

Wipro Elite NTH Verbal Ability Questions - Paper 4



Reading comprehension

(1-7) Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions.

It seems today the mistrust of official health advice and spread of “alternative” treatments for COVID-19 are as frightening as the virus itself. How is it that so many people are ill-informed (and seemingly choose to be so) about the pandemic, despite decades of compulsory science education? Of course we are entering an era in which fake news and conspiracy theories proliferate, while many have contempt for scientific facts. But a deeper problem lies in the way we teach science. Our curriculum and instruction are still driven by content mastery and high-stakes testing, which has alienated many young people from scientific ideas. Students are taught isolated and impersonal facts without understanding the history and processes of how scientists know what we know. The Australian Curriculum defines scientific literacy as an ability to use scientific knowledge, understanding, and inquiry skills to identify questions, acquire new knowledge, explain science phenomena and draw evidence-based conclusions in making sense of the world, and to recognise how understandings of science help us make responsible decisions and shape our interpretations of information. While laudable as an educational goal, scientific literacy is seldom emphasised in practice. We need to do more to promote it in primary and secondary schools.

The problem with people’s mistrust of science has little to do with their actual intelligence or overall education. After all, some educated people still believe the Earth is flat, and climate change is contentious. Getting someone to accept a new idea goes beyond the brain to a broader consideration of the person’s social, cultural and emotional factors. American social psychologist Jonathan Haidt used a rider and elephant analogy to explain why we are resistant to new ideas and beliefs. The rider is the rational side of our mind while the elephant is the unconscious and emotional side. To change a person’s view, it is useless to focus on the rider without addressing the elephant. Science is full of strange ideas that are sometimes at odds with common sense, such as matter being made of moving atoms, or time being relative. Teaching these ideas as facts is like targeting the rider. Many educational theorists have long argued the idea knowledge could somehow be “transferred” from teachers and textbooks to students is untenable. The students will still interpret the taught content through a conceptual

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framework of prior knowledge and beliefs. Years of research in science education has found teaching facts alone is an ineffective strategy when trying to change a person's ingrained misconceptions or "alternative theories".

Scientific theories are built on evidence through the process of argumentation. Every fact and theory taught in the curriculum should be questioned and tested with evidence. Students should ideally observe or collect data for themselves. Repeatedly asking students to question every fact will instil a lifelong value of critical literacy in science. It is crucial for young people to always evaluate the source of information and discern false claims that are not backed by empirical evidence. Science should also be taught as a dialogue within a community of people. This is the human side of science where ideas are discussed, argued and negotiated in the process of building consensus. Mirroring this process, students must be given opportunities to practise evidence-based argumentation. Their innate theories about the world should be elicited and compared with accepted scientific theories, so students can see their relative merits and suitability in addressing a particular phenomenon or problem. Last but not least, emotions play a big part in science learning. Scientific issues that represent social concerns (such as the lockdown) and problems related to science and technology (the 5G network) can evoke a range of emotions among students. It is important to acknowledge students' emotions as they deal with the moral and ethical issues in these ideas. Controversial issues provide not only an authentic learning context, but are also excellent topics for debate and argumentation.

1. What is the primary purpose of the author of the passage?

- A -
to highlight the poor quality of science education in Australia
- B -
to highlight the rise in fake news and propaganda
- C -
to highlight the shortcomings in the ways in which science is taught
- D -
to highlight the fall in the interest of students towards scientific fields

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Solution

(c) is the right answer. The author seeks to focus on the importance of scientific literacy. It is a skill that is necessary to deal with various issues pertaining to our world. He has highlighted the shortcomings in the current method of science education and talked about ways to overcome them.

A is incorrect as the passage does not focus on quality of science education.

B is incorrect as it is not the main idea of the passage.

D is incorrect because this is not something that has been discussed in the passage.

E is incorrect because the passage does not discuss science but scientific literacy.

