

VARC

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

My own escape was fairly mild: I borrowed a friend's studio flat in Hong Kong, where I'd finished my last underwhelming freelance job, and used it as a resting place. An urbanite's monastic cell at 200 square feet, the unit was a short walk from the Hong Kong Central Library, where I went daily, with my notebook and thermos of Nescafé. I was desperate to reform myself. I had always wanted to write, but wasn't exactly sure why, and recently my notebooks had begun filling with characters and literary images instead of ideas for articles. It seemed important to understand the nature of this impulse: was it passion or ambition? I had read the philosopher Byung-Chul Han's *The Burnout Society* (2010), and accepted that I was a hopeless 'achievement-subject' like the rest of my peers, chasing money and grants and degrees. For purity's sake, I'd need to retreat, to 'unplug' and 'go off the grid', to pursue what Han and others have called the *vita contemplativa*.

But how? The need to unplug had already been co-opted by an unrelenting corporate wellness industry, with its call to 'redefine success' and create a life of 'wellbeing, wisdom and wonder', to quote from the movement's prophet-in-chief, the aforementioned Huffington. Then I spotted a creased and faded paperback copy of *The Asian Journal* of Thomas Merton (1968) on the shelf of a used bookstore along Hennessy Road. I hesitated, then bought the book.

Merton had been important to me in my teenage years, ever since a priest had recommended him as the apotheosis of poetic sensibility: a Catholic monk and social critic, he'd used his imagination well by drawing himself closer to God. Though I wasn't sure about God, I loved Merton's sensibility, his warmth, his raw theology. But I worried that he wouldn't hold up to the scrutiny of adult malaise, that his spiritual writing might betray a fatal innocence. I had recently braved a tragic reunion with Aldous Huxley, who'd failed the test – his journey proving how easily the path of Western mystic leads to the castle of psychedelics or a bungalow in the Hollywood Hills. Merton was the more serious pilgrim. He corresponded with Thich Nhat Hanh and D T Suzuki on the principles, methods and challenges of Buddhist meditation at a time when Huxley and others were more interested in LSD. Merton studied Islamic scholarship. He read Sufi poetry with a seriousness that set him apart from the Western beatnik. He'd joined a Trappist monastery in rural Kentucky, where he lived for 27 years in admirable solitude. Still, I knew executives who quoted Merton in PowerPoints on inspiration and leadership, and I feared his *Journal* might fall into the Westerner-travels-to-Asia-to-find-himself genre, which was overrepresented in the

bookshops of Hong Kong. In the end, curiosity won out, and I spent several days immersed in Merton's journey of 1968.

1. Which of the following statements would the author most likely agree with?

- A. Genuine contemplation is impossible in an age obsessed with achievement.
- B. Solitude and reflection must be marketed responsibly by wellness companies.
- C. Western thinkers like Huxley understood spirituality better than their Eastern counterparts.
- D. Spiritual writing must appeal to both intellectuals and corporate audiences.

2. The author hesitated before buying *The Asian Journal* of Thomas Merton for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- A. Concern that Merton's ideas might seem simplistic or naive to a mature reader.
- B. Fear that the book would belong to the clichéd genre of Westerners seeking spiritual discovery in Asia.
- C. Awareness that Merton's work had become part of a commodified, corporate wellness culture.
- D. Doubt that Merton's spiritual search was as serious as that of writers experimenting with psychedelics.

3. The phrase "for purity's sake" in paragraph one primarily serves to:

- A. highlight the author's pretentious idealism in seeking solitude.
- B. suggest that the author's motivation to retreat was a moral or spiritual cleansing.
- C. emphasize the religious undertones of the author's search for meaning.
- D. reveal the author's belief that productivity and purity are incompatible.

4. What can be inferred about the author's attitude toward Merton's *The Asian Journal* before reading it?

- A. They expected it to romanticise Asia in a shallow or derivative manner.
- B. They anticipated finding spiritual answers to their own restlessness.
- C. They believed it would reaffirm the superiority of Western mysticism.
- D. They were eager to find business insights through spiritual philosophy.

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. Hannah Arendt, a leading 20th-century political theorist, found resonance in Camus's exploration of rebellion and human dignity.
- 2. Both thinkers emphasised the importance of collective resistance against tyranny and the preservation of human freedom.

3. Arendt's idea of "natality," the potential for new beginnings through human action, mirrors Camus's notion of defying absurdity through creative acts.

4. In her seminal work *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, Arendt analysed the dehumanising effects of totalitarian regimes, themes that Camus also examined in *The Plague* and *The Rebel*.

