

VARC

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

I'm not so sure impostor syndrome is entirely a bad thing. If you feel it, it means you are stretching your comfort zone, you are doing something new that you just aren't used to yet, and these are good things to do. This is how we grow. Observe the voice saying whatever it is that your impostor syndrome tells you, but don't take it too seriously. It doesn't know what it's talking about!

You're not imagining the challenge of meetings. They're a skill like any other, and some people have had a lifetime of practice. If you didn't grow up in an environment where conversation and self-expression were encouraged, no wonder it feels unnatural. But unnatural doesn't mean impossible. It just means new. That voice in your head telling you that you're saying the wrong things, or not saying enough, is not telling the truth. It's just old echoes of growing up in a critical environment where confidence wasn't nurtured. You are carrying a history that some of your colleagues aren't; it doesn't mean you're not capable. It just means you must approach it differently.

The psychologist Erica Boothby noticed that she felt she had made a bad impression on a new person. Her partner Gus Cooney witnessed this encounter, and he thought her exchange had been warm and friendly. They wondered whether this was a common experience for everyone. Do we consistently underestimate how much another person appreciates our presence or our input? They called this phenomenon the "liking gap". It's the gap between the impression we think we've made and the impression we actually make. Their subsequent studies showed that we humans consistently pessimistically underestimate how much other people appreciate us.

Right now, you're exhausted: small children, broken sleep, a job that's pushing you out of your comfort zone. Anyone would struggle in those conditions. This isn't you failing; it is you surviving under pressure. What if you changed the goal? Instead of expecting meetings to feel natural and effortless, what if the aim was just to tolerate the discomfort for now? Not to make it go away overnight, just to get through, knowing that over time it will get easier. What if, after a meeting, instead of replaying every word, you just said: "That was enough. I am enough. I did it. On to the next." It will feel strange or even untrue when you say it. Never mind. The old voice is also untrue; it's just that you're used to it. Make the "I am enough" mantra more familiar, and it will begin to feel true, and that will help your confidence.

You don't have to feel like you belong in every room to make an impact in it. You just have to stay in the room. Keep showing up. Keep tolerating the discomfort. You might not have had parents who built your confidence, but you can build it in relationships with others, because the more you speak up, the more normal it will feel. Even if the self-doubt never fully goes away, it doesn't have to run the show.

1. *The author implies that the "old voice" of self-doubt is*

- A. an accurate, if harsh, assessment of one's professional capabilities.
- B. a universal human experience that is impossible to overcome entirely.
- C. a conditioned response from past environments that lacks current validity.
- D. a psychological phenomenon exclusive to people with young children and stressful jobs.

2. *The author introduces the study on the "liking gap" primarily to*

- A. introduce the psychologists Erica Boothby and Gus Cooney as leading authorities on impostor syndrome.
- B. provide evidence that the inner critic's negative social assessments are likely distorted and overly pessimistic.
- C. transition from discussing professional challenges to interpersonal relationships.
- D. argue that social anxiety is a more significant problem than impostor syndrome.

3. *Which of the following best summarises the author's core advice for managing feelings of inadequacy in challenging situations?*

- A. The only way to overcome impostor syndrome is to seek out environments that are less critical and more nurturing than the one you grew up in.
- B. People who experience impostor syndrome should focus on their exhaustion, as this is the root cause of their lack of confidence.
- C. Confidence is primarily built by ignoring the opinions of others and focusing solely on one's own internal validation.
- D. Reframe discomfort as a sign of personal growth, challenge the validity of the inner critic, and build confidence through persistent participation rather than waiting to feel ready.

4. *All of the following can be inferred from the passage, except:*

- A. The author believes that feelings of self-doubt often stem from early-life experiences rather than objective shortcomings.
- B. The "liking gap" research suggests that people's internal assessments of social interactions are frequently inaccurate.
- C. The author views exhaustion and life stress as sufficient justification for permanently avoiding challenging environments.
- D. The process of building confidence is portrayed as gradual, requiring tolerance of discomfort and persistence over time.

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: As it happens, aspiring screenwriters in 21st-century Hollywood are following a rubric set out in the 4th century BCE.

Paragraph: The formula is particularly repetitive in cinema. ____ (1) ____.

In his Poetics, Aristotle defines a well-constructed plot as having three main acts, and names other essential elements such as the 'reversal of the Situation', which is 'a change by which the action veers round to its opposite'. ____ (2) ____.

