

## **PARA COMPLETION - 1**

**Select the option that best completes the given paragraphs:**

1. Normally, falling oil prices would boost global growth. This time, though, matters are less clear cut. The big economic question is whether lower prices reflect weak demand or have been caused by a surge in the supply of crude. If weak demand is the culprit that is worrying: it suggests the oil price is a symptom of weakening growth. If the source of weakness is financial (debt overhangs and so on), then cheaper oil may not boost growth all that much: consumers may simply use the gains to pay down their debts. Indeed, in some countries, cheaper oil may even make matters worse by increasing the risk of deflation. \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. An energy-induced drop in prices, though good for consumer purchasing power, risks reinforcing expectations of lower inflation overall; it is part of the threat's pernicious nature that such expectations easily become self-fulfilling.
  - B. The International Energy Agency, an oil importers' club, said it expects global demand to rise by just 700,000 barrels a day (b/d) this year, 200,000 b/d below its forecast only last month.
  - C. On balance, energy consumers win and energy producers and exporting countries lose with falling oil prices.
  - D. On the other hand, if plentiful supply is driving prices down, that is potentially better news: cheaper oil should eventually boost spending in the world's biggest economies
  
2. The 16th century in Europe was a great century of change. The humanists and artists of the Renaissance would help characterize the age as one of individualism and self-creativity. Humanists such as Petrarch helped restore the dignity of mankind while men like Machiavelli injected humanism into politics. When all is said and done, the Renaissance helped to secularize European society. \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. The year 1543 can be said to have marked the origin of the Scientific Revolution, with Copernicus publishing De Revolutionibus and setting in motion a wave of scientific advance.
  - B. The century witnessed the growth of royal power, the appearance of centralized monarchies and the discovery of new lands.
  - C. The very powerful notion that man makes his own history and destiny took root.
  - D. In the meantime, urbanization continued unabated as did the growth of universities.
  
3. As ambivalence is often linked to the victories of populists, there is a general sense that our ambivalence is destabilizing, dangerous and needs to be purged. The failure to reach clarity implies a failed agency on the part of the ambivalent citizen; it is they who carry the burden of resolving their own feelings and returning to a place of undivided certainty. Yet, the more we dismiss and disparage ambivalence, rebuking voters who "should know better", the more we risk its manifestation in destructive ways. \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. The point is that, rather than reflecting some psychological deficiency or cognitive dissonance, ambivalence is an active and willful position to take.
  - B. People who have been reduced to decision-takers will be more likely to see radical, revolutionary, even destructive change as the only way to resolve their ambivalence.
  - C. Ambivalence is even rational, in that it requires an awareness of mutually exclusive choices and a refusal to choose; just as wanting a bit of both is also rational.
  - D. Slowing down, and contemplating how our democracy is working for us as a community, potentially limits the power of those who benefit from the status quo.
  
4. While your intentional mind is thoughtful, it's easily waylaid by deep-seated habits. If you're trying to lose weight, for example, standard interventions like weight loss programs will leave your intentional mind feeling motivated, but they won't feed your habitual mind. To accomplish that, you must first derail existing habits and create a window of opportunity to act on new intentions. \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. So, the next time you want to watch your favourite movie or TV show on Netflix, make yourself watch it on the treadmill instead.
  - B. Studies have shown that maintaining a food diary—a record of everything you eat and drink – is one of the best ways to start.
  - C. Doing squats and calf raises while brushing your teeth, for example, will reward you with the double confidence of a shinier smile and improved fitness.
  - D. So, get rid of unhealthy cues by moving junk food out of your pantry, and put fresh fruit out where it's easy to see.
  
