, the majority of solar panels have no environmental implications beyond their production.

Wind energy is an additional source of renewable energy. We've gone a long way since the days of windmills. Today, turbines as tall as buildings and with roughly the same diameter as skyscrapers stand at attention throughout the globe. Wind energy turns the blades of a turbine, which feeds a generator and produces electricity.

Wind is becoming one of the least expensive energy sources in the United States. California, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas are the leading states for wind power, but turbines can be placed anywhere with high wind speeds, including hilltops and open plains, or even offshore in open water.

Extract B: What Are Nonrenewable Resources?

Nonrenewable resource refers to a natural substance that cannot be replaced at the same rate as it is consumed. A nonrenewable resource is therefore a limited resource. While it takes aeons for new reserves to emerge, these compounds are continuously depleted by humans. Nonrenewable resources include fossil fuels such as petroleum, natural gas, and coal.

Nonrenewable resources are extracted from the planet in limited quantities that can take billions of years to replenish. Many nonrenewables have historically been quite inexpensive to extract. As their supply continues to dwindle, however, the cost of extraction may increase, prompting customers to turn to alternative energy sources, such as solar and wind power.

The majority of societies rely significantly on nonrenewable resources, particularly for energy. It is believed that approximately 80% of the world's energy is derived from fossil fuels. This has a significant impact on both the available supply and the environment. Carbon dioxide is produced by the combustion of fossil fuels, leading to climate change.

Natural resources include crude oil, coal, uranium, and mineral resources like gold. Included in the subgroup of nonrenewable resources are crude oil and natural gas. Depending on the form it takes after heating and compressing over time, each of these compounds is composed of organic carbon material. Minerals, including gold, silver, and iron, are an additional type of nonrenewables. In contrast to crude oil and natural gas, these are difficult and costly to extract. In the meanwhile, many types of groundwater are nonrenewable if they do not recharge at the rate at which they drain.

The law of supply and demand predicts that the price of nonrenewables will continue to grow, as their supply will inevitably decrease over time. In comparison, renewables have a limitless supply. However, the cost and effort required to establish them will be considerable. In line with government incentives, the demand for renewables has increased in recent years, with many of their costs reducing with time. Solar energy is an excellent illustration of this tendency.

How do nonrenewable resources influence global warming? For energy, humans rely significantly on fossil fuels such as crude oil, natural gas, and coal. By combusting these materials, carbon dioxide is

released into the environment. This is the most important greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. The more we burn fossil fuels, the more greenhouse gases we produce. This warms the climate and creates alterations in the atmosphere, water, and land.

In general, fossil fuels are the first nonrenewable resources that come to mind when most people hear the term. These are all resources that originate from the earth. They are extracted and transformed for human consumption, typically as sources of energy. They differ from renewable resources in that their supplies are limited, and they are not considered sustainable due to the harm they bring to the environment.

Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.

1 What is the purpose of the extracts?

- A. To provide entertainment by describing the benefits of using fossil fuels.
- B. To advertise the benefits of using fossil fuels over renewable energy sources.
- C. To discuss how windmills were used in the past and how they are not relevant today.
- D. To provide information about sustainable energy sources and conventional energy sources.

2 Which is NOT a theme of both extracts?

- A. Environment
- B. Energy
- C. Aura
- D. Power

3 Which statement is true about the two extracts?

- A. Both extracts discuss green energy sources and limited energy resources.
- B. Both extracts express enthusiasm for the utilisation of fossil fuels as a source of energy.
- C. Both extracts delve into the historical background of windmills and their usage throughout history.
- D. Both extracts present the negative effects of solar and wind power.

4 Which of the following information is not a fact derived from the two extracts?

- A. The sun provides more energy to the earth in one hour than the entire human population uses in one year.
- B. Hydroelectric dams and biomass present environmental trade-offs as sources of renewable energy.
- C. Non-renewable energy sources do not produce air pollutants or greenhouse gases, and have no environmental implications beyond their production.
- D. The cost of extracting nonrenewable resources may increase as their supply dwindles, prompting customers to turn to alternative energy sources, such as solar and wind power.

5 Based on your understanding of the two extracts, which of the following is not a type of renewable energy?

- A. Hydroelectric power
- B. Nuclear energy
- C. Solar power
- D. Wind power

6 Based on the extracts, how does the cost of extracting nonrenewable resources, such as natural gas, compare to the cost of establishing renewable energy sources, such as wind turbines?

