Read the articles below then answer the questions that follow.

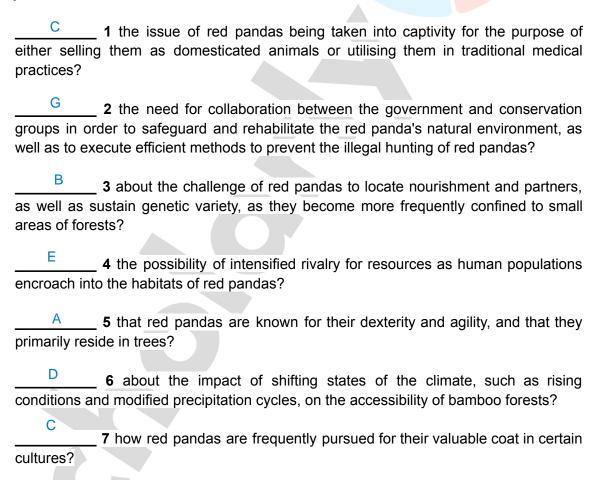
The Precarious State of the Endangered Red Panda

- A. A small primate native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China, the red panda is also known as the lesser panda or the red cat-bear. They are slightly larger than domestic cats and have a body similar to that of a bear as well as dense russet fur. There are white markings on the side of the cranium and above its small eyes. The belly and limbs are black. They are highly skilled agile animals that primarily inhabit trees. Despite its endearing appearance and ecological significance, the red panda is classified as an endangered species due to the threats it faces.
- **B.** Habitat loss is one of the primary factors contributing to the decline of red panda populations. Rapid deforestation, driven by logging, agriculture, and infrastructure development, has resulted in the fragmentation and destruction of the red panda's natural habitat. As a result, red pandas are increasingly finding themselves isolated in small pockets of forests, making it difficult for them to find food and mates, and maintain genetic diversity. This loss of habitat has led to a decline in red panda populations and increased their vulnerability to other threats.
- **C.** Another threat to red pandas is poaching. Red pandas are often hunted for their fur, which is highly valued in some cultures. They are also sometimes captured and sold as pets or for use in traditional medicines. Poaching can have a significant impact on red panda populations, especially in areas where their numbers are already low due to habitat loss or other factors. Poaching not only directly kills individuals but can also disrupt breeding patterns and social dynamics, leading to further declines in population numbers.
- **D.** Climate change is also impacting red pandas and their habitat. The red panda's range is highly dependent on the presence of dense bamboo forests, which provide them with food and shelter. As temperatures and precipitation patterns change, the red panda's habitat and food sources are affected. Changing climatic conditions, including increased temperatures and altered rainfall patterns, are affecting the distribution and availability of bamboo forests. The areas in which they can survive and reproduce may shrink, and they may be forced to move to new areas where they are less adapted. This has resulted in changes to the red panda's foraging patterns and has also led to food scarcity, further exacerbating the challenges faced by these vulnerable creatures.
- **E.** Another threat to red pandas is human-wildlife conflict. As human populations expand into areas where red pandas live, there can be increased competition for resources such as food and water. This can lead to conflicts between red pandas and humans, such as the raiding of crops or livestock by red pandas, or retaliation by humans in the form of hunting or habitat destruction. Additionally, as roads and other infrastructure are built, red pandas may be run over by vehicles or become trapped in areas where they cannot escape. This can further fragment their habitat and lead to population declines.
- **F.** In addition to these challenges, red pandas also face threats from human activities such as illegal logging and mining, and infrastructure development. These activities not only directly destroy the red panda's habitat but also disrupt their natural behaviour and ecological interactions. Fragmentation of their habitat due to human activities can isolate populations and reduce their genetic diversity, making them more susceptible to diseases and other threats.

G. Efforts to conserve red pandas require addressing the underlying causes of their decline, including habitat loss, poaching, climate change, and lack of conservation measures. Conservation organisations and governments must work together to protect and restore the red panda's habitat, implement effective anti-poaching measures, and raise awareness among local communities about the importance of red panda conservation. It is also crucial to address the socioeconomic drivers of habitat destruction, such as unsustainable logging and agriculture practices, and promote sustainable alternatives that can benefit both local communities and red pandas.

