## VARC

*Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:*

This year, I have been reading a selection of autobiographical writings by Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. The six writers in question came from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds and different countries across Europe. Three survived concentration camps. The significance of art, creativity and cultural life is a theme that emerges implicitly and explicitly across the various texts, and this prompted me to reflect on wider questions about the value of the arts and the humanities.

Like Frankl, Otto Dov Kulka writes of the 'skits' performed during his time at Auschwitz, and of the 'special' and 'unique black humour' that he developed there. Born in Czechoslovakia in 1933, as a child, Kulka was sent to Theresienstadt and then to Auschwitz. In his Landscapes of the Metropolis of Death, Kulka repeatedly mentions Herbert, a fellow inmate, who made a lifelong impression on him:

It was Herbert who gave me a copy of Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, Herbert who explained to me who Beethoven was, and Goethe, and Shakespeare, and about the culture they bequeathed us – that is, European humanism.

Kulka also recalls Fredy Hirsch, another camp inmate, who devoted both himself and the team of instructors he chose to educating and looking after the youngsters. Kulka remembers history lessons and artistic performances, including plays, concerts and a children's opera. Hirsch's barracks became the centre of the spiritual and cultural life of the place. For Kulka, the significance of these experiences was such that they 'unquestionably form the moral basis for my approach to culture, to life, almost to everything, as it took shape within me during those few months, at the age of 10 and 11'.

Of course, as Kulka emphasises, there was a brutal limit to cultural and artistic escapism in 'the Metropolis of Death' – a place from which he and the other inmates expected never to return. The lessons and performances all took place '150 to 200 metres from the selection platform and 300 to 400 metres from the crematoria'. Similarly, Frankl underscores that 'any pursuit of art in camp was somewhat grotesque', set against the 'background of desolate camp life'. Kulka puzzles over one 'particularly bizarre' artistic experience. He mentions Imre, who took on the role of children's choir conductor in the camp. Kulka wonders how to interpret Imre's choice to teach the children a song about 'the brotherhood of man', which Kulka later discovered was Schiller's 'Ode to Joy' from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Another boy pointed out the 'terrible absurdity' and 'terrible wonder' of playing that song 'opposite the

crematoria of Auschwitz'. Was Imre expressing an undying commitment to those universal values, Kulka asks himself, or was this performance 'an act of extreme sarcasm'?

In Behind the Secret Window: A Memoir of a Hidden Childhood During World War Two, Nelly S Toll recounts an escape attempt, where she and her mother joined a group trying to cross the border from Poland into Hungary. After a long period of hiding in a barn in a forest, Toll and two friends were eventually permitted to go outside. They were 'ecstatic' at being able to play, to sing, to watch the clouds and the birds – to be children.

*1. The primary purpose of the passage is to:*
A. document the various educational and artistic programs that inmates like Fredy Hirsch created within Auschwitz.
B. argue that the pursuit of art and culture, while well-intentioned, was ultimately a grotesque and futile act in the camps.
C. demonstrate that the shared European humanism of Beethoven and Dostoevsky was the primary reason for the survivors' resilience.
D. explore the complex and paradoxical role of the arts and humanities as a source of both profound moral sustenance and terrible absurdity in the face of total dehumanization.

*2. The terrible absurdity and terrible wonder of Imre's choir performance is rooted in the:*
A. fact that Imre was likely an uneducated inmate who did not understand the true meaning of Schiller's Ode to Joy.
B. profound, irreconcilable contradiction of celebrating the brotherhood of man opposite the crematoria.
C. inmates' black humour and the possibility that the performance was simply a skit designed to be sarcastic.
D. choice of a German-language song by Beethoven, which could be seen as an act of capitulation to their captors.

*3. Kulka's puzzle over Imre's performance centres on the ambiguity of whether the act was one of:*
A. undying, genuine commitment or profound, bitter irony.
B. a random musical choice or a deliberate political statement.
C. spiritual salvation or grotesque escapism.
D. artistic integrity or a simple desire to keep children occupied.

*4. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the author's primary thesis about the significance of the arts and humanities in the camps?*
A. A newly discovered letter from Imre states that he chose Ode to Joy simply because it was the only song all the children knew.

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B. Fredy Hirsch's barracks were later found to have been secretly funded by the camp administration as a show barracks for Red Cross visits.

C. A new study reveals that the skits were mandatory performances forced upon inmates by the camp guards.

D. It is discovered that Nelly S Toll's ecstatic singing and playing were symptoms of a psychological break, not a sign of joy.

*5. There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide where (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.*

Sentence: Yet, no other major power can offer India what it needs in terms of markets, investment, technology, weapons and diplomatic support.

Paragraph: Trump's actions have ordinary Indians seething and demanding action, but the Modi government does not have good options. ____(1)____. Giving in to coercion would make Modi look weak. ____(2)____. With US-India relations strained, New Delhi has been working hard to stabilise its relationship with China, which has been tense since bloody border clashes between the two in 2020. ____(3)____. Modi went to China for the first time in seven years to further that aim, shaking hands with President Xi Jinping. ____(4)____. But although Xi emphasised the need for amicable ties, there is little trust between India and China at present.

