

**VARC**

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

Well, supposedly. If you ask an economist, they will almost certainly tell you that a recession is indicated by things such as mounting unemployment, falling industrial production, and short-term interest rates rising relative to long-term ones. Suppose you ask the people working at the National Bureau of Economic Research, who actually make the call about a recession. In that case, they will say it is a “significant decline in economic activity that is spread across the economy and that lasts more than a few months.” They are highly unlikely to tell you that the best way to understand the state of global markets is to take a look at your ankles.

That’s not to say that pop-culture recession indicators are meaningless. A recession is a phenomenon necessarily defined in hindsight, usually long after life has changed on the ground: The Great Recession officially began at the end of 2007, but the NBER didn’t announce that it had until the following December, right around when more than half a million people lost their jobs in a single month. Consumer behaviour is a reactive measure of how much money people have in their pockets, which is probably why Greenspan was apparently paying attention to underwear. Many other pop-culture recession indicators—including the rise in law-school applications, the decline in demand for cardboard boxes, and the growing use of libraries and generic products—have been validated as useful signals about the health of the economy. They currently show what the more traditional indicators also show: The American economy is full of uncertainty, even though it has not yet tipped officially into recession.

But taking anecdotal intuition about individual consumer psychology and extrapolating widely can lead to some odd and unhelpful conclusions. The way people spend their money is personal, and the product of a complex set of factors. It’s also sometimes illogical. Case in point: In 2008, when the Nielsen Company analysed consumer behaviour during a recession, the firm’s findings indicated that whereas candy is recession-proof, soda—liquid candy—is among the most recession-prone consumer goods. And societies don’t respond to crises the same way every time. The hemline index, which holds that in bad times hemlines go down and in good times they rise, is one of the most cited pop-culture recession indicators. It originated in the 1920s, when most women didn’t work outside the home, style were far more rigid, the fashion industry operated completely differently, and the miniskirt did not exist. Even if it were possible to reliably measure hemlines on a large scale, they are also influenced, in the short and long term, by trends, weather, and norms. Economic anxiety is a powerful force, but it is not the only force dictating the way people act.

Here is what we know, according to Joanne Hsu, who runs the University of Michigan's consumer-sentiment survey program. Generally speaking, the less money people feel like they have, the more likely they are to skip big expenses and to substitute cheaper, lower-quality goods where they can. They seek out stress relief, good deals, and cheap indulgence.

*1. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the passage?*

- A. Hemlines and Cardboard Boxes: The Only Economic Indicators You Need
- B. The Underwear Index: How Greenspan Nailed the Great Recession
- C. Candy, Crises, and Consumers: The Limits of Economic Prediction
- D. Reading the Economic Tea Leaves: The Sense and Nonsense of Pop-Culture Indicators

*2. According to the passage, the primary difference between the official definition of a recession and many pop-culture indicators is that the official definition requires:*

- A. a significant decline in consumer confidence and a rise in the use of generic products.
- B. an economic decline that is widespread and lasts for more than a few months.
- C. a short-term rise in interest rates and a sharp drop in law-school applications.
- D. a phenomenon defined by anecdotal intuition rather than quantitative data.

*3. The passage most strongly suggests that one of the primary values of pop-culture recession indicators is their ability to:*

- A. offer a more immediate, real-time reflection of the economic climate than formal declarations.
- B. predict the onset of a recession with greater accuracy than official economic data.
- C. explain the complex psychological factors driving consumer behaviour during a downturn.
- D. function as reliable, standalone metrics for determining the start and end dates of a recession.

*4. The passage suggests that all of the following factors complicate the reliability of pop-culture recession indicators EXCEPT:*

- A. Trends and external factors, such as weather, can distort apparent patterns in consumer behaviour.
- B. Certain indicators, like the hemline index, are rooted in outdated social and cultural contexts.
- C. Economists universally agree that pop-culture recession indicators are more accurate than traditional ones.

D. Consumer spending habits are influenced by multiple forces beyond economic anxiety.

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: To resolve this, researchers have deployed an array of techniques, including searching for traces of organic matter.

Paragraph: Over the past 45 years, palaeontologists have meticulously re-analysed the Pilbara remains to confirm that they are real. \_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_ . It's not a trivial problem: with rocks that ancient, strange distortions can form that look like fossilised microbes but are actually just deformed rocks. \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ . At this point, we are as confident as we can be that the Pilbara fossils are real. That means life has existed for at least 3.5 billion years. \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ . When I wrote The Genesis Quest back in 2020, I said this gave us a billion-year time window after the formation of Earth in which life could form. \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_ . Since then, the evidence for life has been pushed further back in time.

