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## DIRECT & CENTRAL IDEA QUESTIONS

### Reading Comprehension ASSIGNMENT

## CSAT PROGRAMS

FOUNDATION BATCH :	MODULES :	TEST SERIES :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offline</li><li>• LIVE-Online</li><li>• Recorded</li><li>• CSAT BOOK</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quantitative Aptitude</li><li>• Number System</li><li>• Percentage</li><li>• Probability, P &amp; C</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comprehensive Test Series</li><li>• Mock Test Series</li><li>• CSAT BOOK</li></ul>



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## DIRECT QUESTIONS

## Passage - 2

## Passage - 1

Electric washing machines, first introduced in the United States in 1925, significantly reduced the amount of time spent washing a given amount of clothes, yet the average amount of time households spent washing clothes increased after 1925. This increase is partially accounted for by the fact that many urban households had previously sent their clothes to professional laundries. But the average amount of time spent washing clothes also increased for rural households with no access to professional laundries.

- Q. Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain why the time spent washing clothes increased in rural areas ?
- (a) People with access to an electric washing machine typically wore their clothes many fewer times before washing them than did people without access to electric washing machines.
  - (b) Households that had sent their clothes to professional laundries before 1925 were more likely than other households to purchase an electric washing machine when they became available.
  - (c) People living in urban households that had previously sent their clothes to professional laundries typically owned more clothes than did people living in rural households.
  - (d) The earliest electric washing machines required the user to spend much more time beside the machine than do modern electric washing machines.

Centuries ago, the Maya of Central America produced elaborate, deeply cut carvings in stone. The carvings would have required a cutting tool of hard stone or metal. Iron-ore deposits exist throughout Central America, but apparently the Maya never developed the technology to use them and the metals the Maya are known to have used, copper and gold, would not have been hard enough. Therefore, the Maya must have used stone tools to make these carvings.

- Q. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument ?
- (a) In various parts of the world, civilizations that could not make iron from ore fashioned tools out of fragments of iron from meteorites.
  - (b) All the metallic Mayan artifacts that have been found by archaeologists are made of metals that are too soft for carving stone.
  - (c) The stone out of which these carvings were made is harder than the stone used by other Central American peoples.
  - (d) The technique that the Maya used to smelt gold and some other metals could not have been easily applied to the task of extracting iron from iron ore.

## Passage - 3

In early-twentieth-century England, it was fashionable to claim that only a completely new style of writing could address a world undergoing unprecedented transformation—just as one literary critic recently claimed that only the new “aesthetic of exploratory excess” can address a world undergoing . . . well, you know. Yet in early-twentieth-century England, T. S. Eliot, a man fascinated by the “presence” of the past, wrote the most innovative poetry of his time. The lesson for today’s literary community seems obvious: a reorientation toward tradition would benefit writers no less than readers. But if our writers and critics indeed respect the novel’s rich tradition (as they claim to), then why do they disdain the urge to tell an exciting story ?

- Q.** The author of the passage suggests that present-day readers would particularly benefit from which of the following changes on the part of present-day writers and critics?
- (a) An increased focus on the importance of engaging the audience in a narrative
  - (b) Modernization of the traditional novelistic elements already familiar to readers
  - (c) Embracing aspects of fiction that are generally peripheral to the interest of readers
  - (d) A greater recognition of how the tradition of the novel has changed over time

## Passage - 4

Many farmers use synthetic pesticides to kill infesting insects. The consumption of pesticides in some of the developed countries is touching 3000 grams/hectare. Unfortunately, there are reports that these compounds possess inherent toxicities that endanger, the health of the farm operators, consumers and the environment. Synthetic pesticides are generally persistent in environment. Entering in food chain they destroy the microbial diversity and cause ecological imbalance. Their indiscriminate use has resulted in development of resistance among insects to insecticides, upsetting of balance in nature and resurgence of treated populations. Natural pest control using the botanical pesticides is safer to the user and the environment because they break down into harmless compounds within hours or days in the presence of sunlight. Plants with pesticidal properties have been in nature for millions of years without any ill or adverse effects on the ecosystem. They are easily decomposed by many microbes common in most soil. They help in the maintenance of biological diversity, of predators and the reduction of environmental contamination and human health hazards. Botanical pesticides formulated from plants are biodegradable and their use in crop protection is a practical sustainable alternative.