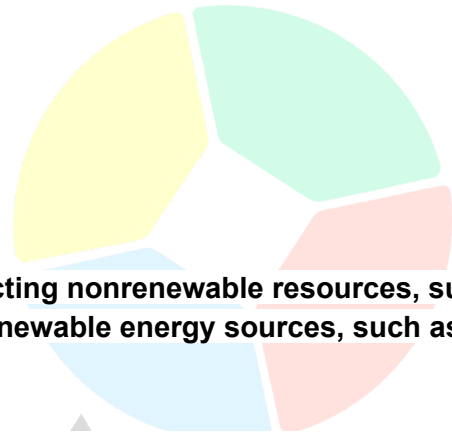
- A. The cost of extracting nonrenewable resources is similar to the cost of establishing renewable energy sources.
- B. The cost of extracting nonrenewable resources is lower than the cost of establishing renewable energy sources.
- C. The cost of extracting nonrenewable resources is higher than the cost of establishing renewable energy sources.
- D. The cost of extracting nonrenewable resources is not related to the cost of establishing renewable energy sources.

7 How does the extraction and consumption of nonrenewable resources compare to the production and use of renewable energy sources in terms of environmental impact?

- A. Nonrenewable resources have lower environmental impacts than renewable energy sources.
- B. Nonrenewable resources have higher environmental impacts than renewable energy sources.
- C. Nonrenewable resources have similar environmental impacts as renewable energy sources.
- D. Nonrenewable resources have no environmental impacts.

8 How does the use of nonrenewable resources, such as fossil fuels, contribute to climate change and how can the increasing use of renewable energy sources help to mitigate this issue?

- A. Nonrenewable resources do not contribute to climate change and renewable energy sources have no impact on mitigating this issue.
- B. Nonrenewable resources do not contribute to climate change and renewable energy sources can help to mitigate this issue by reducing carbon emissions.
- C. Nonrenewable resources contribute to climate change by releasing greenhouse gases and renewable energy sources can help to mitigate this issue by reducing carbon emissions.
- D. Nonrenewable resources contribute to climate change by releasing greenhouse gases and renewable energy sources have no impact on mitigating this issue.



Extract A: Counselling Psychology

Counselling psychology is a generalist health service specialisation within professional psychology that employs a wide range of culturally-informed and culturally-sensitive practises to assist people in enhancing their well-being, preventing and alleviating distress and maladjustment, resolving crises, and enhancing their ability to function more effectively in their daily lives.

It focuses on normative life-span development with a special emphasis on prevention and education as well as amelioration, addressing both persons and the systems or contexts in which they operate. It specialises in employment and career issues.

Psychologists have the knowledge and ability to engage in intervention, assessment, preventive, training, and research approaches that are evidence-based and culturally informed.

They emphasise healthy aspects and strengths of their clients (individuals, couples, families, groups, organisations, and communities); environmental/contextual influences (such as cultural, sociopolitical, gender, racial, and ethnic factors) that shape people's experiences and concerns; the role of career and work in people's lives; and advocacy for equity and social justice.

Counselling psychologists concentrate on normal developmental and mental health difficulties and obstacles faced by people throughout their lifespans, as well as systemic challenges (such as prejudice and discrimination) experienced in groups, organisations, institutions, and communities.

They employ strengths-based ideas and strategies to avoid and mitigate emotional, relational, physical/health-related, social, cultural, occupational, educational, and identity-related issues.

Counselling psychologists provide services to individuals of all ages and ethnic backgrounds in an individual, group (including couples and families), workplace, organisational, institutional, and community contexts. They work with groups and communities to assist them in addressing or preventing problems, as well as enhancing the personal and interpersonal functioning of each member.

Counselling psychologists also intervene in organisations, institutions, workplaces, and communities to improve their efficacy, climate, success, and members' well-being.

Individual, family, and group counselling and psychotherapy, crisis intervention, disaster and trauma management, assessment techniques for the diagnosis of psychological disorders, consulting with organisations, training, clinical supervision, test construction and validation, and research methodologies for scientific inquiry are among the procedures and techniques used in counselling psychology.

In general, it is recommended to begin with six sessions of counselling, but in many cases more or fewer sessions are necessary. Depending on their goals and level of discomfort, patients might have an active role in choosing the number of sessions required. While counselling psychologists may provide recommendations, the patient ultimately has the final say.

Extract B: Psychotherapy

Psychotherapy, often known as talk therapy, is a treatment option for a wide range of mental disorders and emotional challenges. Psychotherapy can aid in the elimination or control of bothersome symptoms, enhancing a person's ability to function and promoting healing.

Psychotherapy can assist with challenges in living with daily life, the effects of trauma, medical disease, or bereavement, such as the death of a loved one, and mental disorders like depression and anxiety. There are numerous types of psychotherapy, and some may be more effective with certain problems or concerns. Combining psychotherapy with medicine or other therapies is possible. Psychotherapy employs evidence-based and culturally sensitive methods.

Individual, family, couple, or group therapy sessions can benefit both children and adults and can be administered in a variety of settings. Typically, sessions are held once a week for 30 to 50 participants. Psychotherapy requires both the patient and therapist to be actively involved. The relationship and trust between a person and his or her therapist are vital for effective collaboration and psychotherapy benefits.

