

**VARC**

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

In a blog on 'Epistemic Relativism' (2021), Francis Fukuyama writes: 'We who live in modern liberal societies have necessarily accepted a certain degree of moral relativism.' Fukuyama does not comment on whether this is a good or bad thing, but chastises postmodernist writers who espouse relativism regarding 'assertions of fact concerning the outside world'. Fukuyama identifies the rise of epistemic relativism with writers who followed Friedrich Nietzsche, but these themes are present in *Outlines of Pyrrhonism*. Bracketing from the question of chronology, is Fukuyama right that relativism is a problem?

A quick reply is that sceptics eschew the term relativism. Sceptics do not maintain that truth changes depending on time or place. In 1933, the German philosopher Martin Heidegger believed in the inner truth and greatness of the National Socialist cause. Heidegger is a relativist but not a sceptic.

To the larger point that epistemic relativism is a problem, sceptics maintain that they do have criteria to make decisions about facts in the world or how to treat other people. These are, according to Sextus, 'the guidance of nature, the compulsion of the feelings, the tradition of laws and customs, and the instruction of the arts'. For Sextus, nature and culture are the soil from which our ethical dispositions grow. Sceptics may be kind to children, help their neighbours, and build institutions that reflect the values of their culture.

And there are many examples of cruel dogmatists.

In one of Sextus' surviving manuscripts titled *Against the Ethicists*, he addresses the question of what a sceptic will do if a tyrant commands a forbidden act. The sceptic 'will choose one thing, perhaps, and avoid the other by the preconception which accords with his ancestral laws and customs' and will 'bear the harsh situation more easily compared with the dogmatist'. Aha! For critics of scepticism such as Martha Nussbaum, this seems like evidence that sceptics are passive in the face of injustice. They don't even know whether they will fight tyrants!

Rising to Sextus' defence, the political scientist John Christian Laursen argues that sceptics can grow up in cultures that believe in watering the tree of liberty with the blood of tyrants, and sceptics can have a burning hatred for tyrants. Sceptics can possess energy, commitment, and concern about the political order. 'One can be committed without a chain of truths to support one's actions.' And, of course, dogmatists can also support tyrants who murder people who disagree with them.

Fukuyama wants people to agree on facts about the outside world. But intelligent people can look at those supposed facts in a variety of ways. Grass is green. Except at night, when it appears black. Sceptics can make arguments like that for a long time. Sceptics encourage us to live our lives in less frustrating ways than demanding something that humans do not and may not ever possess: truth.

*1. According to the passage, what is the fundamental difference between epistemic relativism and scepticism?*

- A. Scepticism maintains that truth is constant, while epistemic relativism maintains that truth is relative.
- B. Epistemic relativism is about the assertion of facts about the outside world, while scepticism does not believe in facts.
- C. Scepticism opposes the idea of truth, while epistemic relativism believes that something can be true only within a particular individual's or culture's perspective, but not absolutely or universally.
- D. Epistemic relativism and scepticism have no fundamental difference since both believe that truth is not absolute or universal but according to an individual's culture.

*2. The author of the passage is likely to support which one of the following statements?*

- A. Fukuyama is opposed to the moral relativism found in liberal modern societies.
- B. Sceptics can make arguments about the truth for which there is no definitive answer.
- C. Sceptics can tackle harsh situations better than dogmatists can.
- D. Sceptics can be acquiescent in the face of inequity or unfairness.

*3. From the passage, we can infer that the author is in favour of*

- A. more scepticism
- B. morals according to culture
- C. a belief in the fact that truth can be objective
- D. a belief in some cause or ideology

*4. Regarding which one of the following quotes could we argue that the author overemphasises the importance of scepticism?*

- A. A quick reply is that sceptics eschew the term relativism.
- B. Sceptics do not maintain that truth changes depending on time or place.
- C. The sceptic 'will choose one thing, perhaps, and avoid the other by the preconception which accords with his ancestral laws and customs' and will 'bear the harsh situation more easily compared with the dogmatist.
- D. Sceptics encourage us to live our lives in less frustrating ways than demanding something that humans do not and may not ever possess: truth.

5. Sentences given in the questions below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. The first and last sentences are A and F, and the four in between are labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4. Choose the most logical order of these four sentences to construct a coherent paragraph from sentences A to F.

A. Imagine setting off a single domino and watching as one by one, each piece tumbles effortlessly.

1. This idea might sound simple, yet it's incredibly potent when applied to understanding new words and phrases.

2. It's a principle that not only applies to physical dominos but also to our everyday language and interactions.

3. Just as one domino can initiate a chain reaction, learning a new term can unlock a series of connections and insights in your language journey.

