VARC

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

Dr Smith, who spent most of her career at Canadian universities, was best known for her contributions to what is called standpoint theory. She argued that while conventional sociology claims to be the disinterested pursuit of objective truth, it is in fact encoded with ideologies that see the male experience as universal. "As women, we have been living in an intellectual, cultural and political world, from whose making we had been almost entirely excluded and in which we had been recognized as no more than marginal voices," she wrote in her first and best-known book, "The Everyday World as Problematic: A Feminist Sociology".

Sociology, she said, was not just a lens for viewing society but also a tool for ordering it, turning the events and facts of everyday life into administrative jargon organized according to the needs of the male-centred world. Worse yet, all this was invisible, she maintained; what she called "relations of ruling" were taken as natural, because the only point of view on offer was the one defined by men. She posited that a better, liberating alternative would be to reverse the focus of sociology. Rather than making people — in particular women, but also people of colour, gay men and lesbians, anyone on the margins — the object of study, they should be the subject, with the sociologist focusing on the world around them as seen and experienced from their standpoint.

"She was critical of forms of investigation that study people, particularly people in marginalized circumstances, and make them the object of study, whereas if you kind of take the standpoint of people, you're not looking at them, you're looking around them," Liza McCoy, a sociologist at the University of Calgary and a former student of Dr Smith's, said in a phone interview. "You're looking at what are the conditions and the practices that create the conditions that they find themselves."

Dr Smith offered herself, a single working mother, as a case study. She explained what her home life was like, in all its messy complexities, then showed how certain seemingly neutral terms — "single parent," for example — fed those lived experiences into a series of social assumptions and bureaucratic processes: how her children were taught in school, how policymakers treated people like her, and even how her colleagues viewed her. "Starting with experience was what we knew how to do in the women's movement," she wrote in 2004. "Indeed, we needed it because we came to see more and more clearly how the intellectual and cultural world we'd participated in had been put together from men's standpoint."

Dr Smith called this approach "institutional ethnography," and it has become a dominant mode of inquiry in feminist social science as well as

outside academia, where community-based researchers use it to understand the relationship between a person's everyday world and the organizing forces surrounding it, including schools, places of worship, the workplace and the police. While she first applied her approach as a middle-class, educated mother and wrote about it in feminist terms, Dr Smith saw it as a tool available to anyone marginalized by conventional sociology's dominant forms of inquiry.

1. According to the passage, Dr Smith is likely to be supportive of which one of the following initiatives?
A. Sociological investigations wherein women are the objects of the study
B. Sociological studies in which marginalised communities are the subjects of the study
C. The field of social sciences, when it includes more women and members from marginalised communities
D. Sociology broadening its scope and function to not only view societies but also to try and change them

2. All of the following, if true, could be seen as supporting the arguments in the passage EXCEPT:
A. In sociological investigations, the object of the study should be the subject instead.
B. The intellectual, cultural, and political world has almost entirely excluded women.
C. Dr Smith was not well disposed to investigating people of marginalised communities.
D. The institutional ethnographic approach is the foremost method used in feminist social sciences.

3. Which one of the following, if false, could be seen as supportive of Dr Smith's claims?
A. The current male-centric approach is effective.
B. The standpoint approach is relevant in sociological investigations.
C. The institutional ethnographic approach is essentially community-driven.
D. Sociology should concern itself exclusively with viewing the objective truth.

4. Which one of the following, if true, would be an accurate inference from the passage?
A. Dr Smith pioneered the standpoint theory approach to sociological investigations.
B. According to Dr Smith, sociology should not simply study societies but also instruct them.
C. The standpoint theory was superseded by the institutional ethnography approach to sociology.

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D. Dr Smith tried to change the male-centric approach to sociology by advocating an exclusively women-centric approach instead.

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. Uranium, a globally abundant metal, exists as different isotopes, primarily uranium-238 and uranium-235.

2. Only uranium-235, which constitutes less than 1% of total uranium, can undergo fission to produce energy.

3. To be effective as nuclear fuel, natural uranium must undergo "enrichment" to increase its uranium-235 content.

4. Enriched uranium serves as fuel for 3-5 years, after which it remains radioactive and requires stringent disposal, though it can also be recycled.

6. 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 coffee you enjoy in the morning might have its roots in a South American plantation, roasted in Europe, and served in a local café.

2. Every time you pass through the checkout in a store, or click on the "buy" button in an online store, you're interacting with much more than just the product you're taking away.

