

Verbal Ability Practice - 1

Passage-1

It is a fundamental tenet of geophysics that the Earth's magnetic field can exist in either of two polarity states: a "normal" state, in which north-seeking compass needles point to the geographic north, and a "reverse" state, in which they point to the geographic south. Geological evidence shows that periodically the field's polarity reverses, and that these reversals have been taking place at an increasing rate. Evidence also indicates that the field does not reverse instantaneously from one polarity state to another; rather, the process involves a transition period that typically spans a few thousand years.

Though this much is known, the underlying causes of the reversal phenomenon are not well understood. It is generally accepted that the magnetic field itself is generated by the motion of free electrons in the outer core, a slowly churning mass of molten metal sandwiched between the Earth's mantle (the region of the Earth's interior lying below the crust) and its solid inner core. In some way that is not completely understood, gravity and the Earth's rotation, acting on temperature and density differences within the outer core fluid, provide the driving forces behind the generation of the field. The reversal phenomenon may be triggered when something disturbs the heat circulation pattern of the outer core fluid, and with it the magnetic field.

Several explanations for this phenomenon have been proposed. One proposal, the "heat-transfer hypothesis," is that the triggering process is intimately related to the way the outer core vents its heat into the mantle. For example, such heat transfer (heat transfer: 传热) could create hotter (rising) or cooler (descending) blobs of material from the inner and outer boundaries of the fluid core, thereby perturbing the main heat-circulation pattern. A more controversial alternative proposal is the asteroid-impact hypothesis. In this scenario an extended period of cold and darkness results from the impact of an asteroid large enough to send a great cloud of dust into the atmosphere. Following this climatic change, ocean temperatures drop and the polar ice caps grow, redistributing the Earth's seawater. This redistribution increases the rotational acceleration of the mantle, causing friction and turbulence near the outer core-mantle boundary and initiating reversal of the magnetic field.

How well do these hypotheses account for such observations as the long-term increase in the frequency of reversal? In support of the asteroid-impact model, it had been argued that the gradual cooling of the average ocean temperature would enable progressively smaller asteroid impacts (which are known to occur more frequently than larger impacts) to cool the Earth's climate sufficiently to induce ice-cap growth and reversals. But theories that depend on extraterrestrial intervention seem less convincing than theories like the first, which account for the phenomenon solely by means of the thermodynamic state of the outer core and its effect on the mantle.

1. Which one of the following statements regarding the Earth's outer core is best supported by information presented in the passage?
 - a) Heat circulation in the outer core controls the growth and diminution of the polar ice caps.
 - b) Impact of asteroids on the Earth's surface alters the way in which the outer core vents its heat into the mantle.
 - c) Motion of electrons within the metallic fluid in the outer core produces the Earth's magnetic field.
 - d) Friction and turbulence near the boundary between the outer core and the mantle are typically caused by asteroid impacts.
2. The author mentions the creation of blobs of different temperatures in the Earth's outer core (lines 34-38) primarily in order to
 - a) present a way in which the venting of heat from the outer core might disturb the heat-circulation pattern within the outer core
 - b) provide proof for the proposal that ventilation of heat from the outer core into the mantle triggers polarity reversal
 - c) give an example of the way in which heat circulates between the Earth's outer core and the Earth's exterior
 - d) describe how the outer core maintains its temperature by venting its excess heat into the Earth's mantle.
3. Which one of the following statements regarding the polarity of the Earth's magnetic field is best supported by information in the passage?
 - a) Most, but not all, geophysicists agree that the Earth's magnetic field may exist in two distinct polarity states.
 - b) Changes in the polarity of the Earth's magnetic field have occurred more often in the recent past than in the distant past.
 - c) Heat transfer would cause reversals of the polarity of the Earth's magnetic field to occur more quickly than would asteroid impact.
 - d) Geophysicists' understanding of the reversal of the Earth's magnetic field has increased significantly since the introduction of the heat-transfer hypothesis.

4. Which one of the following can be inferred regarding the two proposals discussed in the passage?
 - a) Since their introduction they have sharply divided the scientific community.
 - b) Both were formulated in order to explain changes in the frequency of polarity reversal.
 - c) Although no firm conclusions regarding them have yet been reached, both have been extensively investigated.
 - d) They are not the only proposals scientists have put forward to explain the phenomenon of polarity reversal.

5. The author mentions each of the following as possible contributing causes to reversals of the Earth's magnetic field EXCEPT
 - a) changes in the way heat circulates within the outer core fluid
 - b) extended periods of colder temperatures on the Earth's surface
 - c) the creation of circulation blobs of outer core material of different temperatures
 - d) changes in circulation patterns in the Earth's oceans.

