

VARC

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

Picture yourself on a bus. You've had a terrible day, and your mood is far from ideal. Suddenly, you feel a sharp pain in your foot: someone has just stepped on it with a pair of heavy hiking boots. Annoyed, you immediately look towards the person who did it, but you can't see their facial expression or hear what they have to say. You feel unsettled. A short while later, the bus stops and the driver approaches you. They reassure you that the person who stepped on your foot has been promptly removed from the bus and won't be allowed back on again for a year. This is the approach of the traditional penal system.

It is based on retributivism, the idea that wrongdoers deserve to be punished for their crimes. Under this system, justice is served when proportionate suffering is imposed on the offender. Prison is not just a place where offenders are secluded to keep society safe; it also carries the symbolic meaning of deserved social rejection. The whole process of achieving justice through punishment involves little or no real communication between wrongdoers and victims, who are instead required to delegate the management of their conflict to third parties (professionals, state institutions, etc). As highlighted by the criminologist Nils Christie, the parties involved are 'robbed' of their conflicts, which are instead left in the hands of those who are not directly involved. This system rests on a fundamental premise, rooted in both psychology and anthropology: individuals are intrinsically unable to resolve disputes without external intervention, and this external intervention must be punitive to meet society's demands. A wrongdoer must pay for the harm caused, and our culture assumes that the only way to achieve that end is through imposing suffering. As a matter of fact, traditional criminal justice expresses the human drive for revenge.

Now, let's return to the bus. But this time, imagine that, after having your foot stepped on, you can immediately identify the person responsible. You see the worry and embarrassment on their face, and you hear their words of concern and regret: 'I'm so sorry. I didn't do it on purpose. Are you all right?' This genuine expression of remorse will cause your nerves – previously as taut as violin strings – to relax, perhaps even allowing for an understanding smile. No need to rely on the driver. The situation is resolved, and nobody is removed from the bus. This is the approach of restorative justice (RJ).

The core of RJ has little to do with classical theories of punishment. In fact, its justification lies beyond the concept of punishment, as it seeks primarily to address harms, resolve conflicts and repair relationships. RJ is about healing, mutual communication and empathy; it focuses on

needs more than deserts. There is no place for punishing wrongdoers in the restorative paradigm, because the very idea of crime takes another meaning: it is not the result of an evil mind freely choosing to commit evil actions. Rather, it is a damaged relationship. As a result, justice itself is understood as relational and implies restoring social connections, healing social wounds.

1. The author contrasts the victim's reaction in the two bus scenarios (paragraphs 1 and 3) primarily to illustrate:

- A. that a person's mood can determine whether a conflict is resolved peacefully or punitively.
- B. that the offender's non-verbal communication is the single most important factor in a victim's response.
- C. the difference between a system focused on symbolic punishment and one focused on direct communication and emotional resolution.
- D. that third-party interventions, like the bus driver's, are inherently unjust and disproportionate.

2. According to the passage, the retributive paradigm is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT:

- A. a belief that justice is served by imposing proportionate suffering.
- B. the symbolic use of punishment to signify social rejection.
- C. a premise that individuals are intrinsically unable to resolve disputes without punitive intervention.
- D. a focus on healing the social wounds caused by a transgression.

3. It can be inferred from the passage that the author views the traditional penal system as:

- A. an impersonal mechanism for imposing suffering as a form of payment for a transgression.
- B. a process that prioritizes the emotional needs of victims over all other considerations.
- C. a modern and effective replacement for the basic human drive for revenge.
- D. a system designed to encourage open communication between all parties.

4. Which of the following scenarios would the author most likely classify as a clear application of the restorative justice paradigm as described in the passage?

- A. A company that polluted a river pays a large government fine and funds a state-run environmental cleanup program.
- B. Following a neighborhood burglary, the homeowner and the offender meet with a facilitator to discuss the harm caused and how the offender can make amends.
- C. A student caught cheating on an exam is suspended and required to write an essay on academic integrity.

D. A victim of assault reads a statement in court about their suffering, which the judge considers before imposing a lengthy prison sentence.