Aristotle's schema was developed by later thinkers from Terence and Seneca to the 19th-century German novelist and playwright Gustav Freytag, who distilled stories into his pyramid diagram of exposition, rising action, climax and resolution. ____ (3) ____.

A philosophical parallel might arguably be found in Hegel's dialectic, from thesis to antithesis and finally to synthesis. ____ (4) ____.

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

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. An employee of Candy.ai, one of the new AI dating sites exhibiting at the conference, said the site's AI girlfriends offered a range of services.
- 2. It really depends on what the user needs," he said.
- 3. Or if you prefer to have deep conversations, that's there as well.
- 4. So you need to evolve the relationship with them in order to ask for something like this.
- 5. "If you want more adult-type relationships, like porn, we have this content.

7. *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. But at least two people have become seriously ill from a strain of H5N1 related to the D1.1 genotype that is currently circulating in poultry and wild birds.
- 2. Since the beginning of 2024, 70 people in the U.S. have been confirmed infected with H5N1; most of them have been dairy and poultry workers.
- 3. Those two cases included one person in Louisiana who died from their infection.

4. Infections in dairy workers have generally been mild, causing conjunctivitis and mild respiratory symptoms.

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

Researchers believe pretesting is beneficial because it improves the way that we process the to-be-learned material. 'We could talk for hours about the mechanism,' says Steven Pan, a cognitive scientist at the National University of Singapore, who recently co-authored a review of the pretesting effect. 'Making a guess might trigger things. Make you more curious.' Increased attention to the to-be-learned material could be another factor. Pan and his colleagues have observed reduced mind-wandering after pretesting, and other researchers have shown that participants' eyes focus more on sentences related to the questions they received in advance. Other potential mechanisms include an improved motivation to learn and that pretesting acts as a metacognitive 'reality check', highlighting what you do and do not know and encouraging you to fill in knowledge gaps.

A. Researchers have concluded that pretesting improves performance mainly because it gives students a preview of upcoming questions and helps them remember the answers better.

B. Pretesting is effective because it motivates learners to guess answers, increases their confidence, and reduces the time they spend on irrelevant material during study sessions.

C. Pretesting encourages students to memorise material more efficiently by guessing correct answers and focusing only on the most important details for exams.

D. Pretesting enhances learning by prompting curiosity, improving attention, reducing distractions, and encouraging learners to identify and address their knowledge gaps.

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. We suggest that compared with others, skilful storytellers have a stronger sense of meaning in life.

2. Therefore, to excel at storytelling, individuals must develop two key skills.

3. Second, they must learn to see the world through the eyes of their characters, understanding the why of what drives people.

4. The typical narrative focuses on a hero who strives to achieve a goal, such as landing a job or winning someone's heart, while facing various obstacles and challenges along the way.

5. First, they need to connect the dots—the events of the story—in a meaningful way to create a coherent narrative.

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 worm corpses left behind the day after rain suggest that their journey is more difficult than it seems – on the surface, far from their underground burrows, worms can get stranded.

Paragraph: I find them outside my home, writhing in the heat as the sun bakes them alive. ____ (1) ____ . Their little bodies twist and turn as they desperately try to return to the safety of the soil beneath the grass. ____ (2) ____ . Watching them struggle so violently, one might wonder why they can't just save themselves by using that energy to wriggle off the street. ____ (3) ____ . Their task is Sisyphean, their dilemma at once futile and inescapable. ____ (4) ____ . For that reason, I like to think that I understand them a little. They're just trying to get where they're going.

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



DILR

Six schools, A, B, C, D, E and F have a total of 2100 students. The following facts are known:

- Each school has a distinct number of students, which is more than 100.
- For any group of schools, the average number of students in them is an integer. For example, if we take schools A, C, D and F, the average number of students in these four schools should be an integer.
- Schools A and E have students in the ratio 5:7.
- The number of students in school C is equal to the sum of the number of students in schools B and D.
- School F does not have the highest number of students.

