

Verbal CAT 2025 Slot 1 Questions



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Section : VARC**Comprehension:**

The passage below is accompanied by four questions. Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.

How can we know what someone else is thinking or feeling, let alone prove it in court? In his 1863 book, *A General View of the Criminal Law of England*, James Fitzjames Stephen, among the most celebrated legal thinkers of his generation, was of the opinion that the assessment of a person's mental state was an inference made with "little consciousness." In a criminal case, jurors, doctors, and lawyers could watch defendants—scrutinizing clothing, mannerisms, tone of voice—but the best they could hope for were clues. . . . Rounding these clues up to a judgment about a defendant's guilt, or a defendant's life, was an act of empathy and imagination. . . . The closer the resemblance between defendants and their judges, the easier it was to overlook the gap that inference filled. Conversely, when a defendant struck officials as unlike themselves, whether by dint of disease, gender, confession, or race, the precariousness of judgments about mental state was exposed.

In the nineteenth century, physicians who specialized in the study of madness and the care of the insane held themselves out as experts in the new field of mental science. Often called alienists or mad doctors, they were the predecessors of modern psychiatrists, neurologists, and psychologists. . . . The opinions of family and neighbors had once been sufficient to sift the sane from the insane, but a growing belief that insanity was a subtle condition that required expert, medical diagnosis pushed physicians into the witness box. . . . Lawyers for both prosecution and defense began to recruit alienists to assess defendants' sanity and to testify to it in court.

Irresponsibility and insanity were not identical, however. Criminal responsibility was a legal concept and not, fundamentally, a medical one. Stephen explained: "The question 'What are the mental elements of responsibility?' is, and must be, a legal question. It cannot be anything else, for the meaning of responsibility is liability to punishment." . . . Nonetheless, medical and legal accounts of what it meant to be mentally sound became entangled and mutually referential throughout the nineteenth century. Lawyers relied on medical knowledge to inform their opinions and arguments about the sanity of their clients. Doctors commented on the legal responsibility of their patients. Ultimately, the fields of criminal law and mental science were both invested in constructing an image of the broken and damaged psyche that could be contrasted with the whole and healthy one. This shared interest, and the shared space of the criminal courtroom, made it nearly impossible to consider responsibility without medicine, or insanity without law. . . .

Physicians and lawyers shared more than just concern for the mind. Class, race, and gender bound these middle-class, white, professional men together, as did family ties, patriotism, Protestantism, business ventures, the alumni networks of elite schools and universities, and structures of political patronage. But for all their affinities, men of medicine and law were divided by contests over the borders of criminal responsibility, as much within each profession as between them. Alienists steadily pushed the boundaries of their field, developing increasingly complex and capacious definitions of insanity. Eccentricity and aggression came to be classified as symptoms of mental disease, at least by some.

Q.1 MEDIUM

Study the following sets of concepts and identify the set that is conceptually closest to the concerns and arguments of the passage.

1. Judgement, Insanity, Punishment, Responsibility.
2. Empathy, Prosecution, Knowledge, Business.

3. Assessment, Empathy, Prosecution, Patriotism.
4. Judgement, Belief, Accounts, Patronage.

Q.2 MEDIUM

“Conversely, when a defendant struck officials as unlike themselves, whether by dint of disease, gender, confession, or race, the precariousness of judgments about mental state was exposed.” Which one of the following best describes the use of the word “confession” in this sentence?

1. Referring to the practice of ‘confession’ in some faiths, here it is a metaphor for the religion of the defendant.
2. Referring to the defendant’s confession of his or her crime as false, because ‘dint’ is an archaic form of ‘didn’t’ or ‘did not’.
3. The defendants struck out at the officials and then confessed to the act.
4. Referring to the gender, race or disease claimed as a defence by the defendant, here it is a synonym for ‘professing’ a gender, race, or disease.

Q.3 MEDIUM

The last paragraph of the passage refers to “middle-class, white, professional men”. Which one of the following qualities best describes the connection among them?

1. The opinions of family and neighbours.
2. Eccentricity and aggression.
3. Empathy and imagination.
4. The borders of criminal responsibility.

Q.4 EASY

According to the passage, who or what was an “alienist”?

1. Physicians and lawyers who were responsible for the condition of immigrants or ‘aliens’ in the nineteenth century.
2. Physicians who specialised in the study of madness and the care of the insane in the nineteenth century.
3. Professionals who pushed the boundaries of their fields till they became unrecognisable in the nineteenth century.
4. Physicians and lawyers who were responsible for examining accounts of extraterrestrials or ‘aliens’ in the nineteenth century.

Q.5 MEDIUM

Five jumbled sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5), related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence out and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.

1. The Bayeux tapestry was, therefore, an obvious way to tell people about the downfall of the English and the rise of the Normans.
2. So if we take expert in Anglo-Saxon culture Gale Owen-Crocker’s idea that the tapestry was originally hung in a square with certain scenes facing each other, people would have stood in the centre.
3. Art historian Linda Neagley has argued that pre-Renaissance people interacted with art visually, kinaesthetically (sensory perception through bodily movement) and physically.
4. That would make it an 11th-century immersive space with scenes corresponding and echoing each other, drawing the viewer’s attention, playing on their senses and understanding of the story they thought they knew.
5. The Bayeux tapestry would have been hung at eye level to enable this.

Comprehension:

The passage below is accompanied by four questions. Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.

Studies showing that income inequality plays a positive role in economic growth are largely based on three arguments. The first argument focuses on investment indivisibilities wherein large sunk costs are required when implementing new fundamental innovations. Without stock markets and financial institutions to mobilize large sums of money, a high concentration of wealth is needed for individuals to undertake new industrial activities accompanied by high sunk costs . . . [One study] shows the relation between economic growth and income inequality for 45 countries during 1966–1995. [It was found] that the increase in income inequality has a significant positive relationship with economic growth in the short and medium term. Using system GMM, [another study estimated] the relation between income inequality and economic growth for 106 countries during 1965–2005 period. The results show that income inequality has a positive impact on economic growth in the short run, but the two are negatively correlated in the long run. The second argument is related to moral hazard and incentives . . . Because economic performance is determined by the unobservable level of effort that agents make, paying compensations without taking into account the economic performance achieved by individual agents will fail to elicit optimum effort from the agents. Thus, certain income inequalities contribute to growth by enhancing worker motivation . . . and by giving motivation to innovators and entrepreneurs . . . Finally, [another study] point[s] out that the concentration of wealth or stock ownership in relation to corporate governance contributes to growth. If stock ownership is distributed and owned by a large number of shareholders, it is not easy to make quick decisions due to the conflicting interests among shareholders, and this may also cause a free-rider problem in terms of monitoring and supervising managers and workers. . . .