Answer the following questions by choosing the correct letter that matches the description. Take note that the letters can be repeated accordingly.

Which paragraph mentions...



Sultan Kösen - The Tallest Living Man in the World

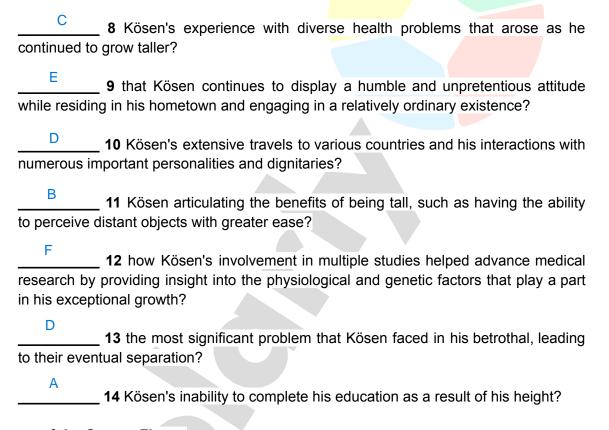
A. According to Guinness World Records, Kösen, a Turkish man of ethnic Kurdish descent, claims the title of the tallest man in the world. He was born on December 10, 1982, in the Turkish village of Alibey, Mardin Province. Kösen is an imposing 8 feet and 2.8 inches tall. Due to his height, he was unable to conclude his education and instead worked as a part-time farmer. His height has presented him with both challenges and opportunities, making him a globally renowned figure of distinction.

- **B.** Kösen's exceptional height became apparent during his early childhood. During this time, he experienced the difficulties of living with a unique physical condition. He describes the advantages of being tall as being able to see a great distance and being able to help his family with domestic tasks such as changing light bulbs and hanging curtains. And he lists disadvantages as not being able to find clothes for his legs and for his arms or shoes, as well as finding it difficult to fit into an average-sized car.
- **C.** As he grew taller, Kösen encountered a variety of health issues, including back and joint discomfort. Due to his pituitary tumour, Kösen endured vision impairment in addition to joint pain and back issues. Since 2010, Kösen has received Gamma Knife treatment at the University of Virginia Medical School for his tumour, as well as medication to regulate his excessive growth hormone levels. And in March 2012, it was verified that the treatment effectively halted Kösen's growth. Kösen has remained resilient despite these obstacles and has learned to acclimatise to his extraordinary stature.
- **D.** In October 2013, Kösen wed Merve Dibo, who was born in Syria and is ten years younger than him. In an interview, he stated that his greatest issue with his wife is communication since he speaks Turkish and she only speaks Arabic. In 2021, the couple divorced, citing the language barrier as one of the primary issues. Being the tallest man in the world has afforded Kösen unimaginable opportunities. He has travelled to numerous nations and encountered numerous dignitaries and notable figures. Kösen has also used his unique status to raise awareness about the difficulties faced by people with extraordinary heights and to encourage others to embrace their differences.
- **E.** Despite his renown and recognition, Kösen maintains a modest and down-to-earth demeanour. A farmer and part-time tourist attraction, he lives in his hometown in Turkey and leads a relatively ordinary life. He holds his family and friends in high regard, and his optimistic outlook on life is evident in his interactions with others and his perspective on his extraordinary circumstances. In addition to his modesty and realism, Kösen is known for his generosity and compassion towards others. He has raised awareness for charities and participated in numerous events and activities to aid those in need by utilising his platform.
- F. The extraordinary height of Kösen has also facilitated medical research. He has participated in numerous scientific studies to gain a deeper understanding of the genetic and physiological factors contributing to his extraordinary growth. His contribution to the field of medicine has aided in the comprehension of the human body and has the potential to benefit those who suffer from similar conditions. The willingness of Kösen to participate in medical research has also helped to reduce stigma and increase awareness of conditions that affect people with physical differences. The influence Kösen has had on medical research and social awareness is a reflection of his character and optimistic outlook on life.
- **G.** Despite the many challenges and opportunities that come with his extraordinary height, Kösen remains grounded and appreciative of life. He continues to inspire others with his perseverance, positive outlook, and determination to live a fulfilling life in spite of the unique obstacles he confronts. The story of Kösen has also brought joy and inspiration to countless individuals across the globe. The awe-inspiring accomplishments and modest demeanour of this man have garnered him a large number of fans and devotees, who are captivated by his positive attitude and generosity. His story exemplifies