2. What are the problems associated with the way science is being taught?

1. Students are taught facts rather than processes through which they can be established.

2. The curriculum is dominated by a sole focus on learning the content.

3. Tests conducted to assess scientific aptitude have distanced the youth from scientific ideas.

A -

Only 1

B -

Only 2

C -

Only 2 and 3

D -

All 1, 2 and 3

Solution

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(d) is the right answer. All the three options have been explicitly mentioned in the first paragraph of the passage. Refer to the lines: *Our curriculum and instruction are still driven by content mastery and high-stakes testing, which has alienated many young people from scientific ideas. Students are taught isolated and impersonal facts without understanding the history and processes of how scientists know what we know.*

3. Which of the following statements best sums up the main idea behind the rider and elephant analogy?

A -

In order to cultivate scientific temperament, we need to focus more on engaging with the rational side of our brains.

B -

Some human beings are more emotional than others.

C -

The rational side of the human brain tends to overpower the emotional side at times of conflict.

D -

Scientific literacy should focus on both reason as well as emotion.

Solution

(d) is the right answer. Refer to the lines: *American social psychologist Jonathan Haidt used a rider and elephant analogy to explain why we are resistant to new ideas and beliefs. The rider is the rational side of our mind while the elephant is the unconscious and emotional side. To change a person's view, it is useless to focus on the rider without addressing the elephant.* Clearly, the idea behind the analogy is to highlight the change that needs to be made in teaching scientific literacy. Facts focus on the rational side of our brains; they ignore the emotional side. We need to focus on both reason and emotion. A, B and C are incorrect as they do not cover the analogy. E is incorrect as it talks about the meaning of the analogy in a very literal way.

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4. What are the steps suggested by the author of the passage to bolster scientific literacy?

1. Science should be taught at an individual level
2. Teaching the students the habit of questioning every fact
3. Allowing the students to observe and collect data

A -

Only 1

B -

Only 1 and 2

C -

Only 1 and 3

D -

Only 2 and 3

Solution

(d) is the right answer. Both (2) and (3) have been mentioned in the passage. Refer to the lines: *Every fact and theory taught in the curriculum should be questioned and tested with evidence. Students should ideally observe or collect data for themselves. Repeatedly asking students to question every fact will instil a lifelong value of critical literacy in science.*

(1) is incorrect. Refer to the lines: *Science should also be taught as a dialogue within a community of people. This is the human side of science where ideas are discussed, argued and negotiated in the process of building consensus.*

5. Based on the information given in the passage, it is clear that _____

A -

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when issues evoke emotions, the debate is likely to be polarised.

B -

teaching students how to think critically is more important than teaching them any other skills

C -

students need to develop their perspectives by questioning their intuitive understanding and contrasting them with scientific theories.

D -

controversial issues should not be discussed in the public domain as most people get emotional and lose their objectivity

Solution

(c) is the right answer. Refer to the lines: *Mirroring this process, students must be given opportunities to practise evidence-based argumentation. Their innate theories about the world should be elicited and compared with accepted scientific theories, so students can see their relative merits and suitability in addressing a particular phenomenon or problem.* The passage clearly states that students need to question their “innate theories”, which basically means the things they inherently believe and they need to develop a holistic understanding by comparing them to scientific theories.

A and D are incorrect. Refer to the lines: *Controversial issues provide not only an authentic learning context, but are also excellent topics for debate and argumentation.*

B is incorrect as the passage does not talk about prioritising scientific literacy over other skills.

6. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word ‘contentious’ as used in the passage

A -

frenetic

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B -

acute

C -

categorical

D -

controversial

Solution

(d) is the right answer. A contentious issue causes a lot of disagreement or arguments. CONTROVERSIAL is the synonym.

Frenetic(adj.)- fast and energetic in a rather wild and uncontrolled way.

Acute(adj.)- (of an unpleasant or unwelcome situation or phenomenon) present or experienced to a severe or intense degree.

Categorical(adj.)- definite

Timid(adj.)- showing a lack of courage or confidence; easily frightened.

7. Which of the following is the opposite in meaning to the word '*seldom*' as used in the passage

A -

enamoured

B -

often

C -

intrinsically

D -

assiduously

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Solution

(b) is the right answer. If something SELDOM happens, it happens only occasionally. OFTEN is the antonym.

Enamoured(v.)- to have a liking or admiration for someone.