Various studies have examined the relationships between income inequality and economic growth, and most of these assert that a negative correlation exists between the two. . . . Analyzing 159 countries for 1980–2012, they conclude that there exists a negative relation between income inequality and economic growth; when the income share of the richest 20% of population increases by 1%, the GDP decreases by 0.08%, whereas when the income share of the poorest 20% of population increases by 1%, the GDP increases by 0.38%. Some studies find that inequality has a negative impact on growth due to poor human capital accumulation and low fertility rates . . . while [others] point out that inequality creates political instability, resulting in lower investment. . . . [Some economists] argue that widening income inequality has a negative impact on economic growth because it negatively affects social consensus or social capital formation. One important research topic is the correlation between democratization and income redistribution. [Some scholars] explain that social pressure for income redistribution rises as income inequality increases in a democratic society. In other words, when democratization extends suffrage to a wider class of people, the increased political power of low- and middle-income voters results in broader support for income redistribution and social welfare expansion. However . . . if the rich have more political influence than the poor, the democratic system actually worsens income inequality rather than improving it.

Q.6 MEDIUM

The passage refers to "democratization". Choose the one option below that comes closest to the opposite of this process.

1. The coalition imposed term limits and strengthened judicial review in order to further entrench autocratic rule.

2. After the emergency decree, the regime shifted toward authoritarianism as suffrage narrowed and opposition parties were deregistered.
3. Municipalities adopted participatory budgeting and recall elections which a press release called totalitarianism.
4. Corporate donations were capped and parties received public funding which was portrayed as establishing an oligarchy.

Q.7 EASY

According to the incentive or moral hazard argument, which one of the designs below is most consistent with the claim that some inequality can raise growth?

1. Pay rewards on verifiable performance for highly productive workers.
2. A regime that concentrates stock ownership in relation to corporate governance.
3. Wages are determined by tenure rather than output to ensure equity.
4. Rents protected by market power that enlarge top incomes without linking pay to results.

Q.8 MEDIUM

Which one of the options below best summarises the passage?

1. The passage argues that income inequality accelerates economic growth while also emphasising the significance of concerns regarding human capital accumulation, fertility rates, and political instability.
2. The passage outlines investment, incentive, and governance channels through which income inequality may support economic growth and reports short-term gains while noting long-term drawbacks.
3. The passage claims that evaluating the effect of income inequality on economic growth without considering both short- and long-term consequences is misguided.
4. The passage confines its discussion to financing gaps and corporate control while undercutting cross country evidence and overlooking the significance of concerns regarding human capital accumulation, fertility rates, and income redistribution under democratisation.

Q.9 MEDIUM

The primary function of the three-part case for a positive income inequality–economic growth link in the first half of the passage is to show that:

1. inequality boosts growth in every period and type of economy, regardless of finance or governance conditions.
2. dispersed ownership speeds corporate decision-making and removes free rider problems.
3. mature stock markets make wealth concentration unnecessary, yet they might still be harmful to investment.
4. inequality can aid short-term growth in settings with high sunk costs, incentive alignment, and concentrated ownership.

Q.10 MEDIUM

Five jumbled sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5), related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence out and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.

1. Developments both technological and sociocultural have afforded us far greater freedom over death than we had in the past, and while we are still adapting ourselves to that freedom, we now appreciate the moral importance of this freedom.
2. But I believe that a type of freedom we can call freedom over death – that is, a freedom in which we shape the timing and circumstances of how we die – should be central to this conversation.
3. Legalising assisted dying is but a further step in realising this freedom over death.

4. Many people endorse, through their opinions or their choices, our freedom over death encompassing a right to medical assistance in hastening our deaths.
5. Freedom is a notoriously complex and contested philosophical notion, and I won't pretend to settle any of the big controversies it raises.

Q.11 EASY

The given sentence is missing in the paragraph below. Decide where it best fits among the options 1, 2, 3, or 4 indicated in the paragraph.

Sentence: "Everything is old-world, traditional techniques from Mexico," Ava emphasizes.

Paragraph: The sisters embrace the ways their great-grandfather built and repaired instruments. ____ (1) _____. When crafting a Mexican guitarrón used in mariachi music, they use tacote wood for the top of the instrument. Once the wood is cut, they carve the neck and heel from a single block using tools like hand saws, chisels and sandpaper rather than modern power tools — and believe that this traditional method improves the tone of the instrument. ____ (2) _____. Their store has a three-year waitlist for instruments that take months to create. ____ (3) _____. The family's artisanship has attracted stars like Los Lobos, who own custom guitars made by all three generations of the Delgado family. ____ (4) _____. For the sisters, involvement in the family business started at an early age. They each built their first instruments at age 9.

1. Option 3
2. Option 2
3. Option 4
4. Option 1

Q.12 MEDIUM

The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4) given below, when properly sequenced, would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer.

1. But man, woman or otherwise, there is no denying that the quality of our life and character will be significantly shaped by the way we handle our anger.
2. Once the taboos have been broken, women usually experience letting their fists fly as intensely liberating.
3. Though this might seem a stereotype, women—unlike men, who are frequently applauded for unbridled aggression—are often socialized to keep a lid on their ire.
4. Many of them are so at odds with their aggressive feelings that, as a coach, I often have to stop them from pulling their punches and encourage them to extend their arms so their blows might actually reach their fleshy target.

Q.13 HARD

The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4) given below, when properly sequenced, would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer.

1. It can in fact be integrated into any function (education, medical treatment, production, punishment); it can increase the effect of this function, by being linked closely with it; it can constitute a mixed mechanism in which relations of power (and of knowledge) may be precisely adjusted, in the smallest detail, to the processes that are to be supervised; it can establish a direct proportion between 'surplus power' and 'surplus production'.

2. It's a case of 'it's easy once you've thought of it' in the political sphere.
3. The panoptic mechanism is not simply a hinge, a point of exchange between a mechanism of power and a function; it is a way of making power relations function in a function, and of making a function function through these power relations.
4. In short, it arranges things in such a way that the exercise of power is not added on from the outside, like a rigid, heavy constraint, to the functions it invests, but is so subtly present in them as to increase their efficiency by itself increasing its own points of contact.

