

## **Verbal Ability Practice - 4**

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

In *Our Post-Human Future*, Fukuyama roundly rejects the defeatist view that every technological opportunity must inevitably be taken. He opposes non-therapeutic work in reproductive biotechnology and says that the days for advisory bio-ethics commissions are over. We must, he says, ‘move from thinking to acting, from recommending to legislating’. He calls for an outright ban on cloning and to give regulatory institutions ‘real enforcement powers’. For laws, Fukuyama insists, are society’s benchmarks, and the fact that scientists may secretly clone human beings should no more prevent laws against the practice than the existence of murderers should cause us to legalize homicide. The stance puts Fukuyama in the no-man’s land between the ‘anti-cloning, anti-abortion lobby’ and the laissez-faire ‘new equals good’ groups. No comfortable location this.

Every stand against the devaluing of our innate unique humanity and against biotechnological misuse deserves applause. Yet, though I approve of Fukuyama’s stand, and much else in his work, this book does not compel applause. He has written fine essays on the topic, and the book *Our Post-Human Future* has moments of excellence. However, read end to end, these moments would hardly make a pamphlet. Moreover, for a book on a global topic written for an international audience, it is unduly US-centric and surprisingly naive. For example, Fukuyama says, globalization shows that humanity is moving beyond violence to peaceful cooperation. He describes a world order in which mankind’s largest in-groups no longer violently compete with one another but trade peaceably. So, what did he think the protesters were saying in Seattle?

However, the surprise is not just that Fukuyama, a former Deputy Director for European political-military affairs for the US State Department, doesn’t grasp the basics of globalization. Nor is it that, lacking relevant facts, he pads the book out with tedious quasi-intellectual posturing. The surprise is that, as a member of Bush’s council on Bioethics, he seems to know so little on biotechnology that he omits many of the issues which are central to the threat of a post-human future. Had he not done so, there would have been no need for the padding. Cross species gene transfer is a pillar of modern biotechnology. Yet in writing about the social dangers of inserting enhancing genes into human eggs, Fukuyama ignores genes from non-human species. And, as I pointed out in my own book, prospective parents may one day be offered them. For example if a single transferable gene allows lizards to regrow their tails, would giving a child a similar ability to regrow a tissue after an accident be a blessing? Or would the price of being a tiny lizard be too high?

1. Fukuyama considers ‘every technological opportunity must inevitably be taken to be a ‘defeatist’ view most likely because:
  - A. Every new advancement doesn’t automatically provide a benefit
  - B. Developing every new advancement is a costly affair.
  - C. We have nowhere to go except ahead.
  - D. echnology can be used for constructive purposes.
2. The author of the passage has criticized Fukuyama’s book on several grounds, one of them being that:
  - A. Fukuyama is a US citizen.
  - B. There is a dearth of substance in Fukuyama’s book
  - C. Fukuyama’s views are neither here nor there.
  - D. Fukuyama calls for an outright ban on cloning
3. Transferring lizard genes into humans may be rejected by the author on the grounds that:
  - A. It raises ethical questions
  - B. The recipient would display other lizard characteristics.
  - C. He is unaware of the field of cross species gene transfer.
  - D. Parents have no right to be making such decisions on their children’s behalf.
4. This passage can best be described as:
  - A. An academic debate among eminent scientists, Fukuyama being one of them
  - B. An informal debate between Fukuyama and the author on the topic of social ethics versus biotechnology.
  - C. A book review castigating Fukuyama’s political stance on biotechnology.
  - D. A review of Fukuyama’s book, focusing on his examination of the moral dilemmas raised by biotechnology.

**(5-8): Select the alternative that best completes the given paragraph:**

5. In this era of big data and cheap monitoring equipment and software, national chains like Family Dollar and even neighborhood cafes are using tracking technologies to offer coupons to customers and gather information about their in-store shopping habits, according to a recent article in The Times. Retailers say they need to monitor customers so they can help them find what they want. Retailers also argue that they collect no more and often a lot less, information about their customers than Web merchants do. The Federal Trade Commission says it has not found evidence that retailers are using facial recognition technology that could allow them to identify and build profiles of customers.\_\_\_\_\_
  - A. but the chains should tell the public that they can opt out of monitoring if they want.
  - B. but traditional retailers could be smart not to alienate customers by surreptitiously tracking them.