Psychotherapy can be short-term (a few sessions), addressing immediate concerns, or long-term (months or years), addressing persistent and complicated issues. Together, the patient and therapist determine the treatment's objectives, as well as the frequency and duration of sessions. Psychotherapy's most basic prerequisite is confidentiality and here, patients may communicate their personal emotions and thoughts.

Frequently, psychotherapy is combined with medicine to treat mental health disorders. In certain instances, medication may be plainly beneficial, whilst psychotherapy may be the best option in others. For many patients, the combination of medicine and psychotherapy is superior to either treatment alone. Improvements to a healthy lifestyle, such as proper eating, frequent exercise, and appropriate rest, can be crucial for promoting recovery and general health.

The majority of persons who receive psychotherapy enjoy symptom relief and improved life functioning, according to research. Approximately 75% of individuals who undergo psychotherapy report some benefit. It has been demonstrated that psychotherapy improves emotions and behaviours and is associated with good brain and body changes. In addition, the advantages include fewer sick days, fewer disabilities, fewer medical issues, and better job satisfaction.

Utilising brain imaging tools, researchers have been able to observe changes in the brain following psychotherapy. Psychotherapy has been linked to brain alterations in patients with mental illnesses, including depression, panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other illnesses. In most instances, the brain changes caused by psychotherapy were comparable to those caused by drugs.

To get the most out of psychotherapy, you should view it as a collaborative effort, be open and honest, and adhere to the agreed-upon treatment plan. Maintain any assignments between sessions, such as keeping a journal or practising what has been discussed.

Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.

9 How are the extracts written?

- A. Extract A, Persuasive; Extract B, Entertaining
- B. Extract A, Informative; Extract B, Persuasive
- C. Extract A, Informative; Extract B, Informative
- D. Extract A, Entertaining; Extract B, Informative

10 What do the two extracts have in common?

- A. Both extracts focus on mental health and well-being.
- B. Both extracts discuss the benefits of exercise and proper diet.
- C. Both extracts mention the use of brain imaging tools.
- D. Both extracts are about the history of psychology.

11 Based on both extracts, how often do counselling sessions last in contrast to how long psychotherapy usually lasts?

- A. Counselling sessions last for six sessions, while psychotherapy lasts for a few months.
- B. Counselling sessions last depending on the patient's level of distress, while psychotherapy lasts depending on the needs of a patient.
- C. Counselling sessions last for only a week while psychotherapy usually lasts depending on the needs of an individual.
- D. Counselling sessions are held depending on the individual's needs while psychotherapy usually lasts after a few weeks.

12 What can we conclude about counselling and psychotherapy from both extracts?

- A. Counselling and psychotherapy are both forms of physical therapy.
- B. Counselling and psychotherapy are forms of traditional healing practices.
- C. Counselling and psychotherapy employ evidence-based and culturally informed approaches.
- D. Counselling and psychotherapy are forms of mental health treatment that aim to impair individuals' physical health.



13 What is the primary focus of counselling psychology?

- A. Performing physical therapy and prescribing medication.
- B. Assisting individuals in enhancing their well-being and functioning in daily life.
- C. Focusing on treating mental disorders using surgery and physical therapy.
- D. Examining past experiences and unconscious thoughts and feelings, and prescribing medication.

14 What is the primary goal of psychotherapy and how is it typically administered?

- A. To diagnose and treat mental disorders, typically administered through surgery and physical therapy.
- B. To provide symptom relief and improved life functioning through individual, family or group therapy sessions and a collaborative effort between the patient and therapist.
- C. To prescribe medication and treat physical illnesses while ignoring mental health concerns and emotional challenges.
- D. To provide aromatherapy and acupuncture as the only treatment and bypass the importance of sensitive methods in addressing mental health issues and emotional challenges.

15 Which of the following is NOT an advantage of psychotherapy?

- A. Reduced sick days
- B. Decreased medical problems
- C. Additional disabilities
- D. Improved career satisfaction

16 Maria is a high school student who has been dealing with family issues and difficulty adjusting to high school life. What type of therapy would be most appropriate for Maria to try?

- A. Emergency intervention
- B. Medication from psychotherapy
- C. Individual counselling
- D. Disaster and trauma management

Extract A: What is Democracy?

The definition of democracy is ruled by the people. The term is derived from the ancient Greek terms Demos which means people and Kratos which means to rule. A democracy is a form of government in which citizens have the ability to participate in decision-making.

Each democracy is distinct and operates differently. In some democracies, voters directly participate in decision-making by voting on proposed laws and policies (direct democracy). In other nations, such as Australia, residents elect representatives to make choices for them (representative democracy).

