VARC

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

The older generation always discounts the workplace complaints of the younger generation. In my 20s, there seemed to be an endless supply of commentary about how we millennials were lazy and entitled, just like the members of Generation X before us were slackers. Members of Gen Z get the bad rap of being "unemployable," because apparently, they do not prize achievement for its own sake, or they'd rather be influencers because the internet has broken their brains. Gen Z-ers don't even deserve this perfunctory slander, because the entire process of getting and keeping an entry-level job has become a gruelling and dehumanizing ordeal over the past decade.

Certainly, the job market seems grim at this moment. Michael Madowitz, the principal economist at the Roosevelt Institute, described it as "an awful traffic jam." "If you're just out of college, you're trying to merge into a freeway and nobody is letting you in," he explained. Employers at companies like Airbnb and Intuit almost sound excited when talking to The Wall Street Journal about staying lean and culling the number of employees they have, as long as it creates short-term profits.

But the whole experience of work for young people has been tortured for far longer than the economy has been stalled. Earlier this year, my colleague David Brooks spoke to a college senior who called young Americans "the most rejected generation," describing the hypercompetition that has bled into all aspects of life, even for the most privileged college-educated strivers. Because most job applications are submitted online, the bar to applying is so much lower than it was in the analogue world decades ago, and so for any open role, applicants are competing with hundreds of people. The sense of scarcity and lack starts earlier because so many selective colleges boast about their record-low admissions rates.

But now artificial intelligence is performing the first few rounds of culling, including early screening, which is further dehumanizing and gamifying the application process. Richard Yoon, who is an economics major at Columbia, told me that when his peers have multiple interviews for jobs in finance, he asks if they have heard back from any of them. They tell him, "You don't understand. Like 19 of those 20 interviews were with bots."

It's customary for job seekers to review their résumés for keywords they think A.I. likes, Yoon told me, so that they might have a chance of getting through the digitised gauntlet and one day making human contact that could possibly lead to a job offer. Or at the very least a real-life networking connection. Yoon called the process "dystopian."

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But once you actually have a job, the real dystopia begins. Young people feel as if jobs offer far less mentorship and more micromanaging. Stevie Stevens, who is 27 and lives in Columbus, Ohio, told me that she left a full-time job in July at an exhibition design and production firm because she felt hyperscrutinized and undersupported. "Managers expect you to do six jobs in a 40-hour workweek. My company had mediocre benefits and offered little to no professional growth or training," she told me.

1. It can be reasonably inferred that the author views the perfunctory slander against younger generations as:
A. a necessary, if harsh, form of social commentary that helps new employees adapt.
B. a superficial and cyclical criticism that fails to apprehend the structural and technological shifts in the labor market.
C. a misunderstanding of Gen Z's desire to become influencers, which older generations misinterpret as laziness.
D. a recent phenomenon that has become uniquely malicious in its application to Gen Z.

2. The author suggests that AI is further dehumanizing and gamifying the application process by:
A. forcing applicants to compete with bots that are also applying for the same entry-level jobs.
B. requiring applicants to interact with 19 or 20 different bots for a single job, which is inefficient.
C. turning the job search into an impersonal, strategic exercise of embedding keywords to pass a digital filter.
D. replacing valuable human mentorship with automated, impersonal micromanaging.

3. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the author's central argument concerning Gen Z?
A. A comparative analysis reveals that Gen X and Millennials faced even higher levels of competition from online applications in the 1990s and 2000s.
B. Evidence emerges that the most rejected generation quote was taken out of context and referred to social, not professional, rejection.
C. New research proves that Gen Z's brains are broken by the internet and that this is the primary cause of their inability to focus.
D. A corporate report shows that hyperscrutinized employees are significantly more productive and report higher job satisfaction than those who are not.

4. When the author states that 'once you actually have a job, the real dystopia begins', they are implying that the:

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A. challenges of the application process are a dystopian illusion compared to the reality of the 40-hour workweek.
B. older generation of managers is intentionally creating a hostile environment to force Gen Z employees to quit.
C. mediocre benefits and lack of training in modern jobs are the primary reasons young people would rather be influencers.
D. unsupportive and high-pressure nature of the modern workplace is a more profound and insidious problem than the gauntlet of seeking employment.

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

In his great book Not Born Yesterday, Hugo Mercier goes through an enormous amount of evidence showing how sophisticated people are when it comes to evaluating information that they encounter. The first thing people do, not always consciously, is a kind of plausibility checking. They also ask, "Can I hold this person accountable if they misinformed me? Have they got good arguments? Do I have good reason to believe that they're a trustworthy source?" All of these different cues people use to weigh up the reliability of information. But the catch is they're only vigilant in that way when their aim is to acquire accurate beliefs.