A. Option 1
B. Option 2
C. Option 3
D. Option 4

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

Sometimes it seems the most direct route is to automate wherever possible, and to keep iterating until we get it right. Here's why that would be a mistake: imperfect automation is not a first step toward perfect automation, anymore than jumping halfway across a canyon is a first step toward jumping the full distance. Recognizing that the rim is out of reach, we may find better alternatives to leaping—for example, building a bridge, hiking the trail, or driving around the perimeter. This is exactly where we are with artificial intelligence. AI is not yet ready to jump the canyon, and it probably won't be in a meaningful sense for most of the next decade.

A. Relying on early-stage automation is misguided because flawed systems do not naturally progress toward fully capable ones, much like failing to clear a canyon gap.

B. Automation should not be attempted until AI becomes as reliable as human judgment, which is unlikely to happen for several decades.

C. Incremental improvements in AI are valuable, but true breakthroughs will require far more time and investment than most people expect.

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D. Automation efforts should focus on long-term research rather than practical deployment, since current AI models are still inefficient and unpredictable.

*7. Five jumbled-up 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 and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.*

1. On the entry for Adolf Hitler, the führer's leadership and "rapid economic" achievements are noted before the Holocaust.
2. The Grokipedia entry for Musk himself notes a "reported 20-pound weight loss" and propensity for "weightlifting and strength training".
3. The "Islam" page questions the religion's "inherent compatibility with liberal democracy."
4. The site uses just that term, theory, rather than conspiracy theory, as you would see on Wikipedia and elsewhere.
5. Other entries on Grokipedia contain a similar slant.

*8. There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide where (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.*

Sentence: What makes the Solar Sharer scheme unprecedented is its scale and blanket implementation, and that it is led by a national government instead of the industry.

Paragraph: ____(1)____. The idea of offering consumers cheaper or even free power isn't entirely new. ____(2)____. Several Australian power suppliers already have similar schemes that operate at certain times where there is excess renewable energy, as do many in European countries. ____(3)____. Some wonder, however, whether the new policy will work in practice or if it risks introducing perverse outcomes. ____(4)____. For example, Dylan McConnell at the University of New South Wales says it may disincentivise new solar installations.

A. Option 1
B. Option 2
C. Option 3
D. Option 4

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

Eventually, I would learn that stories are not just a way of communicating science; they are intrinsic to science, actually part of doing science. My own story of merging these Two Cultures – for me, literary writing and particle physics – was complicated by a Third Culture, religion. I grew up in Utah, in an era when Mormon women could have physics careers, technically, but following this path was difficult, lonely, and considered a threat to the traditional family model. We were encouraged to pursue education, not to prepare for competitive careers but for traditional roles

as wives and mothers. This worldview, where a woman's education is merely a safeguard if her husband can't work, exemplifies what George W Bush's speechwriter Michael Gerson called 'the soft bigotry of low expectations'.

A. Storytelling in science is highlighted alongside social pressures that treat women's academic goals as secondary, reflecting a worldview shaped by conservative expectations.

B. Scientific and literary interests are portrayed as compatible pursuits, though religious communities often restrict women from pursuing education beyond basic requirements.

C. The blending of science and literature is contrasted with a tradition in which women are urged to prioritise family roles and view education only as a fallback option.

D. Scientific work is shown to rely on storytelling, while cultural expectations within Mormonism made a physics career difficult for women by limiting their ambitions.

*10. Five jumbled-up 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 and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.*

*1. In psychology and philosophy, grief is portrayed as a response to a specific event – typically, the death of a loved one.*

*2. Another aspect of the grieving process is adjusting.*

*3. Yet this doesn't fit well with my own experience of cultural bereavement.*

*4. Turning over the person in your mind and reflecting on their life and legacy are all considered crucial to processing their loss.*

*5. The trajectory of experience after cultural loss differs from most existing models of grief.*

## DILR

Five athletes – Kamal, Lakshya, Manish, Nathan, and Oswal – participated in an event that consisted of 4 sports - Swimming, Long Jump, 100 m sprint, and Discus throw. They were ranked 1 to 5 in each sport.

- Lakshya got rank 1 in the Discus throw, and Manish got rank 1 in Long Jump.
- Oswal didn't get rank 5 in any sport, and Kamal didn't get rank 2 in any sport.
- The rankings of Nathan consisted of two different numbers.
- No two friends got the same rank in any sport.
- The sum of all the rankings of all five friends was in an increasing Arithmetic progression in the same order as Kamal, Lakshya, Manish, Nathan, and Oswal.

