

PARA SUMMARY - 1

Four alternative summaries are given. Select the one that best captures the essence of the given text:

1. Modern history abounds with violence fueled by apocalyptic myths, not always explicitly religious in nature. The aim of the Jacobin terror in revolutionary France was the creation of a modern state. If the violent suppression of the peasant revolt in the Vendee is included, the casualties ran into the hundreds of thousands. The myths that possessed these anarchists in their campaigns of assassination were secular myths of social transformation. Lenin avowedly followed the Jacobin example when he used the Cheka to create a modern state in Russia. One of the factors that distinguished Nazism and fascism from conventional tyrannies was the belief that a new society could be fashioned by the systematic use of terror. Violent Jihadism has more in common with these modern totalitarian movements than is commonly supposed.
 - a) Violent jihadism is justified on the secular myth of social transformation, rather than the idea of religious apocalypse.
 - b) The myth of social transformation has underpinned many totalitarian movements in modern history, and violent Jihadism too exploits this.
 - c) Although it is believed that violence is fueled by religion, the reality is that it is unleashed on the premise of the creation of a modern state.
 - d) Modern history illustrates that it is a myth that societies can be transformed by the systematic use of terror.

2. When a language seems especially telegraphic (that is, requiring less to be actually said to put a sentence together), it is usually because enough adults learnt it at a certain stage in its history that, given the difficulty of learning a new language after childhood, it became a kind of stripped-down "schoolroom" version of itself. Because all languages, are, to some extent, busier than they need to be, this streamlining leaves the language thoroughly complex and nuanced, just lighter on the bric-a-brac that so many languages pant under. For example, Indonesian, one of the most economical languages in the world, is a first language to only one in four of its speakers; the language has been used for many centuries as a lingua franca in a vast region, imposed on speakers of several hundred languages. This means that while other languages can be like overgrown lawns, Indonesian's grammar has been regularly mowed, such that especially the colloquial forms are tidier.
 - a) When a language has been used for many centuries as the lingua franca in a vast region, it becomes especially telegraphic.
 - b) Languages become less "busy" and more nuanced when imposed over long periods of time on new people, who learn it as adults.
 - c) When more adults who are non-native speakers are forced, over time, to learn a language, its colloquial forms become cryptic.
 - d) In languages that have been spoken for centuries over vast regions, time and repetition wear words out, and what wears away is often a nugget of meaning.

3. Cheapness and its cinematic markers, such as hand-held camera work and low or high-contrast light, aren't themselves guarantors of a tone of artistic authenticity. In fact, they're often misused by filmmakers short of inspiration as badges of sincerity that take the place of actual artistry. The theatrical realism of many older, ostensibly classic movies have dated terribly and reflect the very exclusions and compromises of the system that produced them. Only the ingenious exertions and inventions of a slender minority of great filmmakers could circumvent and override them. Yet, critics fetishize the styles of studio-era movies and take them for an enduring and immutable aesthetic standard – as if, with an appreciation of Shakespeare came a comparable fixation on lesser Elizabethans and a disdain for latter-day dramatists for not writing in iambic pentameter.
 - a) Nostalgia for movies as they were made in the past converges to nostalgic exaltation of their production methods.
 - b) Rather than imitating the styles of studio-era movies in a bid to achieve artistic authenticity, filmmakers need to focus on inventive ideas and realistic themes.
 - c) Only the brilliance and resourcefulness of small minority of great filmmakers could overcome the hurdles posed by budget constraints in studio-era movies.
 - d) The veneration of the styles and production methods of low-budget movies of the studio-era as the ideal aesthetic standard is misguided.