A. Mercier highlights that people rarely question information credibility and tend to accept it without scrutiny due to cognitive laziness.
B. According to Mercier, people always carefully assess information to avoid being misled, regardless of their motivation to believe accurately.
C. Mercier's book argues that people critically evaluate information using plausibility checks and trustworthiness cues, but only when genuinely seeking accurate beliefs.
D. The key to reliable belief formation, as per Mercier, lies in ignoring source accountability and focusing solely on the strength of arguments presented.

6. 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: If water behaved like most liquids when it froze, its solid form would be denser and sink.

Paragraph: ____(1)____. Imagine ponds freezing in winter with the ice at the bottom. ____(2)____. Not only would this challenge ice skaters, but in a very cold winter, shallow ponds might turn into a solid block of ice.____(3)____. Because of ice's special properties, the ice layer forms at the surface and insulates the water below, preventing it from freezing. ____(4)____.

A. Option 1
B. Option 2

C. Option 3
D. Option 4

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. By geological classification, these rocks are 'metamorphic', meaning that they have been transformed under punishing heat and pressure beneath the surface.
2. Still, the process strikes me as deeply mysterious, a kind of natural alchemy.
3. At each stage of their pilgrimages, they preserve a record of their experiences, and through them, we can gain a glimpse of inaccessible subsurface worlds.
4. This makes them the itinerant 'travel writers' of the rock world, returning to tell us about the restless, animate, hidden nature of the solid Earth.
5. Unlike an igneous basalt crystallised from lava, or a sedimentary sandstone laid down by water, metamorphic rocks form in one environment, then go on journeys deep in the crust.

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

The smile is the most easily recognised facial expression at a distance in human interactions. It is also an easier expression to make than most others. Other facial expressions denoting emotion – such as fear, anger or distress – require up to four muscles. The smile needs only a single muscle to produce: the zygomaticus major at the corner of the mouth (though a simultaneous twitching of the eyelid's orbicularis oculi muscle is required for a sincere and joyful smile). As well as being easy to make and to recognise, the smile is also highly versatile. It may denote sensory pleasure and delight, gaiety and amusement, satisfaction, contentment, affection, seduction, relief, stress, nervousness, annoyance, anger, shame, aggression, fear and contempt. You name it, the smile does it.

A. Unlike other facial expressions, the smile only signifies happiness and pleasure, requiring minimal muscular effort.
B. The smile is a universally recognized, easy-to-produce facial expression that conveys a wide range of emotions, from joy to anger and beyond.
C. Facial expressions like fear and anger are simpler to produce and recognize than smiling, which involves complex muscle movement.
D. A genuine smile requires multiple muscles and typically indicates only positive emotions such as contentment and affection.

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. Traditional news organizations increasingly use tools from companies like OpenAI and Google to streamline work that used to take hours: sifting through reams of information, tracking down sources and suggesting headlines.

2. Almost all of the news organizations have some guardrails in place to prevent errors, such as requiring a human to review anything that A.I. writes before it is published.

3. In some cases, including at Fortune and Business Insider, publications have explored using A.I. to write full articles, notifying readers they intend to use it for drafts.

4. Artificial intelligence is sweeping through newsrooms, transforming the way journalists around the world gather and disseminate information.

5. But, as with much of technology, it comes with significant risks.

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: Infatuation is inherently unsustainable, which is why love must either fade away or transition into this quieter, more enduring form.

Paragraph: Note the difference between being in love and loving. ____(1)____. The former refers to the initial stages of love, sometimes pejoratively referred to as 'infatuation'. ____(2)____. The latter denotes a less volatile, calmer state that you might settle into after the initial fever subsides. ____(3)____. Alternatively, you might skip the madness altogether, going directly for the tender affection that feels soothing and safe. ____(4)____. This distinction between infatuation and long-term love also speaks to the puzzle of eternal love, highlighting how early intensity can create the illusion of unchanging passion, even though love evolves into a more enduring state over time.

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

DILR

Four friends, P, Q, R, and S, are playing a game called Raja-Wazir-Chor-Sipahi 2.0. They are holding four different slips containing the numbers 100, 500, 800, and 1000, not necessarily in that particular order. Four slips containing the numbers 100, 500, 800, and 1000 are kept in a box in four consecutive rounds. Each child is asked to pick one slip in the four rounds. Every child intends to pick a slip that has the same or a greater number than the number on his slip.

The order in which they pick the slips on each of the rounds is given below in Table 1.

Order	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Round 1	P	Q	R	S
Round 2	Q	R	S	P
Round 3	R	S	P	Q
Round 4	S	P	Q	R

If a child cannot find a slip, which he intends to pick (represented by N in the second table), he randomly picks any slip. However, if the child finds a slip that he intends to pick (represented by Y in the table), he always picks any of those slips only.