- Q.** Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding biopesticides ?
- 1. They are not hazardous to human health.
  - 2. They are persistent in environment.
  - 3. They are essential to maintain the biodiversity of any ecosystem.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

## Passage - 5

For two or three generations past, ever-increasing number of individuals have been living as workers merely, not as human beings. An excessive amount of labor is rule today in every circle of society, with the result that man's spiritual element cannot thrive. He finds it very difficult to spend his little leisure in serious activities. He does not want to think; or he cannot even if he wants to. He seeks not Self- improvement, but entertainment which would enable him to be mentally idle and to forget his usual activities. Therefore, the so-called culture of our age is dependent more on cinema than on theatre, more on newspapers, magazines and crime stories than on serious literature.

- Q. Man does not seek self-improvement because he
- (a) is not intellectually capable
  - (b) has no time to do so
  - (c) is distracted by materialism
  - (d) loves amusement and is mentally idle

## CENTRAL IDEA / MAIN IDEA / CRUX

## Passage - 1

Many intellectual histories of the Black Power movement of the 1960s and 1970s rely heavily on essays and other explicitly ideological works as primary sources, a tendency that can overrepresent the perspectives of a small number of thinkers, most of whom were male. Historian Ashley D. Farmer has shown that expanding the array of primary sources to encompass more types of print material—including political cartoons, advertisements, and artwork—leads to a much better understanding of the movement and the crucial and diverse roles that Black women played in shaping it.

- Q. Which choice best describes the main idea of the text ?
- (a) Before Farmer's research, historians had largely ignored the intellectual dimensions of the Black Power movement.
  - (b) Farmer's methods and research have enriched the historical understanding of the Black Power movement and Black women's contributions to it.
  - (c) Other historians of the Black Power movement have criticized Farmer's use of unconventional primary sources.
  - (d) The figures in the Black Power movement whom historians tend to cite would have agreed with Farmer's conclusions about women's roles in the movement.

## Passage - 2

Psychologists wanted to test how young children think about rewards and fairness. In an experiment, two teachers handed out rewards while children (ages four to six) watched. The teachers gave out the same number of rewards, but one of them counted the rewards out loud. The children were then asked who was fairer. 73% chose the teacher who counted. The psychologists think that counting showed the children that the teacher wanted to be fair. The children may have believed that the teacher who did not count did not care about fairness.

**Q.** Which choice best states the main idea of the text ?

- (a) Psychologists think children cannot understand the concept of fairness until they are six years old.
- (b) An experiment found that counting out loud is the best way to teach mathematical concepts to children.
- (c) An experiment showed that the way rewards are given out may affect whether young children think the situation is fair.
- (d) Psychologists think young children expect to be rewarded when the children show that they care about fairness.

## Passage - 3

In the modern age, the rapid advancement of technology has brought about profound changes in the way we live and work. Our lives have become more interconnected than ever before, thanks to the Internet and various communication devices. Information is now at our fingertips, and we can communicate with people from different parts of the world with ease. However, this convenience has also led to concerns about privacy and the blurring of boundaries between personal and public life.

One notable impact of technology is its effect on industries. Automation and artificial intelligence are transforming traditional job markets. While this has led to increased efficiency and new opportunities, it has also raised questions about job security and the potential displacement of human workers. As we embrace these technological changes, it's crucial to consider how they reshape our societies and what measures can be taken to ensure a balanced and inclusive future.

**Q.** What is the central idea of the passage ?

- (a) Technology has led to increased efficiency in traditional job markets.
- (b) Automation and artificial intelligence have transformed communication.
- (c) The modern age is characterized by rapid technological advancement and its societal impacts.
- (d) Job security is guaranteed due to the advancement of technology.