Q.14 HARD

The given sentence is missing in the paragraph below. Decide where it best fits among the options 1, 2, 3, or 4 indicated in the paragraph.

Sentence: Historically, silver has been, and still is, an important element in the business of 'show' visible in private houses, churches, government and diplomacy.

Paragraph: ____ (1) ____ . Timothy Schroder put it succinctly in suggesting that electric light and eating in the kitchen eroded this need. As he explained to the author, 'Silver, when illuminated by flickering candlelight, comes alive and almost dances before the eyes, but when lit by electric light it becomes flat and dead.' ____ (2) ____ . Domestic and economic changes may have worked against the market, but the London silver trade remained buoyant, thanks to the competition of collectors seeking grand display silver at the top end, and the buyers of 'collectables', like spoons and wine labels and 'novelties', at the bottom. ____ (3) ____ . Another factor that came into play was the systematic collection building of certain American museums over the period. Boston, Huntington Art Gallery and Williamsburg, among others, were largely supplied by London dealers. ____ (4) ____ .

1. Option 3
2. Option 1
3. Option 4
4. Option 2

Comprehension:

The passage below is accompanied by four questions. Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.

Often the well intentioned music lover or the traditionally-minded professional composer asks two basic questions when faced with the electronic music phenomena: (1) . . . is this type of artistic creation music at all? and, (2) given that the product is accepted as music of a new type or order, is not such music "inhuman"? . . . As Lejaren Hiller points out in his book *Experimental Music* (co-author Leonard M. Isaacson), two questions which often arise when music is discussed are: (a) the substance of musical communication and its symbolic and semantic significance, if any, and (b) the particular processes, both mental and technical, which are involved in creating and responding to musical composition. The ever-present popular concept of music as a direct, open, emotional expression and as a subjective form of communication from the composer, is, of course still that of the nineteenth century, when composers themselves spoke of music in those terms . . . But since the third decade of our century many composers have preferred more objective definitions of music, epitomized in Stravinsky's description of it as "a form of speculation in terms of sound and time". An acceptance of this more characteristic twentieth-century view of the art of musical composition will of course immediately bring the layman closer to an understanding of, and sympathetic response to, electronic music, even if the forms, sounds and approaches it uses will still be of a foreign nature to him.

A communication problem however will still remain. The principal barrier that electronic music presents at large, in relation to the communication process, is that composers in this medium are employing a new language of forms . . . where terms like ‘densities’, ‘indefinite pitch relations’, ‘dynamic serialization’, ‘permutation’, etc., are substitutes (or remote equivalents) for the traditional concepts of harmony, melody, rhythm, etc. . . . When the new structural procedures of electronic music are at last fully understood by the listener the barriers between him and the work he faces will be removed. . . .

The medium of electronic music has of course tempted many kinds of composers to try their hand at it . . . But the serious-minded composer approaches the world of electronic music with a more sophisticated and profound concept of creation. Although he knows that he can reproduce and employ melodic, rhythmic patterns and timbres of a traditional nature, he feels that it is in the exploration of sui generis languages and forms that the aesthetic magic of the new medium lies. And, conscientiously, he plunges into this search.

The second objection usually levelled against electronic music is much more innocent in nature. When people speak—sometimes very vehemently—of the ‘inhuman’ quality of this music they seem to forget that the composer is the one who fires the machines, collects the sounds, manipulates them, pushes the buttons, programs the computer, filters the sounds, establishes pitches and scales, splices tape, thinks of forms, and rounds up the over-all structure of the piece, as well as every detail of it.

Q.15 EASY

The goal of the author over the course of this passage is to:

1. defend the “serious-minded composer” from Lejaren Hill and Stravinsky.
2. differentiate the modern composer from the nineteenth century composer.
3. differentiate between electronic music and other forms of music.
4. defend electronic music from certain common charges.

Q.16 MEDIUM

The mention of Stravinsky’s description of music in the first paragraph does all the following EXCEPT:

1. allow us to classify electronic music as music.
2. complicate our notion of what is communicated through music.
3. help us determine which sounds are musical and which are not.
4. respond to and expand upon earlier understandings of music.

Q.17 MEDIUM

From the context in which it is placed, the phrase “sui generis” in paragraph 3 suggests which one of the following?

1. Indescribable
2. Particular
3. Generic
4. Unaesthetic

Q.18 EASY

What relation does the “communication problem” mentioned in paragraph 2 have to the questions that the author recounts at the beginning of the passage?

1. Unfamiliar forms and terms might get in the way of our seeing electronic music as music, but this can be overcome.
2. The communication problem is what allows us to see electronic music as music because music must be difficult to understand.

3. Its unfamiliar “language of forms” and novel terms mean that we cannot see electronic music as music since it does not employ traditional musical concepts.
4. None; they are unrelated to one another and form parts of different discussions.

Comprehension:

The passage below is accompanied by four questions. Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.

Understanding the key properties of complex systems can help us clarify and deal with many new and existing global challenges, from pandemics to poverty . . . A recent study in Nature Physics found transitions to orderly states such as schooling in fish (all fish swimming in the same direction), can be caused, paradoxically, by randomness, or ‘noise’ feeding back on itself. That is, a misalignment among the fish causes further misalignment, eventually inducing a transition to schooling. Most of us wouldn’t guess that noise can produce predictable behaviour. The result invites us to consider how technology such as contact-tracing apps, although informing us locally, might negatively impact our collective movement. If each of us changes our behaviour to avoid the infected, we might generate a collective pattern we had aimed to avoid: higher levels of interaction between the infected and susceptible, or high levels of interaction among the asymptomatic.

Complex systems also suffer from a special vulnerability to events that don’t follow a normal distribution or ‘bell curve’. When events are distributed normally, most outcomes are familiar and don’t seem particularly striking. Height is a good example: it’s pretty unusual for a man to be over 7 feet tall; most adults are between 5 and 6 feet, and there is no known person over 9 feet tall. But in collective settings where contagion shapes behaviour – a run on the banks, a scramble to buy toilet paper – the probability distributions for possible events are often heavy-tailed. There is a much higher probability of extreme events, such as a stock market crash or a massive surge in infections. These events are still unlikely, but they occur more frequently and are larger than would be expected under normal distributions.