4. This simple action captures the essence of the domino effect, a powerful concept that shows how one small move can lead to significant changes.

F. And today, we're focusing on one such term: the domino effect.

6. 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: Similarly, disorienting is the fact that these visions and pontifications are driving change in the real world.

Paragraph: What exactly is a person, listening in their car on the way to the grocery store, to make of conversations like this? \_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Surely, there's a cohort that finds covering the Earth or atmosphere with data centers very exciting. \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_. But what about those of us who don't? Altman and lesser personalities in the AI space often talk this way, making extreme, matter-of-fact proclamations about the future and sounding like kids playing a strategy game. \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_. This isn't a business plan; it's an idle daydream. \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Option 1

B. Option 2

C. Option 3

D. Option 4

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. There is, however, a third type of reason why philosophical writing is often inaccessible, and it is that the author consciously intends it to be so.

2. These commentators did accept that intentional obscurity can be commendable if it is designed to stimulate the reader to learn through grappling with the text.

3. This was recognised by the scholars of Ancient Greece and Rome, and those of the Middle Ages, who commented on the treatises of Plato and Aristotle.

4. They symbolised this sort of obscurantism with the cuttlefish, which discharges ink to cloud the water around it.

5. These commentators criticised writing in which the intentional obscurity was designed to prevent readers from understanding or refuting it.

8. *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. The shift suggests that gathering people's online data for targeted advertising is not going away.

2. The internet industry shuddered last year when Apple introduced privacy measures for the iPhone that threatened to upend online tracking and cripple digital advertising and Google pledged similar privacy actions.

3. And it is having the unintended effect of reinforcing the power of some of tech's biggest titans.

4. But in less than a year, another type of internet tracking has started taking over.

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

Hollywood representation—the idea that people from marginalised communities should have a place in mass pop culture—has never been particularly high up on my list of political priorities. Let me first get the caveats out of the way: I think it's nice to have an underrepresented name on the marquees. I do believe a person's stake in this country is tied, in some part, to whether they see themselves in the broader culture. And I agree that it would also be great if awards shows in the past had done a better job of celebrating the work of minority artists. My objection is mostly one of proportion. I just think we probably make too big a deal out of Hollywood representation.

A. The representation of marginalised communities in mass pop culture has been given undue importance.

B. Too much importance has been given to the representation of marginalised communities in mass pop culture, although this representation is required.

C. Although it is nice to have a representation of marginalised communities in Hollywood, this representation of minorities in mass pop culture has gone too far.

D. Although it would be nice to have representation from marginalised communities in mass pop culture, it is not a political priority.

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. Instead, most students, I believe, want to search for moments of solidarity with people from different backgrounds despite the pressures placed upon them to turn their life stories into cultural capital.
2. But I do not understand how the trauma algorithms that currently exist at elite institutions advance any of these conversations.
3. I just think there is a way in which the denial of one's hardships constitutes a far more insidious form of dishonesty.
4. We should talk about privilege and systemic racism and the ways in which the history of violence against Black, Latino, Native American, and Asian people in this country still shapes their lives today.
5. A compassionate society, especially one with as much inequality as the United States, should talk about discrimination and the very real ways some people's lives are harder than others.



**DILR**

Glassy, a bar in a city, serves beers of only 3 brands - Kingfisher, Budweiser and Carlsberg. Last Friday, not all the customers necessarily drank beers, but those who did had at least one of the 3 brands. Further, some of the observations were as follows:

- The number of customers who drank only Carlsberg was twice the number of customers who drank only Budweiser.
- The number of customers who drank both Carlsberg and Budweiser was 24 more than twice the number of customers who drank only Budweiser and Kingfisher.
- The number of customers who drank only Kingfisher and Carlsberg was 28.
- For every 3 customers who drank only Kingfisher, there was 1 customer who drank only Carlsberg and Budweiser.
- For every 3 customers who drank Carlsberg, there was 1 customer who drank Budweiser and Carlsberg
- For every 3 customers who drank Budweiser, there was 1 customer who drank Kingfisher and Budweiser.

11. What can be the minimum number of customers who visited the bar on Friday?

12. If 172 customers visited the bar on Friday, how many people had only Kingfisher?

- A. 42
- B. 45
- C. 54
- D. 60

13. If 250 customers visited the bar on Friday, what could be the minimum number of customers who did not drink any of the 3 beers?