## Passage - 4

Rising heat and humidity could put up to 5 per cent of India's GDP at risk by the end of this decade, as per some reports. India's long-term food security and public health security will be dependent on a cold chain network that can transport food and pharmaceutical goods across the country. Even a small change in temperature can disrupt the cold chain, for example, by spoiling fresh produce and reducing vaccine potency. Estimates say prior to COVID-19, India, the world's third largest producer of pharmaceuticals, lost 20 per cent of temperature-sensitive medical products and 30 per cent of vaccines due to broken cold chains, resulting in losses of 250 crore per year.

Demand for cooling will also increase as temperatures rise across India. However, in a country where two-thirds of the population lives on less than Rs.200 per day and the average cost of an air-conditioning unit is around 25,000, air-cooling systems are a luxury only a few can afford. According to research presented in the India Cooling Action Plan, released in 2019, only 10 per cent of Indian households own air conditioners. Indoor and electric fans can assist in maintaining thermal comfort, but they are also costly to purchase and inefficient. As a result, the report warns, many poor and marginalised communities across India are more vulnerable to extreme heat.

**Q.** What is the Crux of the passage ?

- (a) Rising temperatures will put the economy and people of India at risk
- (b) Vulnerable population will be most affected by climate change
- (c) Global warming will lead to rise in demand for cooling systems
- (d) Household air conditioning will increase in India

## Passage - 5

The exponential rise of the Internet of Things (IoT) start-ups is paving the way for integrating sensors, smart vehicle-to-every-thing (V2X) technologies, and IoT networks, among others, for quickly planning the safest and most efficient routes to shelters for helping citizens affected. IoT innovations emerging from start-ups like HW Design Labs support disaster response teams in planning their operations effectively through deep penetrating ground sensing radars, wireless connectivity solutions, advanced tracking, and navigation services. Another start-up, MyResQR, provides emergency communication between victims and stakeholders. The smart QR code manages information and triggers SOS during emergencies by enabling first responders like ambulance services, hospital staff, and other emergency response teams.

**Q.** Which one of the following is the central idea of the passage ?

- (a) Internet of Things (IoT) start-ups have seen exponential rise.
- (b) Internet of Things (IoT) start-ups are bringing innovative disaster rescue mechanisms.
- (c) Internet of Things (IoT) start-ups are intrusive.
- (d) Internet of Things (IoT) is a necessity for disaster response.

## Detailed explanation

## Direct Questions

1. Ans: (a) A is the only answer that accounts for why people in rural areas would need to do more laundry, which is the only reasonable explanation for why laundry would take up more time even though the actual process of doing laundry was faster. A is the correct answer.
2. Ans: (d) To weaken the argument, we need to find information that suggests the Maya might have had access to and used metals other than copper and gold to create the carvings, thus making the use of stone tools less certain. Let's evaluate each answer choice:
  - (a) **In various parts of the world, civilizations that could not make iron from ore fashioned tools out of fragments of iron from meteorites:** This information is interesting but does not directly relate to the Maya civilization and their carving tools. It is about other civilizations using meteoric iron, not the Maya using stone tools.
  - (b) **All the metallic Mayan artifacts that have been found by archaeologists are made of metals that are too soft for carving stone:** This statement strengthens the argument by confirming that the metals used by the Maya were too soft for carving stone.
  - (c) **The stone out of which these carvings were made is harder than the stone used by other Central American peoples:** This statement does not weaken the argument; it merely provides information about the hardness of the stone used by the Maya compared to other Central American peoples. It doesn't address the issue of the cutting tools.
  - (d) **The technique that the Maya used to smelt gold and some other metals could not have been easily applied to the task of extracting iron from iron ore:** This statement suggests that the Maya may not have had the technology or technique to extract iron from iron ore easily. It weakens the argument by providing a plausible reason why the Maya might not have used iron tools.