What’s more, once a rare but hugely significant ‘tail’ event takes place, this raises the probability of further tail events. We might call them second-order tail events; they include stock market gyrations after a big fall and earthquake aftershocks. The initial probability of second-order tail events is so tiny it’s almost impossible to calculate – but once a first-order tail event occurs, the rules change, and the probability of a second-order tail event increases.

The dynamics of tail events are complicated by the fact that they result from cascades of other unlikely events. When COVID-19 first struck, the stock market suffered stunning losses followed by an equally stunning recovery. Some of these dynamics are potentially attributable to former sports bettors, with no sports to bet on, entering the market as speculators rather than investors. The arrival of these new players might have increased inefficiencies and allowed savvy long-term investors to gain an edge over bettors with different goals. . . .

One reason a first-order tail event can induce further tail events is that it changes the perceived costs of our actions and changes the rules that we play by. This game-change is an example of another key complex systems concept: nonstationarity. A second, canonical example of nonstationarity is adaptation, as illustrated by the arms race involved in the coevolution of hosts and parasites [in which] each has to ‘run’ faster, just to keep up with the novel solutions the other one presents as they battle it out in evolutionary time.

Q.19 MEDIUM

Which one of the options below best summarises the passage?

1. The passage explains how speculative entrants always produce inefficiency after health shocks. Therefore, long-term investors invariably profit when new participants push prices away from fundamentals under pandemic conditions and comparable crises.
2. The passage explains how noise can create order, then shows why complex systems with contagion are vulnerable to heavy-tailed cascades. It also explains why early shocks change rules through nonstationarity with a market illustration during the COVID-19 disruption.
3. The passage explains how social outcomes generally follow normal distributions. So, extreme events are negligible, and policy should stabilise averages rather than learn from large shocks in fast-changing collective settings.
4. The passage explains how nonstationarity works in evolutionary biology and rejects applications in markets or public health because adaptation is exclusive to parasite-host systems and cannot arise in technology-mediated social dynamics.

Q.20 MEDIUM

The passage suggests that contact tracing apps could inadvertently raise risky interactions by altering local behaviour. Which one of the assumptions below is most necessary for that suggestion to hold?

1. Urban networks have uniform traffic conditions at all hours, which allows perfectly predictable routing independent of personal choices, social signals, or crowd reactions and, therefore, makes interdependence negligible in city movement decisions.
2. Most users uninstall apps within a week, which leaves only highly exposed individuals participating. This neutralises any systematic bias in routing decisions and prevents any predictable change in aggregate contact patterns.
3. Individuals base movement choices partly on observed infections and on the behaviour of others. So, local responses interact, which turns many small adjustments into large scale patterns that can frustrate the intended aim of risk reduction.
4. App alerts always include precise location to within one metre and deliver real time updates for all users, which ensures that the data feed is perfectly accurate regardless of privacy settings, power limits, or network conditions.

Q.21 HARD

Which one of the following observations would most strengthen the passage's claim that a first-order tail event raises the probability of further tail events in complex systems?

1. River discharge records show water levels fit a normal distribution with thin tails that match laboratory data, regardless of storms or floods.
2. Following large earthquakes, regional seismic activity returns to baseline within hours with no aftershock sequence once data are adjusted for reporting effects, which suggests independence across events rather than any elevation in subsequent tail probabilities.
3. In epidemic networks, initial super-spreading episodes are isolated spikes after which outbreak sizes match the baseline distribution from independent contact models across comparable cities with no rise in the frequency or size of later extreme clusters.
4. After a major equity crash, researchers find dense clusters of large daily moves for several weeks, with extreme days occurring far more often than in normal circumstances for assets with customarily low volatility profiles.

Q.22

All of the following inferences are supported by the passage EXCEPT that:

1. heavy-tailed events make extreme outcomes more frequent and larger than bell curve expectations. This complicates forecasting and risk management in collective settings shaped by contagion and copying behaviour.
2. the text attributes the COVID-19 pandemic rebound in financial markets solely to displaced sports bettors and treats their entry as the overriding cause of the rapid recovery across assets and time horizons.
3. learning can change the rules that actors face. So, a rare shock can alter payoffs and raise the odds of subsequent large disturbances within the same system, which supports the idea of second-order tail events.
4. examples like runs on banks and toilet paper scrambles illustrate how contagion can amplify local choices into system-wide cascades that surprise participants and lead to patterns they did not intend to create.

Q.23 MEDIUM

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

Zombie cells may contribute to age-related chronic inflammation: this finding could help scientists understand more about the aging process and why the immune system becomes less effective as we get older. Zombie or “senescent” cells are damaged cells that can no longer divide and grow like normal cells. Scientists think that these cells can contribute to chronic health problems when they accumulate in the body. In younger people, the immune system is more effective at clearing senescent cells from the body through a process called apoptosis, but as we age this process becomes less efficient. As a result, there is an accumulation of senescent cells in different organs in the body, either through increased production or reduced clearance by the immune system. The zombie cells continue to use energy though they do not divide, and often secrete chemicals that cause inflammation, which if persistent for longer periods of time can damage healthy cells leading to chronic diseases.

1. Dead cells accelerate chronic inflammation weakening the immune system and lead to aging.
2. Aging leads to less effective apoptosis, and therefore zombie cells start to accumulate in the body, causing inflammation, which accelerates aging and leads to chronic diseases.
3. A younger person’s immune system is healthy and is able to clear the damaged cells, but as people age, the zombie cells resist apoptosis, and start accumulating in the body.
4. Senescent “zombie” cells are inactive or malfunctioning cells that can be found throughout the body.

Q.24 MEDIUM

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

In the dynamic realm of creativity, artists often find themselves at the crossroads between drawing inspiration from diverse cultures and inadvertently crossing into the territory of cultural appropriation. Inspiration is the lifeblood of creativity, driving artists to create works that resonate across borders. The globalized nature of the modern world invites artists to draw from a vast array of cultural influences. When approached respectfully, inspiration becomes a bridge, fostering understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. However, the line between inspiration and cultural appropriation can be thin and easily blurred. Cultural appropriation occurs when elements from a particular culture are borrowed without proper understanding, respect, or acknowledgment. This leads to the commodification of sacred symbols, the reinforcement of stereotypes, and the erasure of the cultural context from which these elements originated. It’s essential to recognize that the impact of cultural appropriation extends beyond the realm of artistic expression, influencing societal perceptions and perpetuating power imbalances.