A democracy depends on citizen participation. In addition to voting, they are actively involved in their community. This could be accomplished by joining a charity, political party, environmental or community organisation. A democratic society is one that strives for democratic ideals, such as respect for individuals, tolerance of diversity and opposing ideas, equity, freedom of speech, association, movement, religion, and justice. It is essential to recognise that a democratic society is not perfect and that its maintenance requires the ongoing effort and engagement of its inhabitants. The purpose of democracy is to establish a society in which all individuals can participate in decision-making and have their views heard, and in which the rights and well-being of all citizens are respected and protected.

Democracy is a method of communal decision-making based on the premise of participant equality. In this context, "democracy" refers to the system of decision-making that is intended to bind all group members. This term embraces a vast array of groupings, ranging from families and non-profits to corporations, states, and even transnational and international organisations. In addition, this definition is compatible with other electoral systems, including first-past-the-post and proportional representation.

One of the most important components of democracy is collective decision-making, in which decisions are made for groups as a whole rather than for individuals. The concept of democracy is also supposed to be broad, meaning that it should encompass a variety of democratic groups and decision-making processes. Consequently, democracy can exist in families, non-profit organisations, and businesses, in addition to governments and transnational and global organisations.

It is essential to stress that this concept of democracy lacks normative force. This means that the term is not intended to imply that democracy is always the best form of government or that it is always desirable. Instead, the definition of democracy is designed to be neutral, allowing for the possibility that democracy may not be desirable in certain circumstances. Consequently, the concept of democracy does not resolve any normative issues.

The depth of the equality required under the definition of democracy might vary. It could be the formal equality of one-person-one-vote in an election for members of a parliament in which candidates compete for the job. Or it may be more robust, involving substantive equality in the discourse and coalition-building processes preceding the vote. The term "democracy" can refer to any of these political systems. It may entail direct referenda of a society's members in determining the society's rules and policies, or it may involve the participation of those members in selecting representatives to make the decisions.

The purpose of normative democratic theory is not to resolve difficulties of definition, but rather to identify which, if any, of the possible kinds of democracy are ethically desirable, and when and how. To evaluate diverse moral grounds for democracy, we must weigh the relative merits of their underlying principles and views of humans and society.

Extract B: All About Monarchy

A monarchy is a type of governance in which a single person, known as a monarch, serves as the head of state. This individual, typically a king or queen, receives the position by birth or through a specified line of succession, which is frequently defined by a system of primogeniture, in which the throne is passed on to the firstborn child. The monarch keeps the post until death, abdication, or removal from power. In some instances, the monarch's powers are constrained by a constitution, whilst in others, the monarch has absolute power and there is minimal to no separation of powers.

Monarchies have existed for ages and have been a part of several cultures and civilizations. The Japanese monarchy is believed to be the oldest monarchy still in existence, with the present emperor being the 126th in an unbroken line of rulers dating back to 660 BCE. Monarchies have played an important part in human political history and have existed in a variety of forms, ranging from absolute monarchies in which the monarch holds all power to constitutional monarchies in which the monarch's powers are limited and the government is governed by elected people.

Historically, monarchs wielded considerable political authority and were frequently regarded as divine or demi-divine beings. They were the head of state and government and possessed the authority to pass laws and administer the nation. In the military and religious domains, they frequently served as commander-in-chief and head of the official religion, respectively. In later times, however, many monarchs reduced the political power of the king and converted their positions into ceremonial or symbolic ones. In a constitutional monarchy, the monarch's role is mostly symbolic and ceremonial, acting as a figurehead and representative of the state, performing ceremonial responsibilities such as opening parliament, welcoming foreign ambassadors, and representing the country on state occasions. Additionally, they play a ceremonial role in the military and the church.

In other nations, the monarch also has a role in government, but in these instances, the monarch's power is limited and mostly ceremonial. In the United Kingdom, for instance, the monarch picks the Prime Minister, whereas in Sweden, the queen signs laws enacted by the Riksdag. However, elected representatives hold the real power, and the government runs the country. Monarchs also frequently serve as arbitrators, mediators, and national representatives in foreign affairs, however, the monarch's role and authority in this arena might differ from country to country.

Despite their ceremonial and symbolic roles in modern culture, monarchs continue to have a significant position and are frequently viewed as a symbol of national identity and continuity. The monarchy is frequently regarded as a significant component of the country's heritage and culture and as a symbol of the nation's historical foundations. The monarchy is also viewed as a symbol of unity, which brings people together and fosters national pride. In addition to being a symbol of continuity, stability, and tradition, monarchs frequently serve as the focal point of national festivities and ceremonies.

In conclusion, a monarchy is a form of government in which a single person occupies the role of head of state, which is typically inherited by birth or through a set line of succession and is frequently established by a system of primogeniture. The monarch's function might range from absolute rulership to ceremonial or symbolic figurehead. The historical significance and duration of monarchy make them a significant aspect of human political history and an ongoing institution in some nations. They have a major symbolic function in modern countries and are frequently viewed as a unifying symbol, a

significant element of the country's legacy and tradition, and a representation of continuity, stability, and tradition.

Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.

17 What is the purpose of the extracts?

- A. To explore the history of monarchies and their impact on democratic societies.
- B. To inform about different government systems and their functions.
- C. To discuss the pros and cons of different political ideologies on families.
- D. To explore the relationship between government and the economy.

18 The following are themes explored in the two extracts EXCEPT for one:

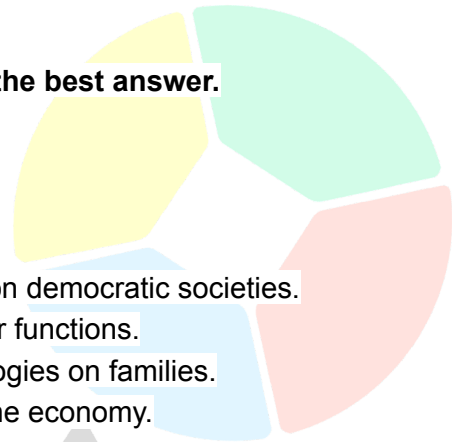
- A. Fashion
- B. Rights
- C. Community
- D. People

19 Which statement is true about the two extracts?

- A. Both extracts discuss the history of a specific country's government system.
- B. Both extracts focus on the role of technology in government.
- C. Both extracts talk about the different ways that governments can be set up.
- D. Both extracts highlight the benefits of a dictatorship.

20 What is the key distinction between democracy and monarchy in regard to the people?

- A. Democracy gives people the principle of oppression, while monarchy gives the principle of freedom.
- B. Democracy is a form of government where the people have no power, while monarchy is a form of government where the people have complete control.



- C. Democracy is based on the principle of the people's limited power, while monarchy is based on the principle of the people's absolute power.
- D. Democracy grants the people the power to govern themselves, while monarchy grants power to a single ruler.

21 What is the primary distinction between a democracy and a monarchy regarding the head of state?

- A. In a democracy, the head of state is elected by a ruler, while in a monarchy, the head of state is elected by the people.
- B. In a democracy, the head of state is appointed by a group of elites, while in a monarchy, the head of state is inherited through a line of succession.
- C. In a democracy, the head of state has absolute power, while in a monarchy, the head of state's power is limited by a constitution.
- D. In a democracy, the head of state's power is limited by a constitution, while in a monarchy, the head of state has absolute power.

22 How are both extracts constructed?

- A. Procedural
- B. Description
- C. Generalisation
- D. Spatial order

23 What can be said about the system of primogeniture in extract B?

- A. It promotes meritocracy.
- B. It ensures equal opportunities for all.
- C. It perpetuates a tradition of inheritance.
- D. It allows for more efficient decision-making.

24 What is the significance of the term "normative force" in relation to democracy?

- A. It means that the concept of democracy is neutral, allowing for the possibility that it may not be desirable in certain circumstances.
- B. It means that democracy is not only the best form of government but it is the only acceptable and legitimate form of government.

- C. It means that regardless of the cultural, economic, or social conditions of a society, democracy is always the ideal and superior form of government.
- D. It means that democracy is not meant for all individuals and groups, but only for a selected and privileged few who meet certain criteria or belong to a specific class or category of society.

Extract A: Virtual Reality

Virtual Reality (VR) is a computer-generated simulation of a three-dimensional environment that can be manipulated using specialised equipment, such as a VR headset. The headset typically consists of a head-mounted display with small panels in front of the eyes and sensors that monitor head movement. This enables the user to navigate the virtual environment as though they were physically present. By mixing visual, aural, and haptic feedback, VR technology offers an immersive experience that makes the user feel like they are a part of the virtual world.

In the 1930s and 1940s, science fiction authors and innovators began to conceive the prospect of constructing fully immersive virtual worlds. Morton Heilig, a cinematographer, submitted one of the earliest known VR-related patents in the 1960s for his invention the Sensorama, a machine with a built-in seat that played 3D movies, emitted odours, and generated vibrations to make the experience as realistic as possible. This gadget, however, was never commercialised.

Ivan Sutherland, a computer scientist and engineer, created the first virtual reality headset known as "The Sword of Damocles" in the 1960s. It was cumbersome, nonportable equipment that could only be used in a laboratory. The technology was not yet evolved enough to make the experience really immersive, but it functioned as a proof of concept.

During the 1970s and 1980s, virtual reality research was primarily focused on military and government uses, such as pilot and army training simulators. These early methods were too costly and complicated to be widely adopted. VR technology became increasingly accessible to consumers in the 1990s with the advent of VR arcade games and the development of VR headsets for home usage. These devices were still somewhat expensive and had limited capabilities, but they demonstrated technological potential.