the tenacity of the human spirit and serves as a reminder that our differences make us unique and should be celebrated.

Answer the following questions by choosing the correct letter that matches the description. Take note that the letters can be repeated accordingly.

Which paragraph mentions...



The Magnificence of the Corpse Flower

- **A.** The corpse flower, also known as Amorphophallus titanum, is an uncommon and distinctive plant renowned for its enormous size and foul odour. This flower is indigenous to Sumatra, Indonesia, and is regarded as the world's largest unbranched inflorescence. Due to its unique characteristics, the corpse flower has fascinated botanists and horticulturists for many years and is an integral component of the ecosystem in its native habitat. Many botanical gardens and conservatories around the globe have attempted to cultivate corpse flowers for display purposes.
- **B.** The corpse flower derives its name from its odour, which is similar to that of rotting flesh. This odour is generated by the flower to attract pollinating insects such as carrion beetles and other insects. The corpse flower can reach a height of 10 feet and its inflorescence has a diameter of 3 to 4 feet. The flower consists of a central spadix surrounded by a spathe, which resembles a lacy skirt. The green exterior and purplish-red interior of the spathe contribute to the flower's remarkable appearance.
- C. The corpse flowers' inflorescences help create the illusion that the spathe is a piece of flesh. During bloom, the apex of the spadix is approximately human body temperature, which aids in the ©Scholarly 2025. All rights reserved.

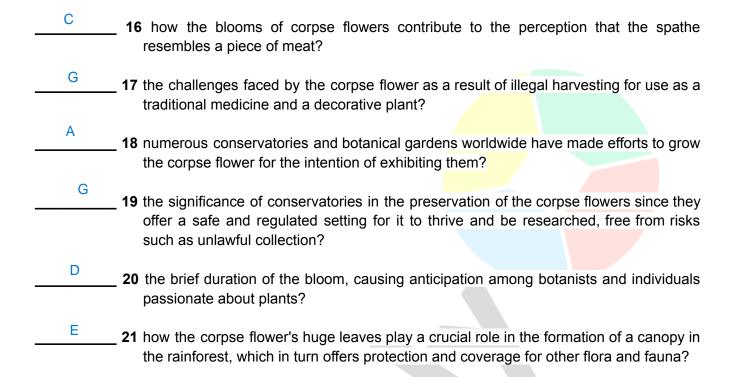
evaporation of the fragrance. Male and female blossoms coexist in a single inflorescence. The female flowers bloom first, followed by the male blossoms a day or two later. Typically, this inhibits the flower from pollinating itself. The underground corm produces a solitary leaf that grows to the size of a small tree after the flower dies. The leaf grows on a somewhat green stalk that splits into three sections with numerous leaflets at the summit. Each year, the old leaf falls off and is replaced by a new one. When the corm has accumulated sufficient energy, it goes quiescent for approximately four months. The procedure is then repeated.