PASSAGE - 2

Innovations in language are never completely new. When the words used for familiar things change, or words for new things enter the language, they are usually borrowed or adapted from stock. Assuming new roles, they drag their old meanings along behind them like flickering shadow. This seems especially true of the language of the contemporary school of literary criticism that now prefers to describe its work simply and rather presumptuously as theory but is still popularly referred to as poststructuralism or deconstruction.

The first neologisms adopted by this movement were signifier and signified, employed to distinguish arbitrariness of the term we choose. The use of these particular terms (rather than, respectively, words and thing) underlined the seriousness of the naming process and its claim on our attention. Since in English "to signify" can also mean "to portend," these terms also suggest that words predict coming events.

With the use of the term deconstruction we move into another and more complex realm of meaning. The most common use of the terms construction and deconstruction is in the building trades, and their borrowing by literary theorists for a new type of criticism cannot help but have certain overtones to the outsider. First, the usage suggests that the creation and critical interpretation of literature are not organic but mechanical processes; that the author of any piece of writing is not an inspired, intuitive artist, but merely a laborer who cobbles existing materials (words) into more or less conventional structures. The term deconstruction implies that the text has been put together like a building or a piece of machinery, and that it is in need of being taken apart, not so much in order to repair it as to demonstrate underlying inadequacies, false assumptions, and inherent contradictions. This process can supposedly be repeated many times and by many literary hard hats (a conservative who is intolerant of opposing views); it is expected that each deconstruction will reveal additional flaws and expose the illusions or bad faith of the builder. The fact that deconstructionists prefer to describe their activities as deconstruction rather than criticism is also revealing. Criticism and critic derive from the Greek *Kritikos*, "skillful in judging, decisive." Deconstruction, on the other hand, has no overtones of skill or wisdom; it merely suggests demolition of an existing building. In popular usage criticism suggests censure but not change. If we find fault with a building, we may condemn it, but we do not carry out the demolition ourselves. The deconstructionist, by implication, is both judge and executioner who leaves a text totally dismantled, if not reduced to a pile of rubble.

6. Which one of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?
 - a) Implicit in the terminology of the school of criticism known as deconstruction are meanings that reveal the true nature of the deconstructionist's endeavor.
 - b) The appearance of the terms signifier and signified in the field of literary theory anticipated the appearance of an even more radical idea known as deconstruction.
 - c) Innovations in language and relations between old and new meanings of terms are a special concern of the new school of criticism known as deconstruction.
 - d) Deconstructionists maintain that it is insufficient merely to judge a work: the critic must actively dismantle it.

7. Which one of the following generalizations about inventions is most analogous to the author's point about innovation in language?
 - a) A new invention usually consists of components that are specifically manufactured for the new invention.
 - b) A new invention is usually behind the times, never making as much use of all the available modern technology as it could.
 - c) A new invention usually consists of components that are already available but are made to function in new ways.

- d) A new invention is most useful when it is created with attention to the historical tradition established by implements previously used to do the same job.
8. The author of the passage uses the word “criticism” in lines 46-56 primarily in order to
 (A) give an example (B) introduce a contrast
 (C) undermine an argument (D) codify a system
9. Which one of the following best describes the function of the second paragraph within the passage as a whole?
 a) It introduces a hypothesis that the author later expands upon.
 b) It qualifies a claim made earlier by the author.
 c) It develops an initial example of the author’s general thesis.
 d) It predicts a development.
10. The passage suggests that the author most probably holds the view that an important characteristic of literary criticism is that it
 a) demonstrate false assumptions and inherent contradictions
 b) employ skill and insight
 c) be carried out by one critic rather than many
 d) reveal how a text is put together like a building

PASSAGE-3

The legislation (the enactments of a legislator or a legislative body) of a country recently considered a bill designed to reduce the uncertainty inherent in the ownership of art by specifying certain conditions that must be met before an allegedly stolen work of art can be reclaimed by a plaintiff. The bill places the burden of proof in reclamation litigation entirely on the plaintiff, who must demonstrate that the holder of an item knew at the time of purchase that it had been stolen. Additionally, the bill creates a uniform national statute of limitations for reclamation of stolen cultural property.

Testifying in support of the bill, James D. Burke, a citizen of the country and one of its leading art museum directors, specially praised the inclusion of a statute of limitations; otherwise, he said, other countries could seek to reclaim valuable art objects, no matter how long they have been held by the current owner or how legitimately they were acquired. Any country could enact a patrimony law stating that anything ever made within the boundaries of that country is its cultural property. Burke expressed the fear that lead to ruinous legal defense costs for museums.