Intrinsically(adv.)- in an essential or natural way.

Assiduously(adv.)- with great care and perseverance.

Looming(adj.)- likely to happen.

Column 1 & column @ connecting sentences

8. In the following question, match the sentences beginning in Column 1 with their appropriate endings in Column 2.

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A. The October Revolution of 1917 profoundly influenced the | D. course of the Indian freedom movement in multiple ways. |
| B. A cold war between the United States and China would leave | E. both countries and the world worse off. |
| C. Before COVID-19 shut down entire sectors of the US economy, the US workforce was | F. becoming increasingly polarized along educational, racial, and geographic lines. |

A -

C and D

B -

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A and E

C -

A and D

D -

B and F

Solution

(c) is the right answer. The correct pairs are AD, BE and CF.

AD- A establishes the subject: October Revolution. It talks about its impact. D concludes the sentence by telling us that the revolution had an impact on Indian freedom movement.

BE- B establishes the subject: Cold war. It talks about the cold war between the US and China. E concludes the sentence by telling us that the tension because of the cold war between the two countries would negatively affect the entire world. This pair is not given in the options.

CF- C establishes the subject: shutdown due to COVID-19. It tells us that something was happening to the US workforce even before the shutdown was enforced in the US. F concludes the sentence by telling us that the workforce was being polarised along different lines. This pair is not given in the options.

Column 1 & column @ connecting sentences

9. In the following question, match the sentences beginning in Column 1 with their appropriate endings in Column 2.

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A. In addition to disrupting the economy, the COVID-19 pandemic is also | D. others in managing the COVID-19 pandemic and staging a robust economic recovery. |

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| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B. Sustainable human development can only be built | E. derailing educational opportunities for millions of the world's poorest |
| C. The latest economic and public-health indicators show that South Korea is far ahead of most | F. on a foundation of quality education. |

A -

C and F

B -

A and E

C -

A and D

D -

B and E

Solution

(b) is the right answer. The correct pairs are AE, BF and CD.

AE- A establishes the subject: The impact of COVID-19 pandemic. A tells us that the economy is not the only sector that has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. E concludes the sentence as it tells us that COVID-19 pandemic has affected the education of millions of the world's poorest.

BF- B establishes the subject: Sustainable development. It talks about one of the components of sustainable development. F concludes the sentence by telling us that quality education is important for achieving sustainable development. This pair is not given in the options.

CD- C establishes the subject: South Korea. It tells us that economic and public-health indicators show that South Korea is doing better than most countries. D concludes the sentence by telling us what the indicators show. The

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indicators point out that South Korea has fared better than most other countries in the fight against COVID-19. This pair is not given in the options.

Column 1 & column @ connecting sentences

10. In the following question, match the sentences beginning in Column 1 with their appropriate endings in Column 2.

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A. Digital technology was not invented to tackle inequality, and there is even a | D. possible ways to narrow the opportunity gap. |
| B. As the case of China illustrates, digital platforms offer many | E. have unequal educational or financial starting points. |
| C. People born into different economic and social statuses | F. risk that it could widen existing economic and social disparities. |

A -

C and D

B -

A and E

C -

A and D

E -

C and E

Solution

(d) is the right answer. The correct pairs are AF, BD and CE.

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AF- A introduces the subject: Digital technology. It tells us that the objective behind the invention of digital technology was not to fight inequality. F concludes the sentence by telling us that there is a chance that digital technology may worsen economic and social disparities. This pair is not given in the options.

BD- B establishes the subject: China. It talks about digital platforms in China. D concludes the sentence by telling us that these platforms offer access to various opportunities which were not available to the people before. This pair is not given in the options.

CE- C tells us that the sentence talks about the impact of economic and social statuses. E concludes the sentence by telling us that these factors matter as people have different starting points, which means that they have unequal access to educational and financial resources.

Error location

11. In the following question, a sentence is given, divided into 5 parts. Part (E) is grammatically correct. Out of the other four parts, one part has an error. Mark the option containing the part with the error. If none of the parts have errors, mark 'No error' as your answer.