11. How many students are there in school F?

- A. 120
- B. 180
- C. 240
- D. Cannot be determined

12. Which school has the fewest number of students?

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

13. What is the maximum number of students in a school?

14. What is the average number of students in schools A, C, E and F?

- A. 375
- B. 390
- C. 420
- D. Cannot be determined

15. If there are 240 students in school B, how many students are there in school D?

Hridyesh, a raw agent, sends a secret code consisting of 12 words in the form of a 3 x 4 matrix (as shown in the figure). The 12 words are: Argon, Backout, Cameo, Design, Earplug, Fairy, Goat, Hacker, Imported, Juice, Kudos and Liberty. Each coded word has been allocated a position in the matrix (2 × 3 position represents row 2 and column 3).

- The words in 1×2 and 1×3 have the same number of letters.
- Fairy is immediately above Design, and Liberty is to the immediate left of Fairy.
- The word in 3×4 is shorter than the word in 2×1 .
- Kudos is separated from Earplug vertically by only one word, Backout.
- Imported is at position 3×2 , and the word to the immediate right of it has an odd number of letters.
- Juice and Hacker are in the same column, and Juice is below Hacker.
- Goat is not in the same row or column as Cameo.

16. Which word is in the position 2×4 ?

- A. Goat
- B. Juice
- C. Backout
- D. Hacker

17. What is the sum of the letters of words in row 2?

18. Which word is to the immediate left of Backout?

- A. Imported
- B. Fairy
- C. Argon
- D. Design

19. What is the position of Goat?

- A. 3×1
- B. 1×1
- C. 3×4
- D. 1×2

20. Which word is to the immediate right of Argon?

- A. Imported
- B. Fairy
- C. Cameo
- D. None of the above

QA

21. If $(129)_{10} = (xxx)_y$, what is $(xx)_{10}$ in base y ?

- A. 21
- B. 33
- C. 43
- D. 53

22. If $2^8 + 2^{11} + 2^n = m^2$, where m and n are positive integers, find the value of m .

23. A bus is 150 m ahead of a car moving in the same direction. The bus is moving at a speed of 48 km/h. The car driver observes a truck moving towards him at 60 km/h, 600 m away from him. If he decides to overtake the bus before the bus and the truck cross each other, his minimum speed (in km/h) must be

- A. 96 km/h
- B. 90 km/h
- C. 84 km/h
- D. 72 km/h

24. If the only integral solution of $(x-1)^3 + (x-2)^3 + (x-3)^3 + \dots (x-99)^3$ is k , find the value of $1+2+3+\dots k$.

25. A person sells two kinds of shirts: cotton and silk. A pair of cotton shirts is sold at 30% profit, and a pair of silk shirts is sold at 50% profit. The seller calculated that if he sells 100% more silk shirts than cotton shirts, his overall profit will be 45%. However, he ends up selling 50% more cotton shirts than silk shirts. What will be his overall profit?

- A. 40%
- B. 41.15%
- C. 42.33%
- D. 43.85%

26. Find the number of 5-letter words formed with or without meaning, having 2 vowels and 3 consonants taken from the letters of the word 'DURATION'.

- A. 3120
- B. 2880
- C. 2400
- D. 2560

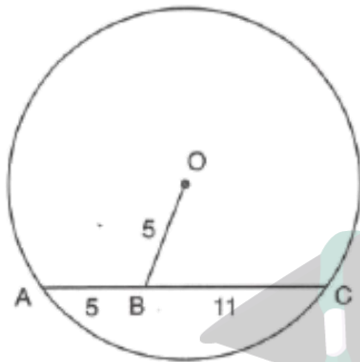
27. Given six line segments of lengths 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 units, the number of triangles that can be formed by these line segments is

28. 4 years ago, the ratio of the ages of Alex and Bob was 3:2. 6 years hence, the average of the ages of Alex, Bob and Corey will be equal to the

present average of the ages of Alex and Bob. If Corey is 6 years old, what is the present age of Bob?

- A. 16 years
- B. 20 years
- C. 18 years
- D. 28 years

29. In the given figure, O is the center of the circle. AC is a chord and B is a point on AC such that $OB = AB$. What is the radius of the circle?



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

30. Sarthak, Saloni, and Sajan pay 25%, 22%, and 28% of their income as tax, respectively. The incomes of Sarthak and Saloni are the same, and the difference between the tax paid by them is Rs. 5100. Tax paid by Sajan is Rs. 21100 less than the total tax paid by Sarthak and Saloni together. Find the income of Sajan.

- A. Rs 225000
- B. Rs 220000
- C. Rs 210000
- D. Rs 200000

MBA KARO