5. 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 students in the high-score group said that they thought they had, in fact, done quite well—significantly better than the average student.
2. Conversely, those who'd been assigned to the low-score group said that they thought they had done significantly worse than the average student.
3. At this point, something curious happened.
4. Both conclusions were equally unfounded, even though they'd just been told they had zero grounds for believing their self-assessments.

6. 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. During my 2025 trip, my passport was scanned not only to cross China's border, but every time I entered or exited a train.
2. We foreigners can temporarily live with that level of surveillance, but it's constant for Chinese citizens.
3. China knew exactly where I was and when.
4. With the arrival of video surveillance over the last 10 years, all that minor criminal activity has disappeared.
5. For foreigners, passports are scanned at hotels, museums, and similar places.

7. 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: The shift apparent in these stories is psychological, not just technological.

Paragraph: ____ (1) ____ . AI is beginning to participate in thought. ____ (2) ____ . At first glance, this might seem like just a heightened level of 'assistance'. ____ (3) ____ . But I think something deeper is happening: private, internal dialogue is becoming externalised, shaped in tandem with a machine. AI is entering the space where we figure things out. ____ (4) ____ . This may not be inherently good or bad. But it is new, and it's remarkable how naturally youth are adapting to it.

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

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

Everything you think of as 'wokeness' is simply an epiphenomenon of demographic feminization. The problem is not that women are less talented than men or even that female modes of interaction are inferior in any objective sense. The problem is that female modes of interaction are not well-suited to accomplishing the goals of many major institutions. You can have an academia that is majority female, but it will be oriented toward other goals than open debate and the unfettered pursuit of truth. And if your academia doesn't pursue truth, what good is it? If your journalists aren't prickly individualists who don't mind alienating people, what good are they? If a business loses its swashbuckling spirit and becomes a feminized, inward-focused bureaucracy, will it not stagnate?

A. "Wokeness" is a secondary effect of increased female presence in institutions, creating a functional incompatibility between "female modes of interaction" and the foundational objectives of these institutions, potentially undermining their core purpose.

B. Institutions like academia and business are at risk of stagnation because they are abandoning their traditional goals, such as the unfettered pursuit of truth, in favour of inward-focused bureaucracies.

C. The female modes of interaction are inherently inferior for achieving the objectives of major institutions, leading to the rise of wokeness and the inevitable decline of academia and business.

D. "Wokeness" is identified as an epiphenomenon of changing demographics, which in turn fosters new institutional goals that conflict with the established, individualistic modes of operation required for the pursuit of truth.

9. 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. But the serenity Einstein experienced while sailing was unparalleled, giving him a mental freedom that we should all aspire to for ourselves.

2. While many of Einstein's passions extended far beyond physics, perhaps the one he enjoyed the most was sailing.

3. By focusing on something mundane, Einstein's mind was free to wander, frequently leading him to exciting new ideas.

4. His second wife, Elsa, added that "There is no other place where my husband is so relaxed, sweet, serene, and detached from routine distractions; the ship carries him far away."