- C. but what's disturbing about these tracking methods is that stores are mostly doing so without informing their customers.  
D. the only way a cell phone user can avoid being tracked is to turn off the WiFi feature on their phones.
6. The hysteria about Stone's August issue is heat wave induced. That's only charitable explanation for the stampede of critics who have been accusing Stone editors of trying to turn Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the man accused of the Boston marathon bombing, into a rock star merely by putting him on the issue's cover. But singling out one magazine issue for shunning is over the top, especially since the photo has already appeared in a lot prominent places, including the front pages of many newspapers without an outcry\_\_\_\_\_
- A. as any seasoned reader should know, magazine covers are not endorsements.  
B. Time magazine, for example, had quite a few covers featuring Adolf Hitler during the war years.  
C. Charles manson appeared on Stone's cover- some forty years ago for a jailhouse interview that was as chilling as it was revealing.  
D. less than a month after the Sept.11, 2011, attacks, Time featured a less than demonic photo of Osama Bin Laden.
7. It is commonly said that everybody can sing in the bathroom, and this is true. Singing is very easy. Drawing though is much more difficult. I have devoted a good deal of time to Drawing, one way and another, I have to attend a great many committees and public meetings and at such functions I find that drawing is almost the only Art one can satisfactorily pursue during the speeches.\_\_\_\_\_
- A. I do not say that I am an expert yet, but after a few more meetings I calculate that I shall know drawing as well as it can be known.  
B. when you have selected your committee and the speeches are well away, the drawing begins.  
C. as a rule I begin with the forehead and work down to the chin.  
D. one really cannot sing during the speeches, so as a rule I draw.
8. Except it be a lover, no one is more interesting as an object of study than a student. Shakespeare might have made him a fourth in his immortal group. The lunatic with his fixed idea, the poet with his fine frenzy, the lover with his frantic idolatry and the student aflame with the desire for knowledge are of "imagination all compact". To an absorbing passion, a whole-souled devotion must be joined an enduring energy, if the student is to become a devotee of the gray-eyed goddess to whose law his services are bound\_\_\_\_\_
- A. here gain the student often resembles the poet he is born, not made.  
B. like the quest of the Holy Grail, the quest of Minerva is not for all  
C. no human being is constituted to know the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.  
D. only by keeping the mind plastic and receptive does the student escape perdition.

**(9-11) :The following question has a sentence with two blanks. Given below it are four pairs of words. Choose the pair that best completes the sentence**

9. One of the first characteristics of pseudo-science is the invention of an \_\_\_\_\_ vocabulary that binds together the fraternity, gives a \_\_\_\_\_ objectivity and excludes strangers.
- A) Arcane...spurious                      B) cryptic...specious  
C) Enigmatic...superfluous              D) esoteric...scurrilous
10. After World War II, when the \_\_\_\_\_ city centre was rebuilt, a modern concrete grid was \_\_\_\_\_ on Plymouth's original crooked cobbled lanes, burying its medieval past in memory
- A) Annexed...supervened                  B) annulled...superseded  
C) Annulated...superintended          D) annihilated...superimposed
11. In order to accurately simulate the \_\_\_\_\_ response of ice sheets to changing environmental conditions, such as temperature and snow \_\_\_\_\_, we need to know the shape and structure of the bedrock below the ice sheets in great detail
- A) Systemic...perforation                  B) chaotic...percolation  
C) Climactic...accretion                    D) dynamic...accumulation

**(12-14): All the sentences when arranged properly forms a coherent paragraph. Identify that doesn't fit the context .**

12. A. Generally clear, cloud-free skies with a relative lack of moisture allow daytime temperatures in deserts to soar, but the same conditions also mean that the contrast between temperatures during the day and at night is greater in some deserts than in any other environment.  
B. Quillagua, a village in Chile's Atacama desert, holds the title of 'driest place on Earth', with an annual average precipitation of just 0.5 millimetres over the period 1964 to 2000.  
C. In extreme cases, in hyper-arid zones, such mean annual totals are less than 10 millimetres.  
D. Deserts typically receive low levels of rainfall and other forms of precipitation, such as fog, dew, hail and snow.