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
P	Y	N	Y	Y
Q	N	Y	Y	N
R	Y	Y	Y	Y
S	N	N	Y	Y

11. What is the number on the slip held by S?

12. What number did R pick in round 2?
A. 100
B. 500
C. 800
D. Cannot be determined

13. For how many rounds can we uniquely determine the slips picked by each of the four persons?

14. If S picked the slip with the number 800 in round 4, which number must P have picked?
A. 1000
B. 500

C. 100
D. Cannot be determined

15. Who picked the slip containing the number 500 in round 1?
A. Q
B. R
C. S
D. Cannot be determined

Five students – Aman, Bala, Chandra, Daksh and Eram - attempted a quiz consisting of 10 questions. Each question had five options – A, B, C, D, E, of which only one was correct. The following table gives the responses of the students for the 10 questions and their score (which is equal to the number of correct responses).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score
Aman	A	A	D	B	A	B	E	C	B	B	3
Bala	C	B	D	B	B	A	E	C	B	D	7
Chandra	A	A	B	B	C	C	D	D	E	E	0
Daksh	A	B	C	B	E	A	B	C	D	D	5
Eram	D	B	D	B	E	B	A	A	D	B	4

The correct answers to the first and the last questions were C and D, respectively.

16. How many questions have the answer as option A?
A. 2
B. 3
C. 2 or 3
D. 3 or 4

17. What is the answer to question 5?
A. A
B. B
C. C
D. E

18. How many questions were answered correctly by only one student?

19. How many questions were not answered correctly by any student?
A. None
B. 1
C. 2
D. 3

20. How much did Eram score from the first five questions?

QA

21. T years ago, Anita's age was 8/11th of Rahul's age, while after S years, Rahul's age will be 3/11th more than Anita's age. The average present age of Rahul and Anita together is (21/22) times Anita's age after S years. S years ago, Anita's age was what percentage of Rahul's age?
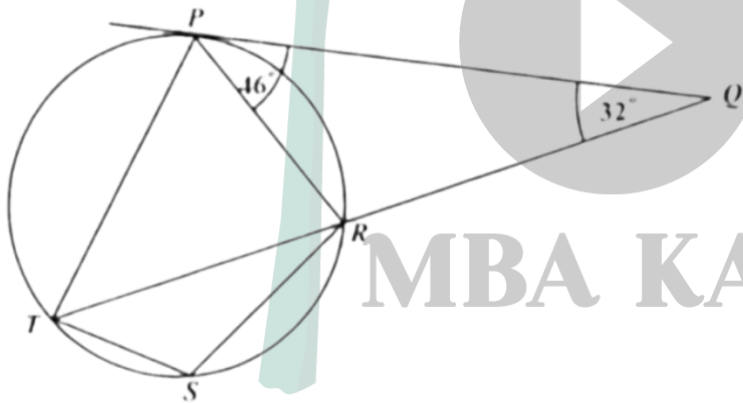
22. If $9 + 2(3x - xy + x^2) + y^2 = 0$, find the value of $3x^2 - 2xy + 5y^2$.
A. 54
B. 45
C. 60
D. 63

23. Lalit was travelling to Jaipur at a speed of 75 km/h and reached there at 12:00 p.m. Had he travelled at a different speed, he would have reached Jaipur at 3:00 p.m. However, if he had increased this new speed by 80%, he would have reached at 11:00 a.m. Find the speed at which Lalit would have reached Jaipur at 10:30 a.m.
A. 100
B. 90
C. 80
D. 120

24. In the given figure, find ∠RST.

A. 102°
B. 110°
C. 118°
D. 124°

25. A function is defined such that $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^3}$ and $g(f(x)) = x^2$. If $g(a) = a/2$, find the value of a.
A. $2^{2/5}$
B. $2^{3/5}$
C. $2^{4/5}$
D. 2

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26. In a group of a certain number of students, if one student weighing 60 kg is added, then the average weight of the group increases by 2 kg. If one more student weighing 60 kg is added, then the average weight of the group increases by 3 kg over the original average. If another student of weight 60 kg, the average weight of the group would be
A. 57
B. 57.6
C. 56.4
D. 56

27. There are 500 students in a college, most of whom are health-conscious. 250 like black coffee, 200 like green tea, and 150 like matcha. 80 like black coffee and green tea, 90 like black coffee and matcha, and 70 like matcha and green tea. What is the smallest number of students who like exactly one drink?

28. Navya and Bhavya sell milk every day. It is known that they adulterated milk by adding water equal to 33.33% and 50%, respectively. Daman now buys 100 litres of milk from Navya and 60 litres of milk from Bhavya, and he pours both the mixtures into a tank. Now, he replaces 33.33% of this mixture with pure milk. Find the amount of milk in the mixture after 2 such replacements.
A. 110 litres
B. 120 litres
C. 130 litres
D. 140 litres

29. By what least number should 0.612121212… be multiplied so that we get an integer?

30. A juice seller was serving his customers using glasses. The inner diameter of the cylindrical glass was 5 cm, but the bottom of the glass had a hemispherical raised portion, which reduced the capacity of the glass. If the height of the glass was 10 cm, by what percentage was the actual capacity less than the apparent capacity of the glass?
A. 14.28%
B. 15.55%
C. 16.67%
D. 18.33%