3. The clothes you wear could have been designed in one country, manufactured in another, and sold in yours.

4. Behind this seemingly simple act lies a vast web of economic interaction that spans the globe.

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. 'Wild salmon are at the centre of my life,' said Heather Hardcastle, the organisation's campaign director, 'as they are at the centre of most people's lives in this region.'

2. For decades, scientists have been trying to understand the impact of mining on salmonids, a family that includes salmon, trout, and other closely related fish.

3. In interviews with Undark, several mining representatives underscored the industry's efforts to keep watersheds free of contaminants.

4. The non-profit Salmon Beyond Borders was created to protect transboundary rivers and ways of life.

5. But many scientists and locals remain sceptical, and they worry about losing the region's salmon.

8. 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. Civil disobedience cannot be unintentional: it must be undertaken deliberately.
2. The agent may not be correct or even entirely reasonable about her convictions, but she holds them sincerely.
3. The person must intend to protest laws, policies, institutions, or practices that she believes are unjust based on her sincerely held moral or political commitments.
4. Principled disobedience can be distinguished from ordinary criminal offending by examining the motives that underlie the disobedient act.
5. Henry David Thoreau is widely credited with coining the phrase civil disobedience.

9. 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 more psychologists investigate musicality, the more it seems that nearly all of us are musical experts, in quite a startling sense.

Paragraph: ___(1)___. The difference between a virtuoso performer and an ordinary music fan is much smaller than the gulf between that fan and someone with no musical knowledge at all. ___(2)___. What's more, a lot of the most interesting and substantial elements of musicality are things that we all share. ___(3)___. We aren't talking about instinctive, inborn universals here. ___(4)___. Our musical knowledge is learned, the product of long experience; maybe not years spent over an instrument, but a lifetime spent absorbing music from the open window of every passing car.

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

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

We should first remember that, as a value, humility is not unconditionally good. We ought to be cautious of how humility is packaged and sold to us, and mindful of how it can be weaponized for pernicious ends by those in power. For instance, promoting the values of humility and self-sacrifice can create deference and obedience in the face of tyrannical leadership. But concerning knowledge claims, humility has great utility in that it can help us meaningfully reflect on precisely which ideas can be considered secure, and as a result give us a better sense of what we know, who we are, and our place in the world.

A. Humility can be encouraged to maintain social control, and therefore, it is wiser to treat it with caution and avoid relying on it in serious reflection.

B. Although humility can be misused to enforce obedience, it remains valuable in helping us critically assess what we know and understand about the world.

C. Humility can shape both personal and public life, but it generally leads to harmful deference and offers little guidance in evaluating our beliefs.

D. Humility can weaken our convictions in the face of authority, making it preferable to reject it when considering questions about knowledge and identity.

DILR

Sixteen persons, A1 through A16, went to Amarnath caves. They were divided into four groups, with four persons in each group. The groups are named G1, G2, G3, and G4. Each group was assigned a separate guide. After 1st day, the guide of G4 left and the members were shifted to the other groups. Similarly, after day 2, the guide of G3 left, and the persons were re-adjusted. There was another readjustment after day 3. The table below shows the group-wise distribution of the 16 persons, from the beginning to the end.

	G1	G2	G3	G4
In the beginning	A1, A2, A3, A4	A5, A6, A7, A8	A9, A10, A11, A12	A13, A14, A15, A16
After Day 1	A1, A2, A3, A4	A5, A6, A7, A8, A13, A14	A9, A10, A11, A12, A15, A16	
After Day 2	A1, A2, A3, A4, A12, A15, A16	A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A13, A14		
After Day 3	A1, A2, A3, A4, A12, A14, A15, A16	A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A13		

It is known that:
(i) Initially, the average age of a person in G1 was 22, that in G2 was 24, that in G3 was 25, and that in G4 was 27.
(ii) The average age of a person in G2 after Day 1 became 25.
(ii) The average age of a person in G1 after Day 2 became 21.
(iii) After Day 3, the average age of a person in G1 was equal to that of a person in G2.