5. To mediate the competing claims of individuals, communities and the state, very early on in its history, the Supreme Court invented something that it called the "essential religious practices test". Under this test, ostensibly religious practices could gain constitutional sanction only if — in the view of the Court — they were "essential" or "integral" to the religion in question. In the beginning, the court emphasized that essential religious practices

would have to be determined by taking an internal point of view, and looking to the tenets and the doctrines of the religion itself. In later years, however, the court began to take an increasingly interventionist stance, using the essential religious practices test to make wide-ranging — often untethered — claims about religions, and even trying to mold religions into more rationalistic and homogenous monoliths, while marginalizing dissident traditions. \_\_\_\_\_

- A. In crux, the Supreme Court rules that an essential practice, like a ritual, in pursuance of religious beliefs, is a critical aspect of the faith itself and that freedom of religion encompass this aspect.
  - B. The high watermark of this approach came in 2004, when the court held that the public performance of the Tandava dance was no essential part of the religion of the Ananda Marga sect, even though it had been specifically set down as such in their holy book.
  - C. For example, the landmark verdict by the Bombay High Court that women should be allowed to enter the Haji Ali sanctum was based on careful and circumspect perusal of passages from the Koran and the Hadith, material placed before it by the Dargah Trust.
  - D. After all, in a society where religion and the public sphere have always been so intertwined, religious exclusion has a public character, and not just an issue of sacral traditions but one of civil rights and material and symbolic equality.
6. In his book, *The Selfish Gene*, Richard Dawkins puts forth the radical theory that all living creatures are essentially vehicles for their genes, and exist merely to transmit and propagate their genes. \_\_\_\_\_ In fact, Dawkins later wrote that his choice of the word “selfish” was wrong, since it attributed an anthropomorphic quality to what is essentially a bunch of chemicals. A better term, he thought, would have been “the immortal gene”.
- A. Only when individuals behave in their genetic self-interest and form alliances, genes are passed on for species to survive.
  - B. Genes are not sentient; they pass through bodies and affect them, but are not affected by them on the way through.
  - C. Dawkins’s proposition is that pure altruistic behavior has never helped anyone in the history of any species.
  - D. Genes may be willing to abandon the individual to replicate themselves.
7. Relations between the factory and the dealer are distant and usually strained as the factory tries to force cars on the dealers to smooth out production. Relations between the dealer and the customer are equally strained because dealers continuously adjust prices  $\propto$  make deals  $\propto$  to adjust demand with supply while maximizing profits. This becomes a system marked by a lack of long-term commitment on either side, which maximizes feelings of mistrust. In order to maximize their bargaining positions, everyone holds back information  $\propto$  the dealer about the product and the consumer about his true desires. \_\_\_\_\_
- A. As a result, “deal making” becomes rampant, without concern for customer satisfaction.
  - B. As a result, inefficiencies creep into the supply chain.
  - C. As a result, everyone treats the other as an adversary, rather than as an ally.
  - D. As a result, everyone loses in the long run
8. Nevertheless, photographs still retain some of the magical allure that the earliest daguerreotypes inspired. As objects, our photographs have changed; they have become physically flimsier as they have become more technologically sophisticated. Daguerre produced pictures on copper plates; today many of our photographs never become tangible things, but instead remain filed away on computers and cameras, part of the digital ether that envelops the modern world. At the same time, our patience for the creation of images has also eroded. Children today are used to being tracked from birth by digital cameras and video recorders and they expect to see the results of their poses and performances instantly. The space between life as it is being lived and life as it is being displayed shrinks to a mere second. \_\_\_\_\_
- A. Yet, despite these technical developments, photographs still remain powerful because they are reminders of the people and things we care about.
  - B. Images, after all, are surrogates carried into battle by a soldier or by a traveller on holiday.
  - C. Photographs, be they digital or traditional, exist to remind us of the absent, the beloved, and the dead.
  - D. In the new era of the digital image, the images also have a greater potential for fostering falsehood and trickery, perpetuating fictions that seem so real we cannot tell the difference.
9. \_\_\_\_\_. For instance, 19th-century Japan was a world where steam and sail, railroads and rickshaws all shared common space. Industrial revolutions were distributed unequally in place and time. In the Second World War, the most common transport for the German army wasn’t tanks and other motorized vehicles but horses. The technological world wasn’t flat. This is the world, still, today. It is lumpy and bumpy, with old and new technologies accumulating on top of and beside each other.
- A. Throughout history, imperatives besides efficiency have driven technological change.
  - B. As they layer and stack, technologies persist over time.
  - C. The best ideas do not necessarily become popular right away.
  - D. Some innovations spread slowly, while others do so quickly.