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

The question of consciousness was central to Aurobindo's philosophy of life and existence. Consciousness was not just a way of knowing reality but could be looked upon as something that takes the seeker beyond the human mind into a divine or cosmic dimension of reality. Echoing Hegel in mapping out the evolution of human consciousness, Aurobindo sees this phenomenal reality as expressing but one dimension of that universal consciousness, and all layers of this consciousness are synthesised in the Supermind. Aurobindo then takes it a step further and visualises the descent of the universal consciousness into the physical body as the next step in evolution.

A. Aurobindo, like Hegel, believed that human consciousness evolves through dialectical stages that culminate in pure knowledge and self-awareness.

B. According to Aurobindo, consciousness is not merely a cognitive faculty but an evolving cosmic reality that culminates in the Supermind and seeks embodiment in the physical world.

C. According to Aurobindo, consciousness enables humans to understand divine reality, but its influence is limited to the mental plane of existence.

D. Aurobindo's philosophy of consciousness suggests that all phenomenal reality is an illusion, and spiritual liberation requires complete detachment from the physical world.

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. Companies push agents toward empathy-heavy, problem-solving work, yet churn remains high.

2. AI co-pilots now shoulder routine tasks, boosting efficiency but eroding entry-level roles.

3. By 2025, this sector, still worth hundreds of billions, sits at a crossroads.

4. India's midnight economy is not only a tale of grit and exhaustion; it is measurable output.

5. India's call-centres and BPOs are the original face of time-zone arbitrage, matching New York's mornings with Gurgaon's nights.

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. It is not coincidental that Noor Jahan and Razia Sultan have gone missing from the new textbooks.
2. Despite the remarkable achievements of these two women, their legacy was never safely anchored in the public imagination.
3. Through this act of chicanery, two inspirational queens have disappeared, almost negligently.
4. When they are introduced in the new textbooks, it is to present these empires as eras of 'darkness' in a completely ahistorical and regressive assessment reminiscent of old colonial prejudices.
5. In a nimble sleight of hand, the new books omit the Delhi Sultanates and the Mughal empire entirely.

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: In a forest, you can find hundreds of fractals if you look for them.

Paragraph: A fractal is a pattern that the laws of nature repeat at different scales. ____ (1) _____. Exact fractals are ordered in such a way that the same basic pattern repeats exactly at every scale. ____ (2) _____. An example of exact fractals can be found in the growth spiral of a plant. Statistical fractals, on the other hand, repeat in a similar (but not identical) fashion across scales and do not possess spatial symmetry. ____ (3) _____. An example of a statistical fractal can be seen in things like clouds and mountains, rivers, and trees. ____ (4) _____.

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

MBA KARO

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: What makes it both extra and necessary as a subliminal presence?

Paragraph: What is the "extra" in a sentence, in a paragraph, in a view, in a scene from a film. ____ (1) _____. I have tried elsewhere to understand this concept through the categories of surplus and uselessness. ____ (2) _____. Concepts like extra, etcetera, and ityadi might help us grasp the decision-making process of selection and rejection that is the spine of the creative act. ____ (3) _____. Robinson Crusoe, returning to the site of his shipwreck, discovers things that he could use: provisions that would keep him alive for some time, and, unexpectedly, writing material—paper and ink.

____(4)____. He carries them back to his island and decides to keep a journal of everything he sees there.

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



DILR

The table given below shows the performance of five students - Amba, Bhanu, Charan, Dhanvi and Erina - in their exams in four semesters.

- The maximum marks that could be scored in each of the semesters are different multiples of 100.
- Amba scored equal marks in two of the four semesters.
- The difference between the marks scored by Bhanu in two of the four semesters was 120.
- The difference between the marks scored by Charan in two of the four semesters was 70.
- The difference between the marks scored by Erina in two of the four semesters was 20.
- Only the top two students scored more than 800 marks in the 2nd semester, and the top three students scored more than 1000 marks in the 3rd semester.

Semester	Amba	Bhanu	Charan	Dhanvi	Erina
1 st	65%	60%	55%	50%	45%
2 nd	55%	65%	60%	70%	50%
3 rd	65%	60%	50%	70%	55%
4 th	50%	60%	55%	65%	70%

11. What were the maximum marks in the 1st semester?

12. Which semester had the highest maximum marks?

- A. 1st
- B. 2nd
- C. 3rd
- D. 4th

13. Who got the second-highest aggregate in all four semesters put together?

- A. Amba
- B. Bhanu
- C. Charan
- D. Dhanvi

14. What is the difference between the marks scored by Charan in the 2nd and 4th semesters?

15. How many of the given students scored more than 500 marks in each of the semesters?

- A. None
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3

A society has three phases: Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3. The following table gives the information about the average age of the security guards in three phases as on the last day of different years from 2016 to 2020. Whenever a guard attains the age of 60 years, he retires. All the guards were recruited at the age of 25 years. The number of guards in phases 1, 2 and 3 in 2016 was 6, 5 and 4, respectively. At most one guard retires or joins any phase in any year, but not both simultaneously. No guard can be shifted from one phase to another phase.