As the gate of the elephant yard (A)/ lifted, a keeper admonished (B)/ everyone to stood farther back, (C)/ even though there were bars (D)/ **separating us from the animals. (E)**

A -

A

B -

B

C -

C

D -

D

Solution

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In C, replace the second form verb STOOD with STAND as the infinitive construction TO + VERB will take the base form of the verb. Thus, (c) is the right answer.

Error location

12. In the following question, a sentence is given, divided into 5 parts. Part (E) is grammatically correct. Out of the other four parts, one part has an error. Mark the option containing the part with the error. If none of the parts have errors, mark 'No error' as your answer.

Poachers, whom are primarily (A)/ interested in ivory, do (B)/ not hunt Asian elephants (C)/ with the same avarice they (C)/ **show African elephants. (E)**

A -

D

B -

B

C -

C

D -

A

Solution

In A, replace the object pronoun WHOM with the subject pronoun WHO as it is being used to refer to the subject of the sentence POACHERS. Thus, (d) is the right answer.

Error location

13. In the following question, a sentence is given, divided into 5 parts. Part (E) is grammatically correct. Out of the other four parts, one part has an error. Mark the option containing the part with the error. If none of the parts have errors, mark 'No error' as your answer.

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Environmental advocates and others (A)/ were alarm when Brazilian (B)/ President Jair Bolsonaro announced plans (C)/ to rebuild the road in order (C)/ **to spur economic development. (E)**

A -

A

B -

B

C -

D

D -

C

Solution

In B, replace the verb ALARM with the adjective ALARMED as it is being used to modify the subject ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES AND OTHERS. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

Error location

14. In the following question, a sentence is given, divided into 5 parts. Part (E) is grammatically correct. Out of the other four parts, one part has an error. Mark the option containing the part with the error. If none of the parts have errors, mark 'No error' as your answer.

Evidence is mounting that (A)/ Neanderthals had a complex language (B)/ and even, given the care (C)/ with which they buried their (D)/ **dead, some form of spirituality. (E)**

A -

B

B -

C

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C -

D

D -

No error

Solution

The sentence is grammatically correct and free of error. Thus, (d) is the right answer.

Jumbled sentences

15. In the question given below, rearrange the parts of the sentence in the correct order, and choose the correct option.

since the first eggs laid on land (A)/ thicker, harder shells that prevented moisture loss (B)/ of birds and reptiles started laying eggs with (C)/ were vulnerable to drying out, the ancestors (D)

A -

ACDB

B -

ADCB

C -

BADC

D -

BCAD

Solution

ADCB is the final order. A begins the sentence by introducing the surrounding context, and telling us about the first eggs laid by animals on land. D continues by telling us how these eggs were vulnerable to drying out. D also establishes the subject - the ancestors. C follows with the verb stem, and tells us what the

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ancestors of birds and reptiles began to do - laying eggs with thick and hard shells (continued by B). Thus, (b) is the right answer.

Jumbled sentences

16. In the question given below, rearrange the parts of the sentence in the correct order, and choose the correct option.

with jungle zip-lining, white-water rafting (A)/ and fire spewing from the (B)/ Arenal volcano, Costa Rica offers plenty (C)/ of thrilling adventures and sights (D)

A -

ADBC

B -

ABDC

C -

CDBA

D -

No rearrangement required

Solution

ABCD is the final order. AB begins the sentence as a pair, by telling us the activities that Costa Rica offers - jungle zip lining, rafting and volcanic sights. C follows by establishing the subject - Costa Rica. D concludes with the verb stem by telling us how this nation offers adventures and sights. Thus, (d) is the right answer.

Jumbled sentences

17. In the question given below, rearrange the parts of the sentence in the correct order, and choose the correct option.