The development of increasingly advanced and affordable VR headsets, such as the Oculus Rift and HTC Vive, has contributed to the advancement of VR technology in the 21st century. These gadgets employ inside-out tracking, in which the headset contains all of the essential sensors and cameras to track the user's motions. This makes the experience more immersive and responsive. In addition, the current pandemic has raised the demand for distant immersive experiences, resulting in further advancements in this area.

In addition, the introduction of smartphone-based VR devices such as Google Cardboard, Samsung Gear VR, and Oculus Quest has made VR more accessible to a larger audience. These gadgets utilise the smartphone's display and sensors for tracking, making them more inexpensive and portable than prior virtual reality systems.

Virtual Reality technology can ultimately be traced back several decades, with its origins entrenched in science fiction. As technology has grown, however, virtual reality has expanded and developed into a rapidly expanding field with a vast array of possible uses. VR has the potential to alter the way we engage with technology and the physical environment from its infancy as a notion. It has the ability to alter the ways in which we communicate, learn, and even experience various situations. It is expected that the future of virtual reality will continue to improve and expand, providing us with new and interesting opportunities to engage with the environment.

Extract B: VR Technology on Various Industries and Society as a Whole

Virtual Reality (VR) technology has the potential to have a substantial impact on numerous businesses and on society as a whole. VR technology is used in the entertainment business to produce immersive gaming experiences, virtual movie theatres, and theme park attractions. VR is being utilised to build virtual simulations for learning and practice in the education and training business, enabling more engaging and effective education and training.

VR technology is utilised in the healthcare business for the therapy, treatment, and training of medical workers. It enables virtual simulations of operations and other medical procedures, hence facilitating more effective training and preparation for medical workers. In addition, it is utilised for pain management, mental health therapy, and physical therapy.

Virtual reality technology is being utilised to produce virtual models of buildings and environs in the architecture and construction industries, enabling more efficient and cost-effective planning and design. Using VR technology, engineers, architects, and construction workers can walk around virtual models of structures, spot possible difficulties, and make revisions in real-time, thereby saving time and money.

In the automotive sector, virtual reality technology is utilised for car design and testing, as well as driver instruction. Companies in the automotive industry can utilise VR to build and test new vehicles, while drivers can use VR to simulate various driving circumstances and improve their skills.

Additionally, virtual reality technology can be used for tourism, allowing individuals to experience faraway regions or historical sites without physically travelling there. In addition, it can be employed in marketing and advertising to generate immersive brand experiences. This enables businesses to present their products and services in a more engaging and dynamic manner, which can eventually enhance client engagement and sales.

VR technology has the potential to enable new ways for people to communicate and interact with one another, as well as break down distance and access barriers on a societal level. In subjects including psychology, sociology, and anthropology, it can be utilised to build virtual environments for experimentation and research. This permits researchers to examine human behaviour and social interactions in a controlled environment, which can lead to fresh discoveries and an increased understanding of human behaviour.

Moreover, VR technology has the ability to alter how we work and do business. With the capacity to build virtual office spaces, geographically dispersed teams can interact and work together in a virtual setting. This may result in enhanced production and efficiency, as well as a decreased need for travel.

In conclusion, the prospective uses and applications of VR technology are extensive and diversified, having the potential to transform a wide range of industries and have a substantial impact on society as a whole. As technology continues to progress and improve, we may anticipate that virtual reality will become a more essential and integrated part of our daily lives, allowing us to engage with the environment in novel and fascinating ways.

Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.

25 How are the two extracts organised?

- A. Sequence
- B. Description
- C. Cause and effect
- D. Problem and solution

26 Which of the following best describes the target audience for the two extracts on Virtual Reality technology?

- A. People in the gaming industry
- B. Medical professionals
- C. Architects and construction workers
- D. General audience

27 In what point of view are both articles written in?

- A. Extract A is written in first person while Extract B is written in second person.
- B. Extract A is written in second person while Extract B is written in third person
- C. Extract A is written in third person while Extract B is written in third person.
- D. Extract A is written in first person while Extract B is written in first person.

28 What is the overall emphasis of both extracts?

- A. The historical development and evolution of VR technology.
- B. The unlikely impact of VR technology on various industries.
- C. The former uses of Virtual Reality technology.
- D. The impact of VR technology on society as a whole.

29 What is the key difference between the two extracts?

- A. Both extracts focus on the historical development of VR technology.
- B. The first extract focuses on the historical development of VR technology, while the second extract focuses on the potential impact of VR technology on various industries.
- C. Both extracts focus on the potential impact of VR technology on various industries and society as a whole.
- D. The first extract focuses on the potential impact of VR technology on society as a whole, while the second extract focuses on the historical development of VR technology.