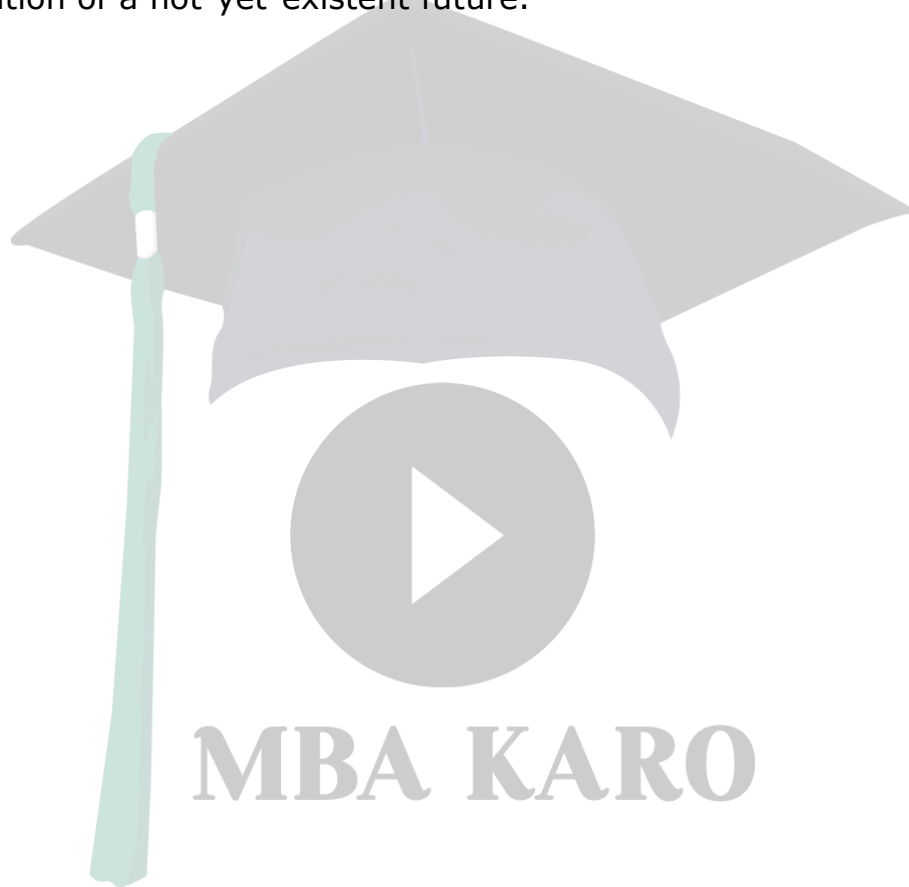
5. As Einstein wrote, "A cruise in the sea is an excellent opportunity for maximum calm and reflection on ideas from a different perspective."

10. 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: The language used in everyday conversations – whether it's spoken or sign language – is by nature fleeting

Paragraph: ____ (1) ____ . People perceive language, like everything else, through a tiny pinhole known as the present. ____ (2) ____ . What lies in the future remains out of view, then very briefly passes through that pinhole before it vanishes into the past. ____ (3) ____ . The information it contains is different at every slice of time. ____ (4) ____ . So, for any of us to use language, we must rely on our memories of a no-longer-existent past and our imagination of a not-yet-existent future.

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



DILR

Shivam is a security guard at the reception of an office and keeps track of the number of people who visit the office. On a weekend, the office register got misplaced, and the data about the number of people who visited the office from Monday to Friday remained undisclosed.

However, Shivam was learning to add numbers and managed to remember some information that showed the sum of the number of people who visited the office in each group of 3 days. He also remembered that a different number of people visited the office every day. The table given below shows the sum obtained by Shivam for all the different combinations of every 3 days. It is known that no combination is repeated, and every day is counted exactly once in each of the given combinations. The different combinations are disguised as A, B, C, ... J. He gave a couple of hints to the HR:

- The number of people who visited the office on Friday was equal to the average number of people who visited the office on Monday and Wednesday together.
- The number of people who visited the office on Tuesday was 15 fewer than that on Friday.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
300	345	330	305	285	290	310	265	325	305

11. How many people visited the office on the five days altogether?

- A. 450
- B. 475
- C. 495
- D. 510

12. What is the smallest number of people who visited the office on any of the days?

13. How many people visited the office on Thursday?

14. Which of these represents the number of people who visited the office on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday?

- A. G
- B. C
- C. J
- D. Cannot be determined

15. Which of these represents the number of people who visited the office on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday?

- A. F
- B. A
- C. E
- D. Cannot be determined

16. If D represents the total number of visitors on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, how many people visited the office on Monday?

Three boys, Jatin, Karun, and Lalit, and two girls, Meera and Nidhi, took a different coloured pen for rough work to a CAT mock. Each of them solved exactly one reading comprehension passage on a different theme among Economics, History, Medicine, Technology, and Philosophy. Each took a different amount of time to finish their passage - 6 minutes, 7 minutes, 8 minutes, 9 minutes, and 10 minutes.