- **D.** The corpse flower is an uncommon and endangered plant that grows only in the Sumatran rainforests. The plant is related to the peace lily and the philodendron, as it is a member of the Araceae family. The corpse flower is a perennial herb that takes seven to ten years to blossom. The bloom itself only lasts a few days, making it an event that botanists and plant enthusiasts anxiously anticipate.
- **E.** In its native ecosystem, the corpse flower plays an important part. The corpse flower plays an essential role as a decomposer in its native ecosystem, with its odour also attracting insects and animals that feed on dead animals. The large size of the flower also makes it a food source for elephants and orangutans, which ingest the plant's leaves and fruits. And its enormous foliage also contributes to the creation of a rainforest canopy that provides shade and shelter for other plants and animals. In traditional Sumatran medicine, the corpse flower is used to treat a variety of illnesses.
- **F.** The corpse flower has captivated the imaginations of people worldwide and become a cultural icon. The flower has appeared in films, TV programmes, and even video games. Despite its popularity, the corpse flower is actually quite difficult to cultivate, and it may take up to 7-10 years for a plant to produce its first bloom. Additionally, the flower's scientific name translates to "giant misshapen phallus," which adds another layer of intrigue to its already fascinating reputation. The corpse flower's rarity and distinctive qualities have made it a symbol of beauty and resilience.
- **G.** In recent years, habitat loss due to deforestation, as well as illicit harvesting for use in traditional medicine and as an ornamental plant, have posed threats to the corpse flower. Efforts are being made to protect the plant and its habitat, and a number of botanical gardens have joined the effort to preserve this uncommon and distinctive plant. For instance, conservation organisations are working to preserve and restore the rainforests where the plant grows, and laws have been enacted to regulate the plant's harvesting and trade. Botanical gardens and conservatories also play a crucial role in the conservation of the corpse flower, as they can provide a secure and controlled environment in which the plant can flourish and be studied without being threatened by habitat loss or illegal harvesting. To better understand and protect the species, many botanical gardens and conservatories participate in conservation efforts, such as seed banking and plant ecology and biology research.

Answer the following questions by choosing the correct letter that matches the description. Take note that the letters can be repeated accordingly.

Which paragraph mentions...

15 how the corpse flower gets its name due to the scent it emits, which serves a purpose in the flower's reproduction?



Understanding Blockchain Technology

- **A.** Globally, blockchain technology is an innovation that has revolutionised industries. It is a sophisticated database mechanism that enables the exchange of information in a business network in a transparent manner. A blockchain database stores data in units linked together in a chain. The data is consistent in terms of chronology because the chain cannot be deleted or modified without network consensus. Consequently, using blockchain technology, you can establish an unalterable or immutable ledger for monitoring orders, payments, accounts, and other transactions. The system is designed to prevent unauthorised transaction entries and maintain consistency in the shared view of these transactions.
- **B.** One of the key advantages of blockchain technology is its decentralised nature. Blockchain networks, unlike traditional centralised systems, lack a central authority and a singular point of failure. Instead, they operate on a peer-to-peer basis, meaning that all network participants have equal access to the same data. Decentralisation in blockchain technology also implies that no single entity can control the network, thereby increasing the system's trustworthiness. Without the need for intermediaries, all participants can view and validate transactions on the network, allowing for greater transparency and accountability.
- **C.** Security is another key advantage of blockchain technology. The decentralised nature of blockchain technology increases its security by making it less susceptible to attacks and hacking attempts. With cryptographic algorithms and consensus mechanisms that assure the integrity and confidentiality of data, blockchain technology is designed to be extremely secure. In addition, the use of public and private keys in blockchain transactions provides an additional layer of security by ensuring that only authorised parties can access and verify network transactions. This makes it ideal for applications requiring confidentiality, such as financial transactions, identity administration, and supply chain management.