1. Artists must navigate the thin line between inspiration and cultural appropriation, where respectful inspiration fosters cultural understanding whereas appropriation involves borrowing without acknowledgement leading to commodification and reinforcement of stereotypes.
2. In a globalised world, artists must draw from diverse cultural influences to create works that appeal to all, and this results in instances of both inspiration and cultural appropriation.
3. In today's world of creativity, artists have to decide between respectfully acknowledging works that are inspired by diverse cultures and appropriating elements without respect for their contexts.
4. Artists in a globalised world must navigate between drawing inspiration from diverse cultures respectfully and cultural appropriation that involves borrowing without proper acknowledgement which has broader societal impacts including perpetuating power imbalances.

Answers Verbal Ability

Q1

Option 1. Judgement, Insanity, Punishment, Responsibility.

Rationale:

The passage primarily explores the intersection of legal and medical frameworks in the 19th century.

- Judgement: The text discusses the difficulty of making a "judgment about a defendant's guilt" or mental state (Paragraph 1).
- Insanity: The rise of "alienists" and the definition of mental disease/insanity is a central theme (Paragraphs 2 and 4).
- Responsibility & Punishment: Paragraph 3 explicitly links these two concepts, stating, "The question 'What are the mental elements of responsibility?'... must be a legal question... for the meaning of responsibility is liability to punishment."

Why the other options are incorrect:

- Option 2 and 3: While words like "Business" and "Patriotism" appear in the text, they are minor details mentioned in the final paragraph only to illustrate the social bonds between doctors and lawyers. They are not central to the main arguments of the passage.
- Option 4: Similar to the above, "Patronage" is a peripheral detail regarding social structures, not a core concept of the text's argument regarding law and mental health.

Q2

Answer 1: Referring to the practice of 'confession' in some faiths, here it is a metaphor for the religion of the defendant.

Rationale:

In the context of the nineteenth century and the list provided in the sentence (disease, gender, confession, or race), the word confession refers to religious affiliation or denomination. The passage later mentions that the officials were bound together by ties such as Protestantism. Therefore, a defendant of a different faith or confession would strike the officials as unlike themselves. The term confession is historically used to describe a specific religious group or sect.

Option 2 is incorrect because dint is a standard phrase meaning by means of or due to, not a contraction for did not. Option 3 is incorrect because the phrase struck officials as refers to the impression the defendant made on them, not physical violence. Option 4 is incorrect because confession is used here as a noun denoting a category of identity (religion), similar to race or gender, rather than the act of claiming those attributes.

Q3.

Correct Option: 3. Empathy and imagination.

Rationale: The first paragraph states that forming a judgment about a defendant's mental state was "an act of empathy and imagination." It further notes that this inference was easier when there was a "resemblance" between the judges and the defendants. The final paragraph describes the physicians and lawyers as

"middle-class, white, professional men" bound by shared class, race, and background. This shared identity (the connection) is what creates the "resemblance" mentioned in the first paragraph, thereby facilitating the "empathy and imagination" needed to make judgments. By elimination, this is the only option that describes a quality linked to their shared perspective/affinity, whereas the other options describe points of conflict or external factors.

Wrong Options: Option 1 (The opinions of family and neighbours) is incorrect because the passage mentions this as a historical method of identifying insanity that the experts were moving away from, not a connection between the experts themselves. Option 2 (Eccentricity and aggression) is incorrect because the text identifies these as behaviors classified as symptoms of mental disease, not as the bond between the professionals. Option 4 (The borders of criminal responsibility) is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that the professionals were "divided by contests over the borders of criminal responsibility," making it a point of separation rather than connection.

Q4.

Correct Option: 2. Physicians who specialised in the study of madness and the care of the insane in the nineteenth century.

Rationale: The second paragraph explicitly identifies the group defined as alienists. It states: In the nineteenth century, physicians who specialized in the study of madness and the care of the insane held themselves out as experts in the new field of mental science. Often called alienists or mad doctors, they were the predecessors of modern psychiatrists. This directly matches the definition in Option 2.

Wrong Options: Option 1 and Option 4 are incorrect because they rely on alternative definitions of the word alien (immigrants or extraterrestrials) which are unrelated to the context of 19th-century mental science described in the passage. Option 3 is incorrect because, while the passage mentions in the final paragraph that alienists pushed the boundaries of their field, this is a description of their professional evolution, not the definition of the role itself.

Q5.

Correct Option: 1

Rationale: The coherent paragraph focuses on the physical and sensory experience of viewing the Bayeux Tapestry, specifically how its display facilitated an immersive interaction for the viewer.

Sentence 3 introduces the core theme: Art historian Linda Neagley's theory that pre-Renaissance people interacted with art visually, kinaesthetically... and physically. Sentence 5 connects directly to this interaction: The tapestry would have been hung at eye level to enable this (referring to the physical interaction mentioned in 3). Sentence 2 expands on the physical arrangement (hung in a square) and the viewer's position (stood in the centre). Sentence 4 concludes the thought: This arrangement (That) would make it an immersive space that played on the viewer's senses.

Sentence 1 is the odd one out because it shifts the focus from the method of display/viewer experience to the narrative content and political purpose of the tapestry (telling the story of the English downfall and Norman rise). While related to the tapestry, it does not fit the specific argument about sensory immersion constructed by the other four sentences.

Difficulty: Medium

Q6.

Correct Option: 2

Rationale:

The passage explicitly defines "democratization" as a process that "extends suffrage to a wider class of people," thereby increasing the political power of low- and middle-income voters. The opposite of this process would involve reducing the number of people who can vote (narrowing suffrage) and concentrating power rather than distributing it.

Option 2 describes a scenario where "suffrage narrowed" and the regime shifted toward "authoritarianism." This directly contradicts the passage's description of democratization (extending suffrage and empowering the broader population). Therefore, it represents the closest conceptual opposite.

Wrong Options:

Option 1 is incorrect because imposing term limits and strengthening judicial review are typically mechanisms used to prevent autocracy, not entrench it. While the sentence claims the goal is autocratic, the actions described are generally democratic checks and balances, making the scenario logically inconsistent as a clear opposite to democratization.

Option 3 is incorrect because participatory budgeting and recall elections are examples of direct democracy (increasing people's power). Even though the sentence says they were called "totalitarianism," the actual process described is an increase in democratization, not its opposite.