30 The following are analogous information about extract A and extract B EXCEPT?

- A. Both extracts provide information about the historical development of VR technology.
- B. Both extracts mention the advancements in VR technology in the 21st century.
- C. Both extracts provide information that the application of VR in the healthcare industry has been useful in the construction industry for building and design.
- D. Both extracts mention the potential impact of VR technology on various industries and society as a whole.

31 Which of the following scenarios do both extracts apply?

- I. Virtual Reality technology is utilised to produce immersive gaming experiences in the entertainment business.
 - II. The healthcare business utilises Virtual Reality for training and preparation.
 - III. In the architecture and construction industries, Virtual Reality technology is utilised for design and planning purposes.
 - IV. In the business field, virtual office spaces and team communication are accomplished through the use of Virtual Reality technology.
- A. II, IV and III
 - B. I, III and II
 - C. IV and I only
 - D. All of the above.

32 How is the word “impact” relative to both extracts?

- A. It refers to the potential or predicted effects that VR technology may have on various industries and society as a whole.
- B. It is used to refer to the financial cost of VR technology, including the investment required to develop and produce VR products.
- C. It describes the process of creating VR technology, including the history of its development and the advancements made in recent years.
- D. It is not used in either extract, and therefore not relevant to the discussion.

Extract A: The Pros of Acquiring a Residence

How can you be confident that buying a property is the best decision for you, given that there are both pros and drawbacks? By examining your personal goals, you can determine if you would profit from homeownership in the near future or in the distant future. For the majority of individuals, finances are the deciding factor between renting and home ownership. You might imagine that renting is less expensive than buying, but this is not always the case.

The National Association of Realtors (NAR) published a research in 2021 demonstrating that after six years, a homeowner's monthly payment is often less than that of a renter. And, when you consider the tax advantages of homeownership, a homeowner may have a reduced monthly payment in as little as three years. This indicates that home ownership could save you money after a reasonably brief period.

In contrast, renters are not responsible for paying closing costs, a down payment, or long-term obligations such as property taxes and homeowners insurance. There are further advantages to not owning real estate. Renters are not required to sell their residences prior to relocation, nor are they liable for maintenance and repairs. In other words, both renting and purchasing have advantages and disadvantages. To choose the best solution, you will need to determine your financial objectives and desired lifestyle.

In the majority of cases, renters sign one-year leases. A property owner may occasionally offer a longer lease period, but renting is often shorter-term than house ownership. If you like to remain in one place for an extended period of time, purchasing a home could be an ideal alternative, as you will not be bound to a short-term lease. As long as they are current on their mortgage payments and property taxes, a homeowner can keep their home permanently. And if you pass away, the property might be transferred to your heirs.

What about the investment's prospective return? With each mortgage payment, you create equity in your property, which you can potentially convert into cash if you so choose. With a home equity loan or home equity line of credit (HELOC), you can use your home's equity to finance home improvement projects, restructure debt, or purchase more real estate. You can also sell your equity for a profit. If you decide to relocate, you may have the opportunity to earn a profit, especially if property values in your area have grown. Remember that you may be required to pay a capital gains tax.

In addition, tax advantages. As a homeowner, you must pay more taxes, but certain tax perks might help you balance the expense. For instance, if you itemise your deductions, you could deduct the mortgage interest you've paid. Additionally, homeowners can deduct property taxes on their tax returns. This benefit may not sound like a substantial tax break, but it can lower your tax liability by up to \$10,000. You can claim up to \$5,000 if you are married but filing separately. Note that these are the total allowable deductions for your property taxes, state and local income taxes, and sales taxes.

Furthermore, it gives you greater independence. Since you own your home and are not responsible to a landlord, you can typically alter it as you see fit. That means you can renovate your kitchen, paint your walls, and landscape your property. You can even construct an addition if your homeowners'

association approves. You can also choose who resides in your residence. Many rental homes prohibit certain types or numbers of pets. As a homeowner, however, you decide whether or not to possess a dog or cat, and you are not subject to a prospective pet deposit.

In addition, for some buyers, buying a house in a close-knit neighbourhood can provide emotional benefits that renting cannot. Whether you live in the suburbs or the city, you will likely have neighbours who are willing to provide a hand if you require assistance. A sense of community can also be a substantial benefit for child-rearing couples. Being surrounded by homeowners who share a similar way of life is a terrific way to make lifetime friends.

Extract B: The Cons Of Buying A House

Purchasing a home includes downsides that may make it less appealing to some individuals. At the top of the list are the increased starting costs. The cost of purchasing a home consists of more than simply the down payment. You must also pay closing costs, which include things like origination fees, the cost of the home appraisal, and title insurance. Alternatively, only a security deposit or the first month's rent may be required to secure a rental unit. When compared to the costs of purchasing a property, the upfront costs of renting tend to be lower.