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
2016	44	39	38
2017	42	35	39
2018	43	28	37
2019	40	28	38
2020	41	29	39

16. How many guards retired from service from 2017 to 2020?

- A. 7
- B. 6
- C. 5
- D. 4

17. How many guards joined the society from 2017 to 2020?

18. What was the minimum number of guards in the society during any of the given years?

19. What is the approximate difference between the average age of all the guards present at the end of 2016 and at the end of 2020?

- A. 4.2 years
- B. 3.6 years
- C. 2.8 years
- D. 2.1 years

20. In which phase of society did both the retirement and recruitment of guards occur?

- A. Phase 1
- B. Phase 2
- C. Phase 3
- D. More than one phase

QA

21. Two vessels each contain 50 litres of liquid — the first has only milk and the second has only water. From the first vessel, X litres of milk are transferred to the second vessel. Then, X litres of the resulting mixture are taken from the second vessel and poured back into the first. After this exchange, the ratio of the quantity of milk in the first vessel to that in the second vessel becomes 5:1. Find the value of X .

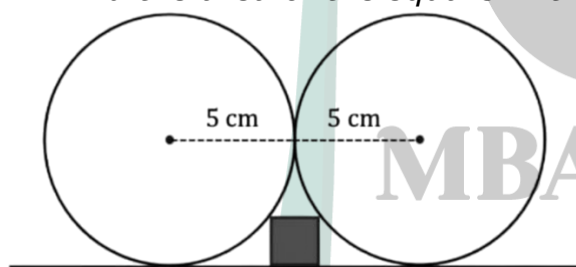
22. A farmer wants to fence a rectangular plot of land on the bank of a straight river. The area of the plot is to be 800 square meters. No fencing is needed along the riverbank. The cost of the fence perpendicular to the river is Rs. 30 per meter, and the cost of the fence parallel to the river is Rs. 120 per meter. What is the minimum possible cost to fence the plot?

- A. 4500
- B. 4800
- C. 3600
- D. 2400

23. Let S be the sum $S = 1 * 1! + 2 * 2! + 3 * 3! + \dots + 2025 * 2025!$. What is the remainder when S is divided by 112?

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 25
- D. 111

24. Find the area of the square in the given figure.



- A. 6 cm^2
- B. 5 cm^2
- C. 4 cm^2
- D. 3 cm^2

25. Given that x is a positive integer, solve for x :

$$\log_3 \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\log_3 x}} \right) = \log_9 \log_9 \left(\frac{x}{3} \right)$$

26. A warehouse contains four boxes of different weights. Since the weighing machine cannot measure weights below 150 kg, the clerk weighs the boxes three at a time. The recorded weights are 174 kg, 170 kg, 165 kg, and 163 kg. What is the weight of the lightest box?

- A. 50 kg

- B. 52 kg
- C. 54 kg
- D. 55 kg

27. $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15\}$. What is the difference between the number of subsets comprising composite numbers only and the number of subsets comprising prime numbers only?

- A. 448
- B. 192
- C. 128
- D. 28

28. Find the value of the expression $\frac{x^{2025} + x^{2024} + x^{2023} + \dots + x^3 + x^2 + x}{\frac{1}{x^{2025}} + \frac{1}{x^{2024}} + \frac{1}{x^{2023}} + \dots + \frac{1}{x^3} + \frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{1}{x}}$

- A. x^{2023}
- B. x^{2024}
- C. x^{2025}
- D. x^{2026}

29. A and B jointly lent Rs 71750 at 5% per annum compound interest. After 2 years, A shall get the same amount as B shall get after 3 years. What interest would B get at the end of 2 years?

- A. Rs 3575.50
- B. Rs 3587.50
- C. Rs 3517.50
- D. Rs 3552.50

30. A shopkeeper covers a cuboid-shaped gift with gift paper. Assume that exactly the required amount of paper is used (there's no wastage or leftover). The dimensions of the gift are 15 cm x 12 cm x 'a' cm. If the cost of covering the gift with gift paper at the rate of Rs. 8.5/cm² is Rs. 6732, find the volume of the gift?

- A. 1800 cm³
- B. 1620 cm³
- C. 1440 cm³
- D. 1350 cm³