10. The true essence of a writer's voice lies far beneath the surface. It is not merely a matter of grammar and word choice. It is the writer's craving to connect. It is less craft and more courage – less ink and more blood. It is not only how the writer tells his story; it is the story he chooses tell. The story he must tell. It is the reason he writes. \_\_\_\_\_
- It reveals itself in details the eye doesn't easily take in— in some unexpected hesitation or cunning adverb or barely audible inflection that makes you sit up and take notice.
  - And contrary to popular belief, a writer's voice is learnt more than it's "found" or "discovered."
  - It is the fiery truth that burns in his heart until it becomes unbearable to wait even a single moment longer before putting pen to paper or fingertips to keyboard.
  - It is the way an author expresses personal attitude— through word choice, asides, sentence flow, paragraph density, and other individual stylistic devices.
11. The East India Company no longer exists, and it has, thankfully, no exact modern equivalent. Walmart, which is the world's largest corporation in revenue terms, does not number among its assets a fleet of nuclear submarines; neither Facebook nor Shell possesses regiments of infantry. Yet the East India Company – the first great multinational corporation, and the first to run amok – was the ultimate model for many of today's joint-stock corporations. The most powerful among them do not need their own armies: they can rely on governments to protect their interests and bail them out. The East India Company remains history's most terrifying warning about the potential for the abuse of corporate power – and the insidious means by which the interests of shareholders become those of the state. Three hundred and fifteen years after its founding, its story has never been more current. \_\_\_\_\_
- The East India Company's story is the first example of a nation state extracting, as its price for saving a failing corporation, the right to regulate and severely rein it in.
  - For all the power wielded today by the world's largest corporations – whether ExxonMobil, Walmart or Google – they are tame beasts compared with the ravaging territorial appetites of the militarized East India Company.
  - Answerable only to its shareholders and with no stake in the just governance of the region, or its long-term wellbeing, the East India Company's rule quickly turned into the straightforward pillage of India, and the rapid transfer westwards of its wealth.
  - If history shows anything, it is that in the intimate dance between the power of the state and that of the corporation, while the latter can be regulated, it will use all the resources in its power to resist.
12. By calling for exempting unionized businesses from the minimum wage, unions are creating more incentives for employers to favor unionized workers over the non-unionized sort. Such exemptions strengthen their power. This is useful because for all the effort unions throw at raising the minimum wage, laws for better pay have an awkward habit of undermining union clout. \_\_\_\_\_
- High rates of unionization make minimum-wage rules unnecessary as collaborative wage setting achieves the flexibility goals of a low minimum wage and the fairness goals of a high one.
  - Workers who have no real alternative to employment in the unregulated shadows of the labor market are even more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse than workers with the legal right to take low wages.
  - The labor ethos of worker solidarity seems hollow if non-union workers are underpriced by union workers and left unemployed or scrambling for unauthorized work.
  - Once employers are obliged to pay the same minimum wage to both unionized and non-unionized labor, workers often see less reason to pay the dues to join a union.
13. \_\_\_\_\_. In his book, *The Republic*, Plato proffered a parable in which Socrates celebrates the solitary philosopher. In the allegory of the cave, the philosopher escapes from the darkness of an underground den – and from the company of other humans – into the sunlight of contemplative thought. Alone but not lonely, the philosopher becomes attuned to her inner self and the world. In solitude, the soundless dialogue 'which the soul holds with herself' finally becomes audible.
- Philosophers have long made a careful, and important, distinction between solitude and loneliness
  - Solitude is a state of mind essential to the development of an individual's consciousness and conscience.
  - Philosophers recommend solitude in short bursts, to enable the process of self-discovery.
  - If we lose our capacity for solitude, our ability to be alone with ourselves, then we lose our very ability to think.
14. The true essence of a writer's voice lies far beneath the surface. It is not merely a matter of grammar and word choice. It is the writer's craving to connect. It is less craft and more courage – less ink and more blood. It is not only how the writer tells his story; it is the story he chooses tell. The story he must tell. It is the reason he writes. \_\_\_\_\_
- It reveals itself in details the eye doesn't easily take in— in some unexpected hesitation or cunning adverb or barely audible inflection that makes you sit up and take notice.