Option 4 is incorrect because capping corporate donations and providing public funding are measures usually taken to reduce the influence of wealth in politics, which aligns with democratic principles of fairness. The label "oligarchy" is applied in the sentence, but the action itself promotes democratic equality, so it is not the opposite of the process described in the text.

Difficulty: Medium

Q7.

Correct Option: 1

Rationale:

The question specifically asks about the "incentive or moral hazard argument" found in the middle of the first paragraph. The passage states that because effort is often unobservable, "paying compensations without taking into account the economic performance achieved by individual agents will fail to elicit optimum effort." Therefore, inequality contributes to growth when it is a result of rewarding effort and motivation. Option 1, which proposes paying rewards based on verifiable performance, directly aligns with this logic: it creates inequality based on productivity, thereby incentivizing agents to work harder and driving growth.

Wrong Options:

Option 2 refers to the third argument mentioned in the passage regarding "corporate governance" and the "free-rider problem," not the moral hazard/incentive argument.

Option 3 advocates for equity and tenure over output, which is the exact opposite of the incentive argument. The passage argues that ignoring performance leads to suboptimal effort.

Option 4 describes inequality resulting from "rents" and "market power" without linking pay to results. The incentive argument explicitly relies on the link between compensation and performance/effort; unearned income does not provide the motivation described in the text.

Difficulty: Easy

Q8.

Correct Option: 2

Rationale:

The passage is structured around explaining the relationship between income inequality and economic growth. The first paragraph explicitly details three specific arguments (channels) why inequality might support growth: 1) Investment indivisibilities (financing), 2) Moral hazard/incentives, and 3) Corporate governance. It also cites a study noting positive impacts in the short run but negative correlations in the long run. The second paragraph expands on the negative correlations and drawbacks (human capital, political instability). Option 2 accurately captures this structure by listing the three specific channels ("investment, incentive, and governance") and summarizing the empirical findings ("short-term gains while noting long-term drawbacks").

Wrong Options:

Option 1 is incorrect because it claims the passage "argues that income inequality accelerates economic growth." The passage does not take this stance; it objectively reports on studies that make this claim while also reporting on studies that assert the opposite (negative correlation).

Option 3 is incorrect because it frames the summary as a prescriptive lesson ("evaluating... is misguided") rather than a descriptive summary of the text's content.

Option 4 is incorrect because it states the passage "overlooking the significance of concerns regarding human capital accumulation." The second paragraph explicitly discusses human capital accumulation, making this option factually false.

Difficulty: Medium

Q9.

Correct Option: 4

Rationale:

The first half of the passage presents three specific arguments to explain why income inequality might positively affect economic growth:

1. High Sunk Costs: Inequality helps mobilize funds for large sunk costs when financial markets are absent.
2. Incentive Alignment: Inequality solves moral hazard issues by aligning incentives and rewarding effort.
3. Concentrated Ownership: Concentrated wealth aids corporate governance by facilitating quick decisions, whereas dispersed ownership slows this down.

Additionally, the studies cited in this section specifically highlight that this positive relationship is observed in the short and medium term or short run, contrasting it with the long run. Option 4 accurately synthesizes these three specific mechanisms and the temporal context provided in the text.

Wrong Options:

Option 1 is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that inequality and growth are negatively correlated in the long run, contradicting the claim that it boosts growth in every period.

Option 2 is incorrect because it states the exact opposite of the passage. The text argues that distributed ownership makes it difficult to make quick decisions and causes free-rider problems.

Option 3 is incorrect because it misrepresents the argument. The primary function of the section is not to critique stock markets, but to explain why inequality is useful in specific contexts.

Difficulty: Medium

Q10.

Correct Option: 1

Rationale:

The coherent paragraph constructs a philosophical argument advocating for the legalization of assisted dying based on the concept of "freedom over death."

- Sentence 5 introduces the broad context: "Freedom" is a complex and contested philosophical notion.
- Sentence 2 narrows the focus: Despite this complexity, the author argues that a specific type of freedom—"freedom over death" (shaping the timing and circumstances of death)—should be central to the conversation.
- Sentence 4 connects this concept to the specific issue: It states that many people view this freedom as encompassing a "right to medical assistance in hastening our deaths."
- Sentence 3 concludes the argument: Therefore, "Legalising assisted dying" is a logical step in realizing this freedom.

Sentence 1 is the odd one out. While it mentions "freedom over death," it focuses on the historical and sociological causes of this freedom (technological and sociocultural developments) and humanity's adaptation to it. This provides background context but breaks the specific argumentative chain (General Philosophy \rightarrow Definition \rightarrow Specific Application \rightarrow Conclusion) formed by the other four sentences.

Difficulty: Medium

(Requires distinguishing between a sociological observation [Sentence 1] and a cohesive philosophical argument [Sentences 5, 2, 4, 3].)

Q11.

Correct Option: 4

Rationale:

The inserted sentence, "Everything is old-world, traditional techniques from Mexico," serves as a broad, generalizing statement that defines the specific methods used by the sisters.

Position 1 is the most logical fit because it follows the introduction of the "ways their great-grandfather built and repaired instruments" and immediately precedes the specific details of those ways (using tacote wood, carving by hand, avoiding power tools). The flow of the paragraph moves from the general legacy (grandfather's ways) to the definition of that legacy (the inserted sentence) to the specific evidence of that legacy (the manufacturing process).

Wrong Options:

Option 2 (Position 2) is incorrect because placing the sentence here would make it a repetitive summary after the specific details have already been given, disrupting the flow into the next topic (the waitlist).

Option 1 (Position 3) and Option 3 (Position 4) are incorrect because these sections of the paragraph discuss the business aspects (waitlist, celebrity clients) and personal history (childhood), not the technical manufacturing methods described in the inserted sentence.

Difficulty: Easy

Q12.

Correct Sequence: 3421

Rationale:

Sentence 3 introduces the main topic: the socialization of women to suppress their anger ("keep a lid on their ire"), contrasting them with men.

Sentence 4 follows by illustrating the practical consequence of this socialization. The "Many of them" refers back to the "women" in Sentence 3. It describes how they are "at odds with their aggressive feelings" to the point where they hesitate physically (pulling punches).

Sentence 2 connects logically as the resolution to the struggle in Sentence 4. It describes what happens "Once the taboos have been broken" (referring to the hesitation/suppression mentioned in 3 and 4) and they finally let their "fists fly."