- A. 0
- B. 3
- C. 5
- D. 8

14. Which of the following could be a possible number of customers who drank exactly 2 of the 3 brands of beers?

- A. 40
- B. 50
- C. 60
- D. 70

15. What is the difference between the number of customers who drank only Kingfisher and the number of customers who drank only Carlsberg?

- A. 18

- B. 16
- C. 24
- D. Cannot be determined

Tendulkar played 10 innings in which his scores were 27, 32, 37, 46, 52, 57, 62, 76, 78, and 143, not in this order. An interesting thing was noticed, that after each innings, his average was an integer. When asked about the hints to figure out the runs scored by him in different innings, he gave just two more hints:

- i) His average after 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> innings was the same. After no other innings, he had that same average.
- ii) He did not score more than 50 in his first two innings.

*16. What is his average after the 6th innings?*

- A. 62
- B. 68
- C. 65
- D. 67

*17. For how many innings can we uniquely determine his score? 6*

*18. What was his score in the 4<sup>th</sup> innings?*

- A. 76
- B. 57
- C. 62
- D. Cannot be determined

*19. In which innings did he get the highest score?*

- A. 3rd
- B. 4th
- C. 5th
- D. 6th

*20. What could be his maximum average at the end of the 8th innings?*

- A. 60
- B. 61
- C. 64
- D. 65



**QA**

21. What is the length of the common chord of two circles whose radii are 18 cm and 24 cm and whose centres are 30 cm apart?

- A. 28.8 cm
- B. 25.6 cm
- C. 26.4 cm
- D. 27.2 cm

22. A teacher asked the students to find the average of the first 'N' natural numbers. Mridul got an average of  $60\frac{5}{24}$ , which was incorrect as he had missed a number. Find the difference between 'N' and the number he missed.

23. If the solutions of the equation  $x^2 + 2x - 24 = 0$  are factors of the equation  $3x^3 - ax^2 - 74x + p = 0$ , find the sum  $a+b$ .

- A. 16
- B. 19
- C. 29
- D. 37

24. There are three taps, A, B, and C, which are attached to a tank. Each tank fills the tank in 12 minutes, 15 minutes, and 18 minutes. The mechanism of the taps is set in such a way that each tap, starting with A, is turned on exactly for a minute. B is then turned on for a minute, then C, and the cycle repeats. Find the delay in the time if C acts as a draining tap instead of a filling tap.

- A. 14 minutes
- B. 14.5 minutes
- C. 15 minutes
- D. 15.5 minutes

25. A devotee is climbing a flight of steps to reach a hilltop temple. She climbs 54 steps in the first minute, but her speed decreases by 2 steps per minute thereafter. If she has completed 60% of the total ascent in 10 minutes, after how many minutes will she have completed 80% of the total steps?

26. Which of the following statements is/are true?

- I. Four consecutive integers can add up to a perfect square.
- II. Four consecutive integers can add up to a perfect cube.

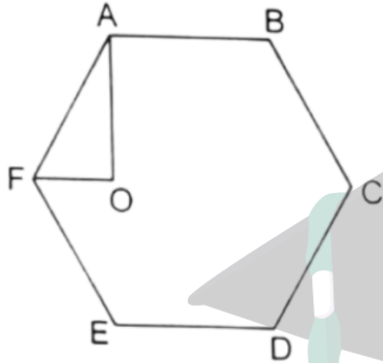
- A. Both I and II
- B. Only I
- C. Only II
- D. Neither I nor II



27. A state has 20 cities and 130 roads, where each road directly connects precisely two cities. What is the largest possible number of cities that are directly connected to every other city?

- A. 10
- B. 9
- C. 8
- D. 7

28. In the figure given below,  $ABCDEF$  is a regular hexagon and  $\angle AOF = 90^\circ$ . How many triangles of size  $AOF$  can fit into trapezium  $ABCF$ ?



29. Savita can knit sweaters of 2 sizes. She can knit a sweater of the smaller size in 5 days. The bigger sweater is 40% bigger than the smaller sweater. If she gets an order of 40 smaller sweaters and 30 bigger sweaters, then find the percentage of more/less time required by Savita to knit the bigger sweaters than the smaller sweaters.

- A. 4% less
- B. 5% more
- C. 8% more
- D. 10% less

30. If  $\log_{10} x + 2 \log_{10} y = 1$ , and  $x - 3y^2 = 13$ , find the product  $xy$ .

- A.  $4\sqrt{5}$
- B.  $2\sqrt{13}$
- C.  $5\sqrt{6}$
- D.  $7\sqrt{3}$