1. Jatin, who did the Economics passage, took 1 minute longer than Nidhi, but 1 minute less than the person who did the History passage.
2. Meera took longer than the person who used a blue pen, and she didn't use a black pen.
3. Karun, who didn't use a blue pen, took less time than the person who used a red pen.
4. The person who used a pencil didn't solve their passage in the least amount of time, but did solve it in less time than the boy who solved the passage about Technology.
5. The person who used a red pen solved their passage in less time than the person who used a black pen.
6. The girl who used a green pen did the Philosophy passage, but did not take the longest amount of time.

17. Who used the red pen?

- A. Jatin
- B. Meera
- C. Nidhi
- D. Lalit

18. How much time (in minutes) did Nidhi take to solve her passage?

19. The person who solved the passage in 7 minutes used which colour pen?

- A. Used Pencil
- B. Red
- C. Green
- D. Blue

20. On which theme did Lalit solve the passage?

- A. History
- B. Philosophy
- C. Technology
- D. Medicine

QA

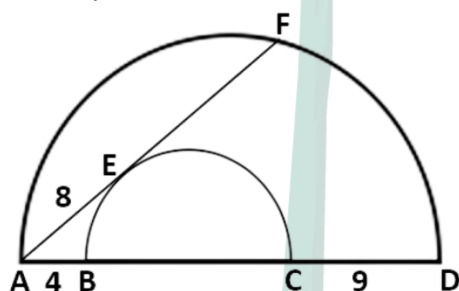
21. The ratio of Xing's present age to Yuan's present age is $a:3$. In 3 years, the ratio of their ages will become $(a + 5):10$. We also know that Yuan is 9 years older than Xing. If the ratio of Xing's present age to Zen's present age is $3a:(a + 5)$, what is the average of the present ages of Xing, Yuan, and Zen?

- A. 19 years
- B. 21 years
- C. 22 years
- D. 24 years

22. How many negative integers are there in the domain of the function $f(x) = \frac{\log(x+3)}{x^2+3x+2}$?

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. More than 2

23. In the given figure, there are two semicircles. AE is a tangent to the inner semicircle meeting the outer semicircle at F. If $AB = 4$, $CD = 9$, and $AE = 8$, find EF.



- A. 9
- B. 12
- C. 15
- D. 18

24. If the sum of the digits of $10^n - 4!$ is 85, find the sum of the digits of $\frac{10^{n+1} - 7}{3}$.

25. After travelling 700 km at a uniform speed, a train's engine develops a defect, and its speed is reduced to $\frac{5}{7}$ of its original speed. This causes the train to reach its destination 12 hours late. Had the defect occurred 700 km later, the train would have been only 8 hours late. What is the total distance of the journey?

- A. 1750 km
- B. 2100 km
- C. 2450 km

D. 2800 km

26. Some identical balls are arranged in rows to form an equilateral triangle. The first row consists of one ball, the second row consists of two balls and so on. If 99 more identical balls are added to the total number of balls used in forming the equilateral triangle, then all these balls can be arranged in a square whose each side contains exactly 2 balls fewer than the number of balls each side of the triangle contains. Then, the number of balls used to form the equilateral triangle is

27. Three friends, Arjun, Bhavesh, and Chetan, started a business together by investing Rs. 14700, Rs. 24500, and Rs. 28000, respectively. After some months, Chetan left the business. The total profit received at the end of the year is Rs. 38700. If the profit share of Bhavesh is Rs. 15750, find the time for which Chetan invested in the business.

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

28. Find the least number of sides in a regular polygon if the number of diagonals is more than 170.

29. Let $f(x)$ be a quadratic function that attains its minimum value of 24 at $x = -2$; if $f(4) = 60$, then find the value of $f(0)$.

- A. 28
- B. 32
- C. 36
- D. 40

30. A seller marked the price of an item at Rs. 25000. The seller gave successive discounts to a customer such that the difference between the two discounts is 4 percentage points. If the customer paid Rs. 20240 for the item, then find the higher discount.

- A. 15%
- B. 10%
- C. 12%
- D. 14%