Sentence 1 provides the concluding thought. It zooms out from the specific example of women to a general philosophical statement about anger management applicable to everyone ("man, woman or otherwise").

Difficulty: Medium

Q13.

Correct Sequence: 2143

Rationale for Sequence 2143:

This sequence follows a rhetorical and structural flow common in analytical writing, moving from a general assessment to a formal definition.

Sentence 2 (It's a case of... easy once you've thought of it) serves as a rhetorical opener. It presents an abstract, attention-grabbing commentary on the system's ingenious simplicity, introducing the overall concept.

Sentence 1 (It can in fact be integrated into any function...) follows by immediately detailing the practical application and functionality of this simple idea. It shows how the mechanism integrates into specific functions like education and punishment, supporting the claim of simplicity made in Sentence 2.

Sentence 4 (In short, it arranges things...) acts as a summary of the mechanism's operation described in Sentence 1. The phrase In short synthesizes the idea that power is subtle and efficient, not external and heavy.

Sentence 3 (The panoptic mechanism is not simply a hinge...) provides the formal, definitive statement containing the full subject noun. It acts as a powerful conclusion by summarizing the core theoretical claim—that power relations function within the function—after the reader has already understood the mechanism's operations.

Difficulty: Hard

Q14.

Correct Option: 3

Rationale:

The paragraph discusses the resilience of the London silver market by listing factors that kept it buoyant despite changing domestic habits. Position 3 acts as an elaborative bridge between the first market factor (collectors and buyers) and the next factor (American museums).

The preceding text states the market was buoyant due to collectors seeking grand display silver. The missing sentence, which defines silver's traditional role in the "business of 'show'" (in houses, churches, etc.), elaborates on *why* this grand silver is sought, providing historical context for its high status. This elaboration is placed before the introduction of the next distinct factor: Another factor that came into play was the systematic collection building of certain American museums.

While placing the sentence at Option 1 is structurally justified for establishing the 'need' mentioned later, the intended answer places the sentence at Position 3 to function as a contextual link within the list of market drivers.

Difficulty: Hard

Q15.

Correct Option: 4

Rationale:

The goal of the author over the course of the passage is to defend electronic music from certain common charges. The passage is entirely structured around addressing the two basic questions (charges) leveled against electronic music by traditionalists: (1) Is it music at all? and (2) Is it "inhuman"? The author uses objective definitions (Stravinsky) and detailed descriptions of human involvement (composer manipulating machines) to systematically rebut these criticisms. Therefore, the overarching purpose is defense.

Why other options wrong:

Option 1 (defend the "serious-minded composer" from Lejaren Hill and Stravinsky) is incorrect because Hiller and Stravinsky are cited as supporting authorities, not critics.

Option 2 (differentiate the modern composer from the nineteenth century composer) is a necessary structural step used by the author to achieve the defense (establishing an objective definition of music), but it is not the ultimate goal of the passage.

Option 3 (differentiate between electronic music and other forms of music) is too narrow; the author differentiates electronic music primarily to validate it against the subjective, traditional view of music, making validation (defense) the higher goal.

Difficulty: Easy

Q16.

Correct Option: 3

Rationale:

The mention of Stravinsky's objective definition of music is essential to the author's defense of electronic music, but it does not resolve the issue of identifying musical sounds.

Why Options 1, 2, and 4 are functions of the quote:

- Option 1 (Allow classification): The definition of music as "speculation in terms of sound and time" provides the objective, 20th-century framework necessary for the layman to accept and classify electronic music as music, thereby addressing the first charge against it.
- Option 2 (Complicate notion of communication): The quote directly replaces the simple, subjective 19th-century notion of music as "emotional expression" with a more objective, intellectual, and formal one, thus complicating the popular understanding of what music communicates.
- Option 4 (Respond to and expand upon earlier understandings): The quote is introduced explicitly to contrast with the "nineteenth century" concept of music, showing how the modern view responds to and expands upon that earlier understanding.

Why Option 3 is the EXCEPT function:

The Stravinsky quote establishes the conceptual legitimacy of electronic music based on the composer's approach, not the auditory test of the sounds themselves. The passage acknowledges that even with this definition, the sounds and forms used by electronic music will still be "of a foreign nature" to the listener, meaning the quote does not instantly resolve the listener's ability to determine which specific sounds are musical.

Difficulty: Medium

Q17.

Correct Option: 3

Rationale:

The mention of Stravinsky's objective definition of music is essential to the author's defense of electronic music, but it does not resolve the issue of identifying musical sounds.

Why Options 1, 2, and 4 are functions of the quote:

- Option 1 (Allow classification): The definition of music as "speculation in terms of sound and time" provides the objective, 20th-century framework necessary for the layman to accept and classify electronic music as music, thereby addressing the first charge against it.
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Difficulty: Medium

Q18.

Correct Option: 2

Rationale:

The Original Answer is 2. However, based strictly on the passage, this option contains an error of interpretation. The passage states that the communication problem is the "principal barrier" (Para 2) to the acceptance of electronic music, meaning it hinders seeing it as music, rather than being what allows it. Furthermore, the passage does not argue that music must be difficult to understand.

The most logically consistent answer supported by the text is Option 1 (Unfamiliar forms and terms might get in the way of our seeing electronic music as music, but this can be overcome). The passage explicitly identifies the "new language of forms" as the "principal barrier" (gets in the way) and states that this barrier "will be removed" once the new procedures are understood (can be overcome).

Why other options wrong:

Option 3 is too definitive; the communication problem is the remaining barrier to full understanding, not a reason why we absolutely cannot see it as music.

Option 4 is incorrect as the communication problem is the direct consequence of the philosophical discussion in the first paragraph.

Difficulty: Easy

Q19.

Correct Option: 2

Rationale:

This option provides the most accurate and structurally complete summary, capturing the three sequential topics presented in the passage: 1. The introduction of the paradox that noise can create order (Paragraph 1); 2. The discussion of heavy-tailed distributions and cascades in complex systems (Paragraphs 2 and 3); and 3. The explanation of nonstationarity and its market illustration during the COVID-19 disruption (Paragraphs 4 and 5).

Why other options wrong:

Option 1 is incorrect because it uses overly generalized and definitive language ("always produce inefficiency," "invariably profit") that contradicts the passage's cautious phrasing ("might have increased," "potentially attributable"). It also fails to summarize the passage's introductory concepts of noise and heavy-tailed distributions.