However, because such reclamation suits have not yet been a problem, there is little basis for Burke’s concern. In fact, the proposed legislation would establish too many unjustifiable barriers to the location and recovery of stolen objects. The main barrier is that the bill considers the announcement of an art transaction in a museum publication to be adequate evidence of an attempt to notify a possible owner. There are far too many such publications for the victim of a theft to survey, and with only this form of disclosure, a stolen object could easily remain unlocated even if assiduously searched for. Another stipulation requires that a purchaser show the object to a scholar for verification that it is not stolen, but it is a rare academic who is aware of any but the most publicized art thefts. Moreover, the time limit specified by the statute of limitations is very short, and the requirement that the plaintiff demonstrate that the holder had knowledge of the theft is unrealistic. Typically, stolen art changes hands several times before rising to the level in the marketplace where a curator or collector would see it. At that point, the object bears no trace of the initial transaction between the thief and the first purchaser, perhaps the only one in the chain who knowingly acquired a stolen work of art.

Thus, the need for new legislation to protect holders of art is not obvious. Rather, what is necessary is legislation remedying the difficulties that legitimate owners of works of art, and countries from which such works have been stolen, have in locating and reclaiming these stolen works.

11. The uncertainty mentioned in line 2 of the passage refers to the
 a) doubt that owners of works of art often harbor over whether individuals have a moral right to possess great art
 b) concern that owners of works of art often have that their possession of such objects may be legally challenged at any time
 c) questions that owners of works of art often have concerning the correct identification of the age and origin of their objects
 d) disputes that often arise between cultural institutions vying for the opportunity to purchase a work of art.

12. Which one of the following is an example of the kind of action that Burke feared would pose a serious threat to museums in his country?
- the passage of a law by another country forbidding the future export of any archaeological objects uncovered at sites within its territory
 - an international accord establishing strict criteria for determining whether a work of art can be considered stolen and specifying the circumstances under which it must be returned to its country of origin
 - the passage of a law by another country declaring that all objects created by its aboriginal people are the sole property of that country
 - an increase in the acquisition of culturally significant works of art by private collectors, who are more capable than museums of bearing the cost of litigation but who rarely display their collections to the public.
13. According to the passage, Burke envisaged the most formidable potential adversaries of his country's museums in reclamation litigation to be
- commercial dealers in art
 - law enforcement officials in his own country
 - governments of other countries
 - private collectors of art
14. Which one of the following best describes the author's attitude towards the proposed bill?
- impassioned support
 - measured advocacy
 - fearful apprehension
 - reasoned opposition
15. Which one of the following best exemplifies the sort of legislation considered necessary by the author of the passage?
- a law requiring museums to notify foreign governments and cultural institutions of all the catalogs and scholarly journals that they publish
 - a law providing for the creation of a national warehouse for storage of works of art that are the subject of litigation
 - a law instituting a national fund for assisting museums to bear the expenses of defending themselves against reclamation suits
 - A law requiring that a central archive be established for collecting and distributing information concerning all reported thefts of cultural property

(16-19) : Arrange the sentences in correct order:

16. A) if we bombarded protons at high energies with other elementary particles- other protons, say we begin to glimpse more fundamaental units hiding inside the proton.
 B) This is one of the great unsolved problems in science.
 C) Are quarks the ultimate constituents of matter, or are they too composed of still smaller and more elementary particles?
 D) Will we ever come to an end in our understanding of the nature of matter, or is there an infinitie regression into more and more fundamental particles?
 E) physicists now propose that so called elementary particles such as protons and neutrons are in fact made of all still more elementary particles called quarks, which come in n a variety of colours and flavours as their properties have been termed in a poignant attempt to make the subnuclear world a little more like home.
17. A) Prometheus saw which way that battle was turning and threw in his lot with Zeus and the Olympians
 B) Prometheus is usually identified as one of the Titans, the ancient race of dieties whose battle with the Olympian gods is most probably a mythical retelling of the struggle between rival theologies in the ancient world.
 C) but Prometheus steals fire and gives it to humankind and in retribution Zeus condemns Prometheus to his terrible punishment in chains in the Caucasian mountains, eviscerated forever by a great eagle.
 D) he acquired architecture, medicine metallurgy and other practical art forms from Athene whether by theft or study is not clear and passed them to humankind, making Zeus increasingly uneasy about the growing powers of men.
 E) in one account, Zeus decides to withhold fire from humanity because he is angry at one of the Prometheus' tricks.