The second issue is inflexibility. Although homeownership provides more independence, it can also reduce flexibility. If you rent, you can simply wait until the contract expires and move to a different residence. When purchasing a new home, you will need to rent out or sell your current residence. It is not as easy as packing your bags and relocating.

If you decide to sell, the process can be time-consuming. Typically, you will need to prepare your house, take photographs, post it on the multiple listing service, and then wait for offers. This method is worthwhile for many, but not everyone enjoys feeling slightly constrained.

Third, there is the additional financial obligation. As with any loan, a mortgage is a significant financial commitment. If you default on your mortgage loan and miss payments, your credit score may suffer. Your lender could potentially foreclose on your property if you default on a mortgage, which would further harm your credit.

In addition to your mortgage payments, you will also be required to pay property taxes and acquire homeowners insurance. Depending on the type of loan, you may also be required to pay mortgage insurance unless you make a sizable down payment. These costs can significantly raise your monthly payment.

And lastly, ongoing maintenance and repair. In addition to your monthly mortgage payments – which normally include the cost of homeowners insurance, property taxes, and maybe mortgage insurance – you will unavoidably incur house maintenance and repair expenses.

If you do not have a home warranty, you will be responsible for the entire cost of replacing a broken appliance, for example. Moreover, if you decide to do house upgrades, you may uncover flaws that increase the expense of the job.

Despite this, there are still other factors to consider when purchasing a home. Checking your credit report is one of these. Your interest rate and loan length will be determined by your credit score and payment history when you apply for a home loan. Before submitting an application, you should obtain a copy of your credit report to ensure that you have a sufficient credit score to purchase a home. Additionally, you can examine your report for erroneous information or unpaid bills.

The next question concerns your job security. Your employment history will be evaluated as part of the underwriting procedure. Most lenders favour borrowers who have worked for the same employer for at least two years. Therefore, if you have just changed jobs, you may be required to wait before applying for a mortgage.

In addition, you must calculate your debt-to-income ratio (DTI). This allows lenders to evaluate how much debt you have relative to your income. You can calculate your DTI by dividing the sum of your monthly debt payments by your gross monthly income. If your DTI is greater than 43%, you may need to reduce your debt or boost your income.

And the current state of the real estate market. Your search for the ideal property will be influenced by the local housing market. To get a sense of what's occurring in your neighbourhood, discuss recent trends and forecasts with your real estate agent.

Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.

33 Which best describes the goal of the two extracts?

- A. To persuade readers to choose one option over the other.
- B. To provide information on the benefits of renting and buying a property.
- C. To provide statistical knowledge on the disadvantages of buying a property.
- D. To provide a balanced view of the benefits and drawbacks of renting and buying a property

34 How do the two extracts differ?

- A. Extract A focuses on the benefits of renting a property and Extract B focuses on the disadvantages of buying a property.
- B. Extract A focuses on the benefits of buying a property and Extract B focuses on the disadvantages of renting a property.
- C. Extract A focuses on the advantages of homeownership and Extract B focuses on the disadvantages of homeownership.

- D. Extract A focuses on the financial benefits of homeownership and Extract B focuses on the lifestyle benefits of homeownership.

35 What similarities do the two extracts share?

- A. Both extracts mention the emotional benefits and drawbacks of homeownership.
- B. Both extracts mention the inflexibility as a drawback of homeownership.
- C. Both extracts mention the financial benefits and detriments of homeownership
- D. Both extracts mention the tax advantages and disadvantages of homeownership.

36 How do the two extracts connect with each other?

- A. They present different sides of the same topic, providing a balanced view
- B. They present the same information in different ways
- C. They present completely unrelated information
- D. They present information in a way that contradicts each other

37 What is the key takeaway that the two extracts share?

- A. Renting is always less expensive than buying due to not being liable to pay for future repairs.
- B. Homeownership has both usefulness and drawbacks that should be considered before making a decision.
- C. Buying a property is always the best decision as it will target everyone's specific needs and circumstances.
- D. The emotional benefits of homeownership outweigh the financial drawbacks

38 Which of the following is NOT a fact gathered from the two extracts?

- A. Many rental homes prohibit certain types or numbers of pets.
- B. Studies indicate that homeownership could save you money after a reasonably brief period.
- C. If you rent, you can simply wait until the contract expires and move to a different residence.
- D. As a homeowner, you must pay fewer taxes and certain tax perks might help you balance the expense.

39 What can we conclude about buying a house from both extracts?

- A. Buying a property will always be less expensive than renting even in short-term cases.
- B. It has both uses and weaknesses that should be considered before making a decision
- C. It is always the best decision to buy a property no matter what other people say.
- D. The emotional advantages outweigh the financial disadvantages.

40 What type of texts are the two extracts?

- A.** Informational texts
- B.** News articles
- C.** Advertisements
- D.** Travel pieces



Scholarly