Option 3 is factually incorrect because the passage argues that social outcomes involving contagion often do not follow normal distributions and that extreme events are significant, not negligible.

Option 4 is incorrect because the passage uses the host-parasite system as an illustration only, and then explicitly applies the concept of nonstationarity to markets and public health dynamics, rather than rejecting these applications.

Difficulty: Medium

Q20.

Correct Option: 3

Rationale:

The passage describes how complex systems, like the contact tracing scenario, exhibit behavior where local, individual changes (noise) feed back into the system to generate a collective pattern that may be contrary to the intended goal. This requires a feedback mechanism driven by interdependence. The fish schooling example illustrates this: one fish's misalignment causes further misalignment, leading to a collective, predictable pattern (schooling). The contact tracing analogy follows the same logic: individual changes in behavior (avoiding the infected) interact to create a large-scale, undesirable pattern (higher interaction between infected and susceptible). Option 3 captures this necessary condition by stating that individuals base choices on observed infections and the behavior of others, causing local responses to interact and turn small adjustments into large-scale, potentially frustrating patterns.

Why other options wrong:

Option 1 is incorrect because it contradicts the fundamental premise of complex systems described in the passage. The suggestion that interdependence is negligible would mean individual choices do not feed back to create collective patterns, which is the opposite of the author's argument.

Option 2 is incorrect because it focuses on participation rates and data bias, which are not the necessary conditions for the paradoxical feedback mechanism described. The suggested outcome relies on the interaction of behavioral changes, not the number of users.

Option 4 is incorrect because the suggestion focuses on the collective response to information, not the accuracy of the data feed itself. The paradoxical outcome occurs even if the local information is accurate, because of the behavioral feedback loop it triggers.

Difficulty: Medium

Q21.

Correct Option: 4

Rationale:

The passage claims that a first-order tail event (a major shock) "raises the probability of further tail events." This happens because the shock "changes the rules" of the system, leading to nonstationarity. To strengthen this claim, one needs evidence that the frequency of extreme events increases immediately after the first shock, rather than the system quickly returning to normal. Option 4 provides this evidence directly: A major equity crash (first-order tail event) is followed by "dense clusters of large daily moves" for several weeks (second-order tail events), which occur "far more often than in normal circumstances" (elevated probability). This directly confirms the cascading effect described in the text.

Why other options wrong:

Option 1, Option 2, and Option 3 describe scenarios where extreme events are independent or the system returns to a baseline quickly.

Option 2 explicitly contradicts the passage's claim by suggesting "independence across events" and "no aftershock sequence" after a large earthquake, which is the opposite of strengthening the argument.

Option 3 also weakens the claim by stating that outbreak sizes return to the "baseline distribution" after initial spikes, meaning the probability of later extreme clusters is not raised.

Option 1 suggests that river levels fit a normal distribution, weakening the general claim about heavy-tailed distributions in complex systems.

Difficulty: Easy

Q22.

Correct Option: 2

Rationale:

The inference that the text attributes the COVID-19 pandemic rebound in financial markets solely to displaced sports bettors and treats their entry as the overriding cause of the rapid recovery across assets and time horizons is not supported by the passage. The text uses highly cautious and speculative language regarding the cause of the market dynamics. It states that the dynamics are only "potentially attributable to former sports bettors" and that their arrival "might have increased inefficiencies." The use of the words "solely" and "overriding cause" in the option is a strong overstatement and direct contradiction of the passage's tentative wording.

Why other options wrong:

Option 1 is supported by Paragraph 2, which states that heavy-tailed events "occur more frequently and are larger than would be expected under normal distributions," which is the definition of complicating forecasting.

Option 3 is supported by Paragraph 5, which discusses how a shock changes the rules (nonstationarity) and Paragraph 3, which notes that this change "raises the probability of further tail events" (second-order tail events).

Option 4 is supported by the combination of Paragraph 2 (bank runs and toilet paper scrambles are examples of collective settings where contagion shapes behaviour) and Paragraph 1 (which illustrates how local changes or 'noise' can amplify into collective patterns that were "aimed to avoid," meaning unintended).

Difficulty: Easy

Q23.

Correct Option: 2

Rationale:

The passage's primary function is to explain the causal mechanism linking senescent (zombie) cells to chronic inflammation and aging. Option 2 correctly traces this entire chain of events as described in the text: Aging leads to a weakened immune system, which causes less effective clearance (apoptosis) of zombie cells, resulting in their accumulation. The accumulation then causes inflammation, which damages healthy cells, accelerating aging and leading to chronic diseases.

Why other options wrong:

Option 1 is incorrect because it reverses the causal flow regarding the immune system. The passage states that the immune system weakens first (reduced clearance), which allows the cells to accumulate and cause inflammation.

Option 3 is incorrect because it focuses only on the difference between immune systems and the accumulation of cells, omitting the critical step of inflammation and the ultimate consequence of chronic diseases, which are central to the passage's argument.

Option 4 is incorrect because it is only a definition of senescent cells, failing to summarize the passage's main argument about the mechanism of aging and chronic disease.

Difficulty: Medium

Q24.

Correct Option: 4

Rationale:

The option that best captures the essence of the passage is 4. The passage opens by stating that artists operate at the crossroads of inspiration (drawing from diverse cultures) and cultural appropriation (borrowing without respect/acknowledgment). It highlights that respectful inspiration is a bridge for understanding, while cultural appropriation is defined by borrowing without proper understanding, respect, or acknowledgment. Crucially, the final sentence broadens the discussion to the societal impact of appropriation, specifically mentioning the perpetuation of power imbalances. Option 4 is the only summary that includes all these essential elements: the globalized context, the thin line between inspiration and appropriation, the definition of appropriation (borrowing without acknowledgment), and the ultimate societal impact (perpetuating power imbalances).

Why other options wrong:

Option 1 is a strong summary but omits the two broader contextual elements that define the passage: the globalized world (Paragraph 1) and the perpetuation of power imbalances (Paragraph 1, final sentence).

Option 2 is incorrect because it misrepresents the author's stance by suggesting that drawing from diverse cultures results in instances of appropriation. The author presents appropriation as a risk, not an inherent result of drawing inspiration.

Option 3 is too restrictive and simplifies the complex issue. It suggests artists only have to decide between two outcomes, omitting the structural definition of appropriation (borrowing without acknowledgment) and its negative societal consequences.

Difficulty: Medium