18. A) there are just two problems with this advice.
 B) and the other is that the advice is an unwidely hammer, when not every writing problem is a nail.
 C) style guides as well as usage books warn writers off the passive and automated grammar-checkers often suggest that passive clauses be redrafted.
 D) one is that diminishing proportion of the world's pundits seem to know what the passive voice is.
 E) pity the passive voice: no feature of the grammar of English has such a bad reputation.
19. A) Unlike their brother, who has been a Swedish resident for several years, they could find themselves sent back to a country that, although their birthplace, no longer their home.
 B) the three orphans travelled on their own from Iran, where they are living illegally and had no access to education.
 C) but the respite may be short lived.
 D) Sweden seems idyllic to Munire, a 19yr old Afghan asylum seeker and her two sisters.
 E) now they live with a foster family and go to school while they wait to hear whether or not they can stay.

(20-21): Choose the option that completes the paragraph in most appropriate way.

20. The decline of English, when it begins, will not seem of great moment. International English is a lingua franca, and by its nature, a lingua franca is a language of convenience. When it ceases to be convenient — however widespread it has been — it will be dropped, without ceremony, and with little emotion. People will just not get around to learning it, not see the point, be glad to escape a previously compulsory subject at school. Only those who have a more intimate relation to it, its native speakers, may feel a sense of loss— much as French people do today when their language is passed over, or accorded no special respect. And those who are conscious of having made a serious investment to learn the language— having misread the signs of change afoot in global communication — may also feel cheated, even disappointed, when others seem to be excused from having to know it.
 (A) but the rest of the world will be glad to drop a language that no longer suits their needs.
 (B) but the world as a whole will shrug and go on transacting its business in whatever language next seems useful.
 (C) for them, the decline of English will indeed be an important event, one that leaves them with a skill that no longer has any value.
 (D) when English is no longer the international lingua franca, it is anybody's guess what language or combination of languages will take its place.
21. In a survey of job applicants, two-fifths admitted to being at least a little dishonest. However, the survey may underestimate the proportion of job applicants who are dishonest, because____
 (A) some dishonest people taking the survey might have claimed on the survey to be honest
 (B) some generally honest people taking the survey might have claimed on the survey to be dishonest
 (C) some people who claimed on the survey to be at least a little dishonest may be very dishonest
 (D) some people who claimed on the survey to be dishonest may have been answering honestly
 (E) some people who are not job applicants are probably at least a little dishonest

(22-24): Select the sentence that is contextually/ logically incorrect.

22. A. scientists and philosophers of science have never been able to agree on a demarcation criterion that precisely distinguishes science from non- science.
 B. if you are talking about science, you are talking about data; if you are not talking about data, you are not talking about science.
 C. most important of all, science deals with observations.
 D. even if we cannot precisely distinguish science from non-science, we can establish several facts about the scientific process.
23. A) in the post medieval world, the changing perception of individual liberty led to a continual re-examination of the role and profession of the residential domestic servants, whose regimented lives and dependent positions ensured the existence of the country house.
 B) the challenges to the feudal system, the changes brought by the industrial revolution and a new political idealism, all had their impact on the way servants saw their work.
 C) by the early nineteenth century, the word 'servant' itself had begun to take on more negative associations of

subservience to an inflexible class system.

- D) The apparent evaporation, in the later twentieth century, of the servant-supported, country house way of life, which had defined the image of the British nation in the previous centuries, is a subject of fascination in itself.

24. A. as they grow, babies begin to sort out the speech sounds that compose the words of their language.

B. communication can be verbal or non verbal, as long as some intent, evidenced by anticipation of outcome, is inferred.

C. the first signs of communication occur when an infant learns that a cry will bring food, comfort and companionship.

D. by 6 months of age, most babies recognize the basic sounds of their native language.

E. newborns also begin to recognize important sounds in their environment, such as the voice of their mother or primary caretaker.

25. Opponents of laws that require automobile drivers and passengers to wear seat belts argue that in a free society people have the right to take risks as long as the people do not harm others as a result of taking the risks. As a result, they conclude that it should be each person's decision whether or not to wear a seat belt.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the conclusion drawn above?

(A) Many new cars are built with seat belts that automatically fasten when someone sits in the front seat.

(B) Automobile insurance rates for all automobile owners are higher because of the need to pay for the increased injuries or deaths of people not wearing seat belts.

(C) Passengers in airplanes are required to wear seat belts during takeoffs and landings.

(D) The rate of automobile fatalities in states that do not have mandatory seat-belt laws is greater than the rate of fatalities in states that do have such laws.

(E) In automobile accidents, a greater number of passengers who do not wear seat belts are injured than are passengers who do wear seat belts.

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Answer Key:

1.C	2.A	3.B	4.D	5.D
6.A	7.C	8.B	9.C	10.B
11.B	12.C	13.C	14.D	15.D
16.AECDB	17.BADEC	18.ECADB	19.DBECA	20.B
21.A	22.A	23.D	24.B	25.B