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there is still some mystery left to discover (A)/ to the extent that unmanned aerial vehicles (B)/ can be sent anywhere on the planet, (C)/ though we may have mastered the skies (D)

A -

CBDA

B -

DBCA

C -

DACB

D -

CDAB

Solution

DBCA is the final order. D begins the sentence by establishing the surrounding context - we have mastered the skies. BC follows as a pair by giving evidence of this - unmanned aerial vehicles can be sent anywhere on the planet. A concludes by telling us that there is still much to be discovered. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

Jumbled sentences

18. In the question given below, rearrange the parts of the sentence in the correct order, and choose the correct option.

the only area where advancements in flight (A)/ while drone technology may seem to be (B)/ are being made, many researchers remain fascinated (C)/ by something that seems much simpler: bird flight (D)

A -

BACD

B -

DCBA

C -

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BDAC

D -

DBCA

Solution

BACD is the final order. B begins by establishing the surrounding context - drone technology. A follows by telling us how it is the only area where advancements in flight are being made. C follows with the subject - many researchers. D tells us of something else that is fascinating to these researchers - bird flight. Thus, (a) is the right answer.

Phrasal verbs/idioms

19. In the following question, a sentence is given with a phrase or idiom in brackets. Select the option given below that can replace the bracketed phrase.

In many places, bigger animals have already been (wiped off) by humans.

A -

wipe away

B -

wiped out

C -

wiped in

D -

No Improvement

Solution

We need a phrase in the past participle form as the present perfect tense construction HAVE + VERB has been used here. The phrase WIPED OUT means to destroy completely. The sentence talks about how larger animals have been destroyed by humans. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

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WIPE OFF means to erase, WIPE AWAY is in the incorrect tense, and WIPED IN is grammatically wrong.

Direct / indirect speech

20. In the following question, a sentence has been given in Direct/ Indirect speech. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Direct/ Indirect speech.

"Do you have the enough money for the dress?" I said to her.

A -

I asked her if she had enough money for the dress.

B -

I asked her do you have enough money for the dress.

C -

I asked her did she have enough money for the dress.

D -

I asked her if she has enough money for the dress.

Solution

Option (a) is the right answer. The sentence is in direct speech and in interrogative mood. To convert this sentence to the indirect speech, follow these rules: 1. Remove the comma and the inverted commas. 2. Change the reporting verb SAID to ASKED. The preposition TO is redundant after ASKED, so it will be removed. Begin the indirect speech sentence with the reporting speech clause I ASKED HER. 3. Put IF between the reporting and reported speeches. 4. The second person subjective pronoun YOU will change to the third person subjective SHE. 5. The simple present tense DO YOU HAVE will change to the simple past SHE HAD. 6. Use the indicative mood syntax: Reporting speech clause (I ASKED HER) + preposition (IF) + Subject (SHE) + verb clause (HAD) + Object (ENOUGH MONEY FOR THE DRESS).

Active voice/passive voice

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21. In the following question, a sentence has been given in Active/ Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.

Immigrant workers face a lot of stereotypes in the industry.

A -

A lot of stereotypes are being faced by immigrant workers in the industry.

B -

A lot of stereotypes are faced by immigrant workers in the industry.

C -

A lot of stereotypes face immigrant workers in the industry.

D -

A lot of stereotypes were being faced by immigrant workers in the industry.

Solution

The sentence is in active voice and in simple present tense (face). Follow the rules below to convert a sentence in indicative mood to passive voice:

1. The subject clause will become the object clause. Here, the subject (IMMIGRANT WORKERS) will change to the object of the verb, and the object (A LOT OF STEREOTYPES) will change into the subject and begin the sentence.

2. Replace FACE with ARE FACED. The passive voice construction for simple present tense is "is/ are + past participle".

3. Add the conjunction BY before IMMIGRANT WORKERS to link the verb with its object.

Option (b) is the right answer.

Active voice/passive voice

22. In the following question, a sentence has been given in Active/ Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.

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The ball was caught by the fielder.

A -

The fielder had been catching the ball.

B -

The fielder had caught the ball.

C -

The fielder has caught the ball.

D -

The fielder caught the ball.

Solution

The sentence is in indicative mood and passive voice. Follow the rules below to convert a sentence in indicative mood to active voice:

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1. The subject clause will become the object clause. Here, the subject THE BALL will change to the object of the verb, and the object THE FIELDER will change into the subject and begin the sentence.

2. Replace WAS CAUGHT with CAUGHT.

4. Remove the conjunction BY before THE FIELDER.

Option (d) is the right answer.