*11. For how many persons can their exact ranks in all sports be determined?*
A. 1
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4

*12. What is Kamal's rank in the Long Jump?*

*13. Who got the third rank in the 100 m sprint?*
A. Kamal
B. Manish
C. Oswal
D. Cannot be determined

*14. If Lakshya's rank in Swimming is 5, what is Nathan's rank in the 100 m sprint?*

*15. If Nathan's rank in Swimming is 5, what is his rank in the long jump?*
A. 2
B. 3
C. 5
D. Cannot be determined

Just before the Asia Cup cricket tournament, a round-robin football tournament was played between 4 cricket teams - India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. The team with the highest number of wins was declared the winner of the tournament. In case of a tie, the team with the highest positive goal difference is the tournament champion. The following information about the tournament is given:

- The victory margin in each game ranged from 1 to 6 and each game had a different victory margin.
- Each team scored at least one goal in every match.
- Bangladesh did not win by a margin of 5 in any match.
- The number of goals by India in all matches put together was 14.
- The number of goals scored by Bangladesh against Pakistan was unique.
- Sri Lanka won against India and lost against Bangladesh. The total number of goals scored by Sri Lanka in these two matches was 4.
- India won by a 3-goal margin against Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh scored a total of 8 goals against India and Pakistan.
- India scored 7 goals against Pakistan. No other team scored 7 or more goals in a match.
- Pakistan scored the same number of goals against India and Bangladesh.

*16. By how many goals did Bangladesh defeat Pakistan? 4*

*17. How many goals did India score against Sri Lanka?*
*A. 1*
*B. 2*
*C. 3*
*D. Cannot be determined*

*18. What can be the minimum number of goals scored by Pakistan in the tournament?*

*19. What was the goal difference in the match between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh?*
*A. 1*
*B. 2*
*C. 4*
*D. Cannot be determined*

*20. If both Sri Lanka and Bangladesh had the same total number of goals in the tournament, how many goals did Bangladesh score against Sri Lanka?*
*A. 4*
*B. 3*
*C. 2*
*D. Cannot be determined*

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## QA

*21. Find the difference between the largest and smallest integers in the domain of the function: $y = \sqrt{\log_{x-1}(13 - 2x) - 1}$*

*22. The selling price of the first article is 365, and the cost price of the second article is 365. If there is a loss of 20% on the first article and a profit of 20% on the second article, what is the overall profit or loss percentage?*
A. 1.8% loss
B. 2.22% loss
C. 4% loss
D. No profit, no loss

*23. There are 10 children in a group. 4 tickets were bought for the theatre. The tickets are identical. A child can take at most 2 tickets. In how many ways can the tickets be distributed?*
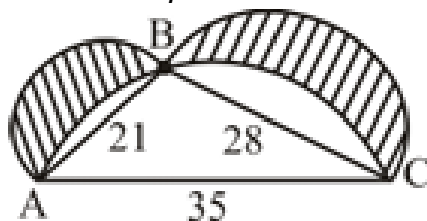A. 210
B. 375
C. 615
D. 720

*24. If α and β are the roots of the equations $5x^2 + 2x - 1 = 0$, find the value of $α^{-5} + β^{-5}$.*

*25. A king is sipping water from a cup that was initially full of water. After sipping some quantity of water from the cup, the king looked somewhere else. The chief added milk to the cup to fill it again to its capacity, which is equal to 1/5 of the capacity of the cup. Again, after the king sipped some quantity, the chief again added milk equal to 1/4 of the capacity of the cup to fill it again to its capacity. He repeated the process to replace 1/3 and then 1/2 of the capacity of the cup. What is the ratio of water and milk after the chief replaced the milk for the last time?*
A. 2:3
B. 3:2
C. 4:1
D. 1:4

*26. In the given figure, 3 semicircles are drawn on three sides of the triangle ABC. AB = 21 cm. BC = 28 cm and AC = 35 cm. What is the area of the shaded part?*
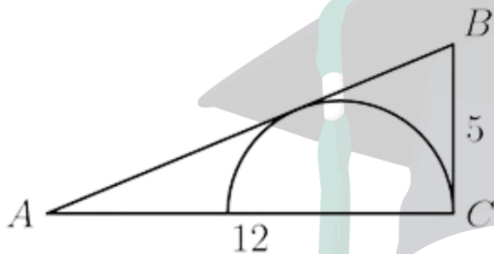


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A. 420 cm²
B. 245 cm²
C. 294 cm²
D. 308 cm²

27. How many values of 'a' satisfy this equation:
$\sqrt{a-1} + \sqrt{2a-3} + \sqrt{3a-5} + \sqrt{4a-7} = 5a-6$?
A. None
B. 1
C. 2
D. 3

28. In the right triangle ABC, AC = 12, BC = 5, and angle C is a right angle. A semicircle is inscribed in the triangle as shown. What is the radius of the semicircle?



A. 10/3
B. 13/5
C. 8/3
D. 13/4

29. B starts 4.5 minutes after A from the same point, for a place at a distance of 3.5 miles from the starting point. A, on reaching the destination, turns back and walks a mile, where he meets B. If A's speed is a mile in 6 minutes, then B's speed is
A. 9 miles/hr
B. 12 miles/hr
C. 5 miles/hr
D. 6.67 miles/hr

30. Find the positive value of k so that the area of the triangle formed by the line kx+3y−12=0 and the coordinate axes is 12 sq. units.

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