- 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. As more individuals are produced than can survive, there must in every case be a struggle for existence.
- 2. The earliest fossil forms known to us already indicate the perfection of many modern groups, which cannot be reconciled with gradual struggle.
- 3. Hence it comes to pass that the balance of nature is kept even by a complicated web of relations.
- 4. If some plants or animals vary ever so little in habits or structure, and are advantaged in relation to their conditions of life, they will tend to survive.
- 5. The amount of food for each species, of course, gives the extreme limit to which each can increase; but very frequently it is not the obtaining food, but some other check, which determines the average number of a species.

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

One can even argue that the relationship that marginalized people have with pleasure is structurally codified through drug testing in employment, which has been shown to disproportionately affect Black and Hispanic

workers in the United States. Further, surveys have found that African American and Asian American workers are disproportionately reprimanded for failing drug tests. This is despite extensive research from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration confirming that there are no clear patterns in illicit drug use among different races, ethnicities, employment groups, or levels of education. One distinction that does stand out is wealth. A 2012 study published in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs shows that young adults who come from higher-income backgrounds are more likely to use alcohol or marijuana.

A. Research shows that drug use is primarily determined by educational background, explaining why reprimands are unevenly distributed among racial minorities in employment drug testing.

B. Studies prove that African Americans and Asian Americans use drugs far more than White Americans, which justifies why they are reprimanded more often in employment drug testing.

C. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration confirms that drug testing is equally applied to all racial and ethnic groups, but minorities tend to resist testing more strongly.

D. Drug testing in employment disproportionately penalises racial minorities despite no evidence that drug use patterns differ by race, with wealth, not race, being a clearer factor in substance use.

8. *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: Or upholding democratic processes that defend the rights of everyone in an age defined by the cold logic of mechanical reproduction, anti-humanist Taylorite efficiency programmes, and the global ascension of fascism.

Paragraph: The doodle is subversive. \_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_ . Democratically able to contain all gestures regardless of their formal difference. \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ . In light of this remarkable egalitarian power, the judge irreverently declares Mr. Deeds 'the sanest man that ever walked into this courtroom.' \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ . Far from symbolising a frivolous eruption of nonsignifying noise, the doodle emerges in interwar modernist culture as a distinctly informal form oriented towards containing the value of apparently illogical things – like giving away your personal wealth for public good. \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_ .

A. Option 1

B. Option 2

C. Option 3

D. Option 4

9. *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. To illustrate: two people can view the same event yet reach entirely different conclusions about its connotation.
2. The solution, then, is to somehow avoid setting off such impulses that are beyond the control of our conscious mind—something that is easier said than done.
3. The idea is to view everything with an objective mindset and avoid the “jumping to conclusions” syndrome, which can trigger these unwanted impulses.
4. One way of doing so is to gain a better understanding of how we perceive different events around us.

*10. 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. Online stores are highly competitive not only with other online stores, but also with brick-and-mortar competitors.
2. Point-of-sale advantages include stores offering no shipping charges and free ship-to-store options.
3. The internet can be a great resource for shoppers looking to expand their choices of products to buy and an invaluable way of saving money.
4. Price-comparison websites make deal hunting easier and also help guide shoppers to online stores with the best reputations by posting reviews submitted by other shoppers.

MBA KARO

**DILR**

A library has five shelves – A, B, C, D and E. The table below gives the ratio of fiction and non-fiction books kept in those shelves, and also the ratio of books by Indian and foreign authors.

| Shelf | Fiction:Non-Fiction | Indian:Foreign authors |
|-------|---------------------|------------------------|
| A     | 3:2                 | 4:1                    |
| B     | 5:3                 | 3:1                    |
| C     | 9:5                 | 5:2                    |
| D     | 7:6                 | 2:1                    |
| E     | 4:3                 | 5:3                    |

11. What can be the minimum number of non-fiction books in the library?
12. Which of the following cannot be the number of books kept in the library?
- A. 134  
B. 135  
C. 136  
D. 137
13. If there are 178 books in the library, how many of them are by Indian authors?
- A. 123  
B. 121  
C. 116  
D. Cannot be determined
14. If shelves B, C and E have an equal number of books and the total number of books in the library is the minimum possible, how many fiction books are present in the library?
- A. 141  
B. 136  
C. 127  
D. 119
15. If all the shelves contain an equal number of books, which shelf has the highest number of books by foreign authors?
- A. Data Insufficient  
B. C  
C. D  
D. E
16. If there are 140 books in the library, what is the difference between the number of fiction and non-fiction books?