**Option (d) weakens the argument by suggesting that the Maya lacked the necessary technique to extract iron from iron ore, which could explain why they did not use iron tools. Therefore, (d) is the most suitable choice.**
3. Ans: (b) The author of the passage suggests that present-day readers would particularly benefit from a certain change on the part of present-day writers and critics. Let's analyze each answer choice:
  - (a) **An increased focus on the importance of engaging the audience in a narrative:** This option seems consistent with the passage's mention of the "urge to tell an exciting story" but is not explicitly mentioned. The passage primarily discusses the reorientation toward tradition and respecting the novel's rich tradition.
  - (b) **Modernization of the traditional novelistic elements already familiar to readers:** This option aligns with the idea of reorienting toward tradition and respecting the rich tradition of novels. However, it does not directly address the issue of engaging the audience in an exciting story.

- (c) **Embracing aspects of fiction that are generally peripheral to the interest of readers:** This is not suggested by the passage. The passage encourages a reorientation toward tradition, not a focus on peripheral aspects of fiction.
- (d) **A greater recognition of how the tradition of the novel has changed over time:** This is not explicitly mentioned in the passage. The passage focuses on the idea that a reorientation toward tradition would benefit writers and readers, without specifying a need for greater recognition of how the tradition has changed.

**The most appropriate answer, considering the passage's main point, is (b) - "Modernization of the traditional novelistic elements already familiar to readers." The passage suggests that a reorientation toward tradition would benefit both writers and readers, implying that writers should modernize traditional elements to engage the audience effectively.**

4. Ans: (a) Statement 1 is correct as passage says "...have been in nature for millions of years without any ill or adverse effects on the ecosystem.."
- Statement 2 is incorrect as passage says "Synthetic pesticides are generally persistent in environment." , not biopesticides.
- Statement 3 is incorrect as it is too far-fetched.
- Hence, correct answer is (a)
5. Ans: (d) The option D highlights that many people in contemporary society do not prioritize self-improvement. Instead, they seek entertainment and distractions that allow them to be mentally idle and forget about their usual activities. The passage suggests that people are more inclined to indulge in activities like watching cinema, reading newspapers, magazines, and crime stories, which are forms of amusement and entertainment, rather than engaging in serious intellectual or self-improvement activities. In essence, people prefer amusement over self-improvement and are content with being mentally idle. This reflects a societal trend where leisure and entertainment take precedence over intellectual or self-betterment pursuits.

### Central Idea/ Main Idea/ Crux

1. Ans: (b) Choice A actually says the opposite of what we learned in the passage. We're told that there were "many intellectual histories" of the Black Power movement before Farmer's. We can eliminate this choice.
- Choice C introduces information not included in the passage. The text doesn't mention what other historians think of Farmer's research. If it's not mentioned, then it can't be a "main idea". We can eliminate this choice.
- Choice D introduces information not included in the passage. We're not told about the beliefs of "figures in the Black Power movement." If the text doesn't mention this information, then it can't be a "main idea". We can eliminate this choice.
- Only choice B accurately captures the central ideas we identified in the text, including a specific mention of "Black women's contributions" to the Black Power movement. Choice B also avoids introducing any ideas that can't be found in the passage. Choice B is the answer.



2. Ans: (c) Choice (c) captures this main idea accurately. The experiment showed that the way rewards are distributed, specifically whether they are counted out loud or not, can influence how young children perceive the fairness of a situation. This main idea encapsulates the essence of the passage and the focus on how children's understanding of fairness is influenced by the presentation of rewards. The other options (a, b, and d) do not accurately capture the core concept of the experiment and its findings as well as choice (c) does.
3. Ans: (c) The central idea of the passage revolves around the profound changes brought about by rapid technological advancement in the modern age and the societal impacts of these changes. The main focus of the passage is on the broader theme of technological advancement and its effects on various aspects of our lives and society.
4. Ans: (a)
5. Ans: (b) The exponential rise of Internet of Things (IoT) start-ups is only one part of the passage. The intrusiveness of Internet of Things (IoT) start-ups has not been mentioned in the passage.  
Internet of Things (IoT) is proving to be helpful in disaster response. But, the passage does not say that Internet of Things (IoT) start-ups are a necessity for disaster response.

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