4. Since the Holocaust is an axial event of modern history, its misunderstanding turns our minds in the wrong direction. When the Holocaust is blamed on the modern state, the weakening of state authority appears salutary. On the political right, the erosion of state power by international capitalism seems natural; on the political left, rudderless revolutions portray themselves as virtuous. In the 21st century, anarchical protest movements join in a friendly tussle with global oligarchy, in which neither side can be hurt since both see the real enemy as the state. Both the left and the right tend to fear order rather than its destruction or absence.
 - a) The Holocaust was a result of an all-powerful state, which forced order through fear and crushed dissent from both the political right and the political left.
 - b) Following the Holocaust, the power of the state has been systematically eroded by international capitalism and rudderless revolutions, as both the right and the left fear order more than its absence.

- c) The weakened state is the fundamental reason for disorder in the world, be it anarchical uprisings, global oligarchy or the Holocaust.
 - d) The Holocaust is not to be blamed on the modern state, but on the tussle between the political right and the political left.
5. Orchids can be so difficult to grow that even professional horticulturalists have trouble keeping them alive. And yet orchids are the largest family of flowering plants in existence, comprising 30,000 different species and more than 200,000 hybrid varieties. Much of this presence has to do with the orchid's ability to thrive in different environments, particularly in the tropics. Nevertheless, orchid-lovers who live in colder climates shouldn't be discouraged. With proper equipment and care, many species of orchids can thrive in home environments.
- a) Horticulturists who wish to grow orchids will have greater success doing so in tropical environments rather than in cold climates.
 - b) Despite the difficulty in cultivating them, orchids can flourish when grown by horticulturists who have the correct equipment.
 - c) Despite the difficulty in cultivating them, orchids belong to a large family, of which some species can grow well in various locations when cared for correctly.
 - d) While there are numerous types of orchids, they cannot be grown outside of homes in the tropics, though many horticulturists attempt to do so.
6. While many students of history associate trench warfare with the First World War, its history actually goes back to the 1600s. At that point, French strategist and engineer Sebastien Le Prestre de Vauban invented and used an early version of the system to attack fortresses. The increasing power of guns and cannons made development of the trench system more viable by the 18th century, when soldiers in the American Civil War increasingly relied on it. Trench warfare did reach its maximum utilization during the First World War, when trenches shielding millions of soldiers ran along the border of France, from Belgium to Switzerland. The introduction of the military tank in 1918, which did not break down in the face of gunfire, effectively put an end to the viability of this strategy.
- a) The invention of tanks in 1918 effectively put a stop to trench warfare, which had been going on for more than 300 years in Europe.
 - b) Trench warfare was more common than often thought between 1600 and 1900, as technologies improved and then ended its effectiveness.
 - c) Sebastien Le Prestre de Vauban showed a lack of forethought when planning and designing the trench system.
 - d) Trench warfare took place not only in Europe, but also in the United States, which most people do not realize.
7. While many national fables' origins are shrouded in myth, Great Britain's King Arthur appears to have been a real historical figure at one point, although the legends surrounding him may be more fantasy than fact. Even today, King Arthur provides for his country through a booming tourist industry. Dozens of attractions claim to be the site of the "real" Camelot, round table, or grave of Arthur and/or his wife Guinevere. Perhaps most famous among these is Glastonbury Abbey, in Western England, where Arthur is supposed to be buried between two stone pyramids, supposedly having died at the hand of his illegitimate son Mordred in the battle of Camlann. Aside from issues of DNA verification with no known living ancestors, many would consider digging in this sacred site a sacrilege, leaving visitors to wonder eternally whether the "Once and Future King" actually rests there.
- a) Though King Arthur may have been a real person, it has been difficult to substantiate these claims due to lack of evidence.
 - b) Although most people do not believe it, King Arthur was a real person who probably lived near Glastonbury Abbey.
 - c) Mythical figures should not be conflated with mythical figures unless those making the claim can offer evidence.
 - d) Glastonbury Abbey may be the site of King Arthur's court, but there are many other places in Great Britain that could also be the location.
8. It appears that there are basically two types of scientific innovators. The first ones are innovators in totality who conceive the idea that may have never existed before. They derive inspiration from events, incidents and traditions occurring in their surroundings or even from folk stories floating around. The other ones are the incremental innovators who work on existing objects and ideas to bring some newness therein. Development of several modern drugs from Ayurvedic texts and folklores fall in this category.
- a) Innovators in totality conceive new ideas from events and traditions such as the tradition of Ayurvedic medicine in ancient India. Incremental innovators improve existing ideas.
 - b) Scientific innovation takes the form of inception and development of new ideas, and study for refining existing ideas. Application of Ayurveda in modern medicine is an example of the latter.
 - c) Innovators are either incremental or total innovators. Incremental innovators conceptualize new ideas while total innovators utilize events, incidents and traditions to conceive improvements.
 - d) Conception on new ideas and improvements of ideas are some of the several forms of scientific innovation. The former draws on events or incidents while the latter draws on existing objects.