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- D. It is the way an author expresses personal attitude— through word choice, asides, sentence flow, paragraph density, and other individual stylistic devices.
15. Characters are also part of deep structure. Characters tie events in a story together and provide a thread of continuity and meaning. Stories can be about individuals, groups, projects or whole organizations, so from an organizational studies perspective, the focal actor(s) determine the level and unit of analysis used in a study. Stories of mergers and acquisitions, for example, are common place. In these stories whole organizations are personified as actors. But these macro-level stories usually are not told from the perspective of the macro-level participants, because whole organizations cannot narrate their experiences in the first person. \_\_\_\_\_
- More generally, data concerning the identities and relationships of the characters in the story are required, if one is to understand role structure and social networks in which that process is embedded.
  - Personification of a whole organization abstracts away from the particular actors and from traditional notions of level of analysis.
  - The personification of a whole organization is important because stories differ depending on who is enacting various events.
  - The personification of a whole organization is a textual device we use to make macro-level theories more comprehensible.
16. Trade protectionism, disguised as concern for the climate, is raising its head. Citing competitiveness concerns, powerful industrialized countries are holding out threats of a levy on imports of energy-intensive products from developing countries that refuse to accept their demands. The actual source of protectionist sentiment in the OECD countries is, of course, their current lackluster economic performance, combined with the challenges posed by the rapid economic rise of China and India – in that order. \_\_\_\_\_
- Climate change is evoked to bring trade protectionism through the back door.
  - OECD countries are taking refuge in climate change issues to erect trade barriers against these two countries.
  - Climate change concerns have come as a convenient stick to beat the rising trade power of China and India.
  - Defenders of the global economic status quo are posing as climate change champions.
17. Given the cultural and intellectual interconnections, the question of what is 'Western' and what is 'Eastern' (or Indian) is often hard to decide, and the issue can be discussed only in more dialectical terms. The diagnosis of a thought as 'purely Western' or 'purely Indian' can be very illusory. \_\_\_\_\_
- Thoughts are not the kind of things that can be easily categorized.
  - Though 'Occidentalism' and 'orientalism' as dichotomous concepts have found many adherents.
  - 'East is East and West is West' has been a discredited notion for a long time now.
  - The origin of a thought is not the kind of thing to which 'purity' happens easily.
18. The Indians got to zero in two stages. First they overcame the problem of denoting empty spaces in place-value notation by drawing a circle around the space where there was a "missing" entry. This much the Babylonians had done. The circle gave rise to the present-day symbol 0 for zero. The second step was to regard that extra symbol just like the other nine. This meant developing the rules for doing arithmetic using this additional symbol along with all the others. This second step – changing the underlying conception so that the rules of arithmetic operated not on the numbers themselves but on symbols for the numbers – was the key. \_\_\_\_\_
- Indeed, our sense of numbers depends on the symbols, and we cannot divorce the symbols from the numbers they represent.
  - Over time, it led to a change in the conception of numbers to a more abstract one that included zero.
  - Everything becomes much clearer when there is a special symbol to mark a space with no value.
  - A remarkable thing about this number system is that using just the ten digits from 0 to 9, we can represent any of the infinitely many positive whole numbers.
19. Behavioral geneticists have found that the effects of being brought up in a given family are sometimes detectable in childhood, but that they tend to peter out by the time the child has grown up. That is, the reach of the genes appears to get stronger as we age, not weaker. Perhaps our genes affect our environments, which in turn affect ourselves. Young children are at the mercy of parents and have to adapt to a world that is not of their choosing. As they get older, however, they can gravitate to the micro-environments that best suit their natures. Whatever genetic quirks incline a youth toward one niche or another will be magnified over time as they develop the parts of themselves that allow them to flourish in their chosen worlds. \_\_\_\_\_
- Although it is true that fraternal twins raised apart have remarkable similarities in most respects, still the intervention of the environment has caused several differences in the way they behave.
  - However, it is still not known whether the more abstract attributes like personality, intelligence and likes and dislikes are gene-coded in our DNA, too.
  - The environment, then, is not a stamping machine that pounds us into a shape but a cafeteria of options from which our genes and our histories incline us to choose.