An animal stable has five consecutive enclosures, numbered 1 through 5 from left to right, for housing exactly seven animals - four goats and three sheep.

- Five of the animals are female and two are male.
- No Enclosure houses more than two animals.
- No Enclosure houses both a goat and a sheep.
- No female goat is kept in an enclosure that is immediately next to an enclosure housing a male sheep.

*17. Which one of the following must be true?*

- A. At least one female animal is alone in an enclosure.
- B. At least one sheep is alone in an enclosure.
- C. At least one male animal is alone in an enclosure.
- D. At least one sheep is male.

*18. If Enclosure 3 is empty, and no goat is kept in an enclosure that is immediately next to an enclosure containing a goat, then which one of the following could be false?*

- A. All goats are kept in even-numbered Enclosures.
- B. None of the sheep is male.
- C. No goat is alone in an enclosure.
- D. No sheep is kept in an enclosure that is immediately next to an enclosure containing a sheep.

*19. If all the goats are female and each of the sheep has an enclosure to itself, then which one of the following enclosures CANNOT contain any goat?*

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

*20. If Enclosure 2 contains at least one female goat and Enclosure 4 contains two male sheep, then which one of the following could be true?*

- A. Enclosure 3 contains two animals.
- B. Enclosure 5 contains two animals.
- C. Enclosure 1 contains one animal.
- D. Enclosure 5 contains a female sheep.

**QA**

21. The first, the third, and the fifth term of a geometric sequence are equal to the first, the fourth, and the sixteenth term of a certain arithmetic sequence, respectively. Find the seventh term of the arithmetic sequence if its first term is 3.

22. The cost price of 4 notebooks is equal to the selling price of 5 pens, and the cost price of 8 pens is equal to the selling price of 3 notebooks. If the ratio of the cost price of a notebook to that of a pen is 5:3, then find the profit percentage earned on selling one notebook and one pen together.

- A.  $33\frac{1}{3}\%$
- B. 50%
- C.  $66\frac{2}{3}\%$
- D. 75%

23. Pushkin walks up a moving escalator to save time. He takes 80 steps while going up. On one particular day, due to a power failure for 9 seconds, he took 7 seconds more than his usual time to reach the top of the escalator. How many steps are there on the escalator?

- A. 252
- B. 240
- C. 280
- D. 360

24. Real numbers  $x$  and  $y$  satisfy the equation  $\sqrt{x-1} + \sqrt{1-x} = (2x - y)^2$ . Find the value of  $x + 2y$ .

25. The sides of the base of a right triangular prism are 6, 25, and 29. The largest altitude of the base is equal to the height of the prism. Find the total surface area of the prism.

- A. 1200
- B. 1260
- C. 1450
- D. 1320

26. In an experiment, the weights (in grams) of five objects were recorded as 55, 59, 64, 70, and 77. The researcher entered the values one by one, and after each entry, the average displayed on the screen was an integer. What was the third value entered?

- A. 55
- B. 64
- C. 59
- D. Cannot be determined

27. Find the sum of the roots of the equation:

$$\left(\frac{x^2 - 10x + 26}{5}\right)^{x^2 - 6x + 5} = 1$$

- A. 12
- B. 15
- C. 16
- D. 18

28. The sides of a triangle with positive area have lengths 4, 6, and  $x$ . The sides of a second triangle with positive area have lengths 4, 6, and  $y$ . What is the smallest positive integer that is not a possible value of  $|x-y|$ ?

29. A vessel contains a mixture of milk and water in a 3:1 ratio. If 32 litres of the mixture are removed and replaced with water, and this process is repeated a second time, the final ratio of milk to water becomes 1:2. What was the initial quantity of the mixture?

- A. 128 litres
- B. 96 litres
- C. 80 litres
- D. 64 litres

30. A child builds towers using identically shaped cubes of different colours. How many different towers with a height of 8 cubes can the child build with 2 black cubes, 3 red cubes, and 4 yellow cubes?

- A. 840
- B. 980
- C. 1260
- D. 1540

MBA KARO