11. For how many persons can we uniquely determine their ages?

12. What was the average age of G3 on day 2 (after day 1)?
A. 25.17
B. 25.67
C. 26
D. 26.33

13. Which of the following pairs of persons have equal age?
A. A12 and A13
B. A13 and A14
C. A14 and A15
D. A15 and A16

14. If among A9, A10, and A11, no one is below 30 years of age, what can be the maximum age of A11?

15. If the ages of A1, A2, A3, A4, and A5, in that order, are consecutive increasing odd numbers, what is the average age of A6, A7, and A8?
A. 20.33
B. 22.33
C. 23.33
D. 23

A confectionery store has 7 shelves in different colours: white, blue, red, black, yellow, green, and pink. They contain different chocolates: Silk, Snickers, 5 Star, Kitkat, Galaxy, Fuse, and Perk, but not necessarily in the same order. The shelves are numbered 1 to 7 from right to left.
• The white-colored shelf and the shelf containing Snickers are consecutive.
• The shelf containing Snickers is even-numbered and is to the left of shelf 2.
• There are three shelves between the shelf containing Perk and the white shelf.
• The black shelf contains Kitkat and is a prime-numbered shelf.
• The pink shelf contains Galaxy and is three places away from the blue shelf.
• The shelf containing Fuse is immediately to the left of the black shelf.
• The green shelf, which is to the right of the shelf containing 5 Star, doesn't contain Perk.
• The number of shelves to the right of the shelf containing 5 Star is equal to the number of shelves to the left of the green shelf.
• The blue shelf, which is an even-numbered shelf, doesn't contain Silk.

16. What is the colour of the shelf containing Snickers?
A. Green
B. Blue
C. Black
D. Red

17. Shelf 6 contains which chocolate?
A. Fuse
B. Galaxy
C. Silk
D. 5 Star

18. Which shelf is immediately to the left of the blue shelf?
A. White
B. Yellow
C. Shelf containing Galaxy
D. Either yellow or Red

19. How many shelves are there between the green shelf and the shelf containing Galaxy?

20. If the yellow shelf does not contain Silk, which chocolate is in the shelf adjacent to the yellow shelf?
A. 5 Star
B. Galaxy
C. Perk
D. Kitkat

QA

21. If $f(x) = \frac{5x}{x^2+x+16}$, and x is a positive real number, find the maximum value of f(x)
A. 5/7
B. 5/9
C. 5/18
D. 1/3

22. How many pairs of natural numbers (x, y) exist such that x≥y and xy = 25^{36}?

23. A person is travelling along the sides of the isosceles trapezium ABCD, in which BC (10 km) is parallel to AD (24 km) and only AD is at sea level. BC is a parallel road above the sea level. AD and BC are separated by 24 km. The ratio of the speed of the person along the horizontal road to that uphill is 3:2, and that of the horizontal road to the downhill is 1:2. Find the time taken to cover the longest side of the trapezium if the average speed for the travel route A-B-C-DA is 50 km/h.
A. 36 minutes
B. 57.6 minutes
C. 48 minutes
D. 28.8 minutes

24. If $9x^2 + 41y^2 + 4z^2 = 24xy + 20yz$, what is the ratio x:y:z?
A. 8:6:15
B. 15:20:8
C. 20:15:6
D. 3:4:10

25. A builder undertook to finish a work in 52 days and employed 125 men. After 27 days, he found that they had already done 3/4th of the work. He decided to reduce the workforce by 5 workers per day from the next day. How many workers are working on the day the work is finished?
A. 70
B. 65
C. 60
D. 55

26. A bouquet contains 4 roses, 3 tulips, and 5 lilies, all distinct. In how many ways can 4 flowers be selected if at least one tulip is included?
A. 369
B. 448
C. 385
D. 403

27. How many real solutions exist for the equation: $\frac{x + \sqrt{x+1}}{x - \sqrt{x+1}} = \frac{11}{5}$.

28. Varun had a total of ₹ 15000 to invest in a scheme offering 10% p.a. compound interest. He invested a certain amount, and one year later, he invested the remaining amount. Two years after the second investment, he withdrew his money. Had he invested 66.67% more initially (and invested the remaining amount later), his total interest after the same period would have been ₹ 484 more. How much did he initially invest in the second year?
A. 4500
B. 6000
C. 7500
D. 9000

29. A square is inscribed inside a circle whose radius is 21√2 cm. An equilateral triangle is formed inside the square such that the length of each side of the square is equal to the length of each side of the equilateral triangle, and then a circle is inscribed in that equilateral triangle. Find the difference between the area of the larger circle and that of the smaller circle.
A. 2260 sq cm.
B. 2440 sq cm.
C. 2310 sq cm.
D. 2520 sq cm.

30. Out of 14 numbers, the average of the first 8 numbers is 10 and the average of the last 8 numbers is 25% more than that of the first 8 numbers. What is the difference between the sum of the first 6 numbers and that of the last 6 numbers?