- **D.** Additional key benefits of blockchain technology are its ability to enhance transparency and accountability. As all transactions on the network are recorded and verified by multiple participants, blockchain technology provides a high level of transparency. And since all transactions are available for public inspection and auditing, this also facilitates greater accountability. This can increase trust between parties because there is a transparent and immutable record of all network actions. Moreover, the transparent nature of blockchain technology can aid in the prevention of errors and omissions, as network participants can readily identify and rectify any inconsistencies or discrepancies. This contributes to the reduction of fraud, corruption, and other types of misdeeds. In addition, blockchain technology also offers the benefit of immutability. Once information is recorded on a blockchain, it cannot be modified or removed. This makes blockchain ideal for applications requiring strict data integrity, such as voting systems and medical records.
- **E.** However, blockchain technology also has drawbacks. Scalability is one of the greatest obstacles confronting blockchain technology. The size of the blockchain increases as more transactions are added to the network, which can delay transaction processing times and increase storage requirements. This can make it difficult for blockchain to compete in terms of speed and efficacy with traditional centralised systems. Currently, the majority of blockchain systems can only process a limited number of transactions per second, making them unsuitable for enterprise-level applications.
- **F.** In addition, blockchain technology requires a substantial quantity of energy to operate, especially for proof-of-work (PoW) consensus algorithms. In addition, the high energy requirements of certain blockchain networks can restrict their accessibility for users with limited resources or energy access. This has prompted concerns about the environmental impact of blockchain technology, as the energy required to authenticate transactions can be substantial. The energy consumption necessary for blockchain transactions can also increase transaction fees, making network participation more costly for users. This introduces a second disadvantage of blockchain technology, its cost. While blockchain technology can reduce costs in certain applications, such as international remittances, its implementation and maintenance can be costly. Moreover, the complexity of blockchain can necessitate specialised knowledge and expertise, which can increase the total cost.
- **G.** Despite the obstacles, blockchain technology has many potential applications. Among the most promising applications of blockchain technology is finance. Without the need for intermediaries, blockchain technology can facilitate secure and transparent financial transactions, thereby reducing costs and increasing productivity. Additionally, the technology can facilitate the creation of new financial instruments, such as cryptocurrencies and smart contracts, which have the potential to transform the current financial system. Supply chain management is another potential use case for blockchain technology. Using a blockchain-based system, businesses can track the movement of goods and ensure their authenticity and quality. Additionally, the technology can facilitate increased supply chain transparency and accountability, allowing consumers to make more informed purchasing decisions.

Answer the following questions by choosing the correct letter that matches the description. Take note that the letters can be repeated accordingly.

Which paragraph mentions...

E 22 the fact that most blockchair	a systems and south boys a vesticates
capacity to handle transactions per second,	n systems presently have a restricted
applications at the enterprise level?	thereby rendering them in-suited lon
applications at the enterprise lever:	
C 23 how blockchain transactions er	mploy public and private keys to bolste
protection by guaranteeing that exclusively	
authenticate network affairs?	Carroller Charles Sair assess and
B 24 what distinguishes blockchain	networks from conventional centralised
systems one of which is the absence of a centra	
D 25 how the transparent aspect of	f blockchain technology can help deter
mistakes and exclusions, as members of the	network can quickly detect and fix any
irregularities or differences?	
C	
G 26 how the use of blockchain tech	nnology may result in lower expenses for
specific purposes, like global money transfers, b	out emphasises that the deployment and
upkeep can still incur significant costs?	
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The Aye-aye: A Unique and Enigmatic Primate

- **A.** The Aye-aye is a lemur native to Madagascar with continually growing rodent-like canines and a unique, thin middle finger. The Aye-aye has a genuinely unique appearance among primates. It possesses a slender body clothed in coarse black fur, large round ears, and a lengthy bushy tail. However, its most distinguishing characteristic is its elongated skeletal middle finger, which it uses to prod on tree bark in search of concealed insects. This uniqueness distinguishes the Aye-aye from other primates and makes it one of the most fascinating animals in the animal kingdom. The Aye-aye has captivated the attention of scientists and animal enthusiasts due to its distinct physical characteristics and intriguing behaviour.
- **B.** The lemur, Aye-aye, is the largest nocturnal primate in the world. It is distinguished by its unusual method of locating food: it taps on trees to locate grubs, then gnaws holes in the wood with its forward-sloping incisors to create a small hole, into which it inserts its thin middle finger to extract the grubs. This technique is known as percussive foraging. The only other mammal species known to obtain sustenance in this manner are the marsupial striped possum and trioks of northern Australia and

New Guinea. The Aye-aye serves the ecological niche of a woodpecker, as it is capable of penetrating wood to extract the invertebrates contained within.