13. A. Too much food appeared to 'extinguish' life in much the same way as putting too much wood on a fire smothers its flames.  
 B. Yet longer life has also unleashed a cocktail of diseases and chronic conditions, attacking us in tandem, to blight our final years.  
 C. If obesity led to disease and death, he thought, then perhaps restraint was the secret to a longer life?  
 D. It was about 400 BC when Hippocrates astutely observed that gluttony and early death seemed to go hand in hand.
14. A. For better or for worse, there are almost four times more humans on this planet than only 100 years ago, an incredibly accelerated growth in our historic timeline.  
 B. At first glance, our war on microbes along with other medical advances has truly paid off.  
 C. Nowadays, dying from a microbial infection is a very rare event in developed countries, whereas only 100 years ago 75 million people died worldwide over a span of two years infected with H1N1 influenza virus, also known as the Spanish flu.  
 D. In the past century, most human communities have experienced the benefits of medical advances that have reduced the number and the degree of infections we suffer throughout life.

**(15-17): Select the sentence/sentences with wrong usage of word.**

15. Draw
1. Draw in the colours very neatly or you will smudge the painting.
  2. After the league match that ended in a draw, Australia has little chance of making it to the semi-finals.
  3. One should never draw out a blank cheque if one does not trust the drawee.
  4. With everything at stake, he foolishly decided to take part in the lucky draw to recover some money.
16. Flags
1. Every year the minister for tourism flags down the vintage car rally.
  2. After a scandal like this, people's confidence in their elected leaders flags.
  3. The film begins with a scene in which the villain flags the protagonist with a cane.
  4. This word-processing software flags incorrect spellings of words in a document.
17. Cream
1. For the new collection, the author decided to cream off her favourite stories from her earlier books.
  2. Cream up the butter and sugar together before you add eggs to make the batter for the cake.
  3. The head-on collision creamed the brand-new car in an instant.
  4. These three students are very bright. They are the cream of the crop in their class.
18. Wave
1. the police officer waved the motorist into the right lane.
  2. the field looked like a sea of yellow with waves of mustard blowing in the wind.
  3. the idea of starting my own venture waved through my mind.
  4. when I was going through some old articles a wave of nostalgia swept over me.

**(19-20): Arrange the following sentences in correct order:**

19. A. many of the hungry in poor places are farmers themselves.  
 B. their failure to grow and earn enough stems from a variety of reasons, from a lack of access to modern farming tools to environmental constraints to poor roads which prevent them from reaching markets.  
 C. more than 800m people are chronically malnourished, most of them, in the developing world.  
 D. the origins of and solutions to this mismatch between food and hungry mouths are rather more complex.  
 E. as "Ending Hunger in our Lifetime" argues to say that hunger is strictly a distribution problem is like saying that if the rain fell evenly over the earth there would be no drought.
20. A. man believed that if only there was more and more wealth, everything else would fall into place.  
 B. this is the philosophy of materialism and it is this philosophy or metaphysics which is now being challenged by events like natural disasters, terrorism, genocide, pollution etc.  
 C. money was thus considered to be all powerful and if it could not actually buy nonmaterial values, such as justice, harmony, beauty or even health it could circumvent the need for them or compensate for their loss.  
 D. modern man has built a system of production that ravages nature and a type of society that mutilates man.  
 E. the development of production and acquisition of wealth have thus become the highest goals of the modern world in which all other goals have come to take a secondary place.

Answer Key:

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