- D. But even knowing the totality of genetic predictors, there will be many things about ourselves that no genome scan — and for that matter, no demographic checklist — will ever reveal.
20. The only guarantee we have of taste is that it will change. In response to novelty, even as the resistance to the unfamiliar reaches a threshold, fluency begets liking. Consider the case of the Sydney Opera House. A few decades ago, the now widely cherished building was the center of a national scandal. Not only did the building not fit the traditional form of an opera house; it did not fit the traditional form of a building. No one thought an opera house could look like the Sydney Opera House until architect Jørn Utzon, taking his idea from a peeled orange, said it could. Utzon changed the idea of what one could ask for in the building, projecting future tastes no one knew they had. \_\_\_\_\_
- As a dominant sculptural building that can be seen and experienced from all sides, the Sydney Opera House is the focal point of Sydney Harbor and a reflection of its character.
  - In fact, had Utzon had been left to finish his masterpiece, it would have been more beautiful, more functional and less costly than what it turned out to be.
  - Utzon made the building well ahead of its time, far ahead of available technology, and he persevered through extraordinary malicious criticism to a building that changed the image of an entire country.
  - The world changed around the building, in response to it, which is why, in the curious words of one architecture critic, "Utzon's breathtaking building looks better today than ever."
21. Lower winter temperatures were common in Europe during the second half of the 17th century, famously allowing frost fairs to be held on the frozen Thames in London before riverine developments increased the flow rate. These cold winters coincided with the Maunder minimum in solar activity when the Sun remained virtually free of sunspots for almost 50 years. However, establishing that this was not just a chance occurrence requires that the relationship continue to hold over a long interval, such that cold European winters become less frequent when solar activity is high and then more common again when solar activity falls. Various indicators show that during the recent minimum of the 11 year sunspot cycle, the Sun has been quieter than at any time in the previous 90 years. \_\_\_\_\_
- This means that solar activity during the current sunspot minimum has fallen to levels unknown since the start of the 20th century.
  - This yields an opportunity for a better test of the relationship between solar activity and cold European winters.
  - This proves that cold winters occur more commonly in the UK during low solar activity.
  - This regional and seasonal effect relating to European winters may have a global effect.
22. Talented youth can ill-afford to resign to their fate just because they can't properly communicate in English. They should confront the challenges which should, in fact, bring out their best. A little confidence and hard work are all that is needed for them to climb up the career ladder. For that they need to develop communication skills in English, shape up their personalities and acquire the much-needed knowledge. \_\_\_\_\_
- Knowledge and communication skills are the key ingredients that make up the recipe for success.
  - Students have to act as leaders in the college itself.
  - Success will automatically follow.
  - Speaking and writing in English are important, thinking in English is twice as important.
23. Air-pollution is one of the gravest problems faced by city-dwellers. Foul gas liberated from heaps of waste matter is one source of pollution. [\_\_\_\_\_] Recently the Government has made arrangements to measure it. If it is above the allowable limit the vehicles are prohibited from plying along the public roads.
- Another source is the smoke emitted by vehicles.
  - Foul water in the channels is another.
  - The smell from toddy shops pollutes the air.
  - Open drainage pollutes the air.

**Answer Key:**

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