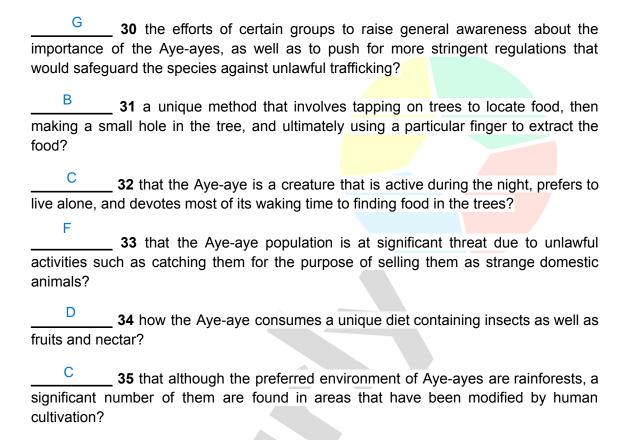
- C. The Aye-aye is primarily found in the rainforests of Madagascar, an island off the coast of Africa. Its natural habitat is a rainforest or dry deciduous forest, but many live in cultivated areas. The most prevalent rainforest Aye-ayes inhabit canopy areas and are typically spotted above 70 metres in altitude. They spend the day snoozing in nests made of interwoven twigs and decaying leaves high in the canopy among the vines and branches. The Aye-aye is a nocturnal, solitary creature that spends the majority of its waking hours searching for sustenance in the trees.
- **D.** In comparison to other primates, the Aye-aye's diet is quite unusual. It eats insects, notably wood-boring larvae and beetles. Additionally, the Aye-aye eats fruit, pollen, and nectar. It taps tree bark with its finger and listens for hollow noises that indicate the presence of insects as its specialised foraging technique. Once it locates a concealed insect, it extracts it from the foliage using its finger.
- **E.** Every two to three years, female Aye-ayes typically give birth to a single progeny. After approximately five months of gestation, the female Aye-aye gives birth to a solitary offspring, which she nurses for several months. Two nipples are located in the genital region of female Aye-ayes. The young Aye-aye then spends several years with its mother, where it learns crucial abilities for surviving in the wild.
- F. The Aye-natural aye's habitat confronts numerous threats. Loss of habitat due to deforestation and harvesting is one of the greatest threats to the species' survival. Locals in some regions view the Aye-aye as a harbinger of misfortune and a threat to agriculture, which makes the bird susceptible to persecution. In addition, illegal hunting and capture for the exotic pet trade pose substantial risks to the Aye-aye population. In 1933, it was believed that the Aye-aye was extinct, but it was rediscovered in 1957. The Aye-aye is more prevalent than previously believed, according to recent research, but its conservation status was changed to endangered in 2014. The Aye-aye is considered to be evil, the forests of Madagascar are being destroyed, and farmers will eradicate Aye-ayes in order to safeguard their crops and for poaching. However, there is no direct evidence that Aye-ayes pose a legitimate threat to agriculture; therefore, they are eradicated on the basis of superstition.
- **G.** The Aye-aye and its habitat are the focus of ongoing conservation efforts. Conservation organisations are working to educate the public on the significance of the Aye-aye and its role in the ecosystem, as well as advocating for stricter regulations to protect the species from illegal hunting and trade. Additionally, efforts are being made to promote sustainable logging practices and preserve the remaining Aye-aye habitat forests.

Answer the following questions by choosing the correct letter that matches the description. Take note that the letters can be repeated accordingly.

Which paragraph mentions...

29 the prevalent notion that the Aye-aye is malevolent, causing farmers to resort to their elimination, despite the lack of solid proof that they pose a genuine danger to farming?

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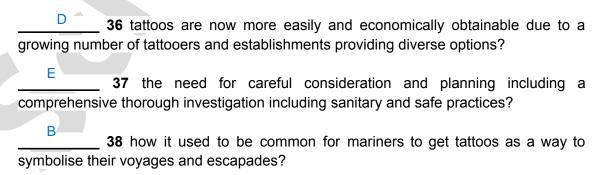
The Art of Tattoos: A Timeless Tradition

- A. Tattoos have existed among humans for centuries. Tattooing dates back thousands of years and is present in cultures all over the globe. Tattoos have played a significant role in numerous ancient cultures across the globe. Ancient Egyptians believed tattoos to have healing properties and used them to treat a variety of ailments. For many centuries, tattoos in Japan were associated with a positive connotation as symbols of valour and loyalty. In Europe, around 5000 BCE, the oldest documented tattooed human remains were discovered. In numerous cultures, tattoos served as a rite of passage, signifying adulthood or group membership.
- **B.** Tattoos have cultural significance in addition to their aesthetic value. They can represent an individual's beliefs, values, and life experiences. For instance, in the early 20th century, sailors frequently received tattoos to represent their travels and adventures. Modern tattoos can have a variety of meanings, ranging from tributes to loved ones to motivational quotes and symbols.
- **C.** Tattoos were once stigmatised and associated with criminality and deviance, despite their lengthy history. However, tattoos have become increasingly tolerated and even celebrated in mainstream culture in recent years. Several factors are responsible for this transformation in societal attitudes towards tattoos. This includes the rise of social media which has made it possible for individuals to share photos of their tattoos and connect with others who share their interest in body art. This has contributed to the development of a sense of community and acceptance surrounding tattoos.

- **D.** Another factor is the increased visibility of tattoos in popular culture, as numerous films, television programmes, and music videos now feature characters with tattoos. This has served to normalise and increase the social acceptability of tattoos. And lastly, tattoos have become more accessible and affordable, as an increasing number of tattoo artists and studios offer a variety of designs and styles. This has made it simpler for individuals to get tattoos that have personal significance and express their uniqueness. Although tattoos are now more accepted, they continue to be controversial. Visible tattoos may be deemed unprofessional or unseemly in certain professions.
- E. Some individuals may regret getting a tattoo later in life, and others may react negatively to their tattoos. This is why the process of receiving a tattoo must require meticulous thought and preparation. It is crucial to conduct research and select a reputable tattoo artist who employs safe and hygienic procedures. Additionally, the design should be carefully considered, as tattoos are permanent and attempted removals cannot always be successful.
- F. In recent years, technological advancements have enabled the creation of new forms of tattoos. Some tattoos can now be created with glow-in-the-dark ink, resulting in a striking and distinctive effect. In addition to these, UV-reactive ink, for instance, is invisible in normal light but glows vividly under black light, producing a design that is only visible under specific conditions. Furthermore, the use of augmented reality (AR) to enhance the tattoo experience is a second emerging trend in tattoo technology. Some tattoo artists are now designing tattoos that can be scanned with a smartphone app to disclose additional digital content, such as animations or 3D images, that appear to be superimposed on the tattoo.
- **G.** Temporary tattoos have also grown in prominence over the past few years. Temporary tattoo alternatives, such as henna and stick-on tattoos, enable individuals to try out various designs before committing to a permanent tattoo. Henna tattoos, which are created using a plant-based dye, have been utilised for centuries in traditional Indian and Middle Eastern cultures, but have become increasingly popular in Western countries as an impermanent tattoo option. Stick-on tattoos, also known as temporary transfer tattoos, have become more advanced in recent years, with designs that can last several days and appear extremely realistic.

Answer the following questions by choosing the correct letter that matches the description. Take note that the letters can be repeated accordingly.

Which paragraph mentions...



A 39 the notion that tattoos were believed by certain ancient people to possess medicinal qualities and were utilised to remedy various medical conditions
40 the growing prevalence of tattoos in mainstream media where a number of movies and the like portray characters with tattoos?
41 how the progress in technology led to the development of innovative tattoo designs, including those that can be used with certain devices to unveil supplementary digital features?
C 42 how internet platforms allowed people to convey photographs of their tattoos and associate with others who share similar interests?