9. Obama initially promised to close Guantanamo Bay within a year of entering the White House in 2009. Opposition to its closure involves two central issues which Obama has been unable to resolve. One is finding host countries to take in all the detainees. The other issue concerns whether some of the detainees can be moved to “supermax” facilities within the United States. Seventeen detainees who have received their final transfer approval are scheduled for release in the coming weeks. As many as an additional 30 more could be released by the summer. This would reduce the prison’s population to 60, but still the question remains: Would the remaining prisoners be moved to prisons in the U.S., and would their legal status finally be addressed?
 - a) The Obama administration has faced opposition to its decision to close the Guantanamo Bay facility as the legal status of the inmates has not been addressed.
 - b) The Obama administration has not delivered on its promise to close Guantanamo Bay. Reasons cited for the same, inter alia, are lack of citizenship details of the inmates and convincing host countries to take them.
 - c) President Obama has faced stiff criticism for closing down Guantanamo Bay as the question of legal status of the inmates has not been addressed. Further, the government cannot house the released inmates within the U.S.
 - d) Questions pertaining to housing the detainees of Guantanamo Bay have created roadblocks for the Obama administration. Whether the remaining prisoners will be moved to other facilities or to their host countries remains to be seen.

10. While it is essential to follow through on the opportunity the Paris agreement has created to prevent a cataclysmic planetary collapse over the decades ahead, building climate change resilience can start now. Importantly, the agreement paid relatively scant attention to the need for more investment in resilience building to help communities, cities and countries manage the consequences of climate change that is already underway. Our experience of working in a diverse range of cities across Asia through the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network and the 100 Resilience Cities initiative – both pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation – demonstrates that cities can take innovative, integrated and practical solutions, without always requiring a great deal of money. Indeed, the main investment has often been that of political will and active engagement by local citizens, business and experts.
 - a) Climate Change is one of the most important issues of our time and the experience of Foundations can be very useful in combating its immediate effects.
 - b) Climate Resilience refers to the ill effects of climate change that are already underway. Innovative and pragmatic solutions are imperative to tackle this problem of climate change.
 - c) The recent climate convention in Paris has not taken into consideration combating the negative into consideration combating the negative effects of climate change that have already started manifesting. Strategies to mitigate the same can be implemented through joint participation of various segments of society.
 - d) Lack of political will and public participation has resulted in poor implementation of various solutions to combat climate change and build resistance.

11. If foreign institutions are to be allowed at all, it is better that they operate within an appropriate framework of regulation. If not, unscrupulous operators can use the “foreign” tag to exploit poorly informed students who do not have the scores to enter a good national institution or the finances to travel abroad to acquire a good education. In an environment where good higher educational facilities are in short supply, such operators could get away with charging high fees for courses backed by inadequately qualified faculty, inferior infrastructure and substandard equipment.
 - a) If foreign universities are to be allowed, there should be regulated so that the unsuspecting poor and the low scorers are not exploited by unscrupulous operators.
 - b) The operation of foreign universities must be regulated to prevent the exploitation of students by using their foreign tag to charge high fees for poor facilities.
 - c) If the operation of foreign universities is not regulated they are likely to charge the students high fees using their “foreign tag” and offer poor facilities in return.
 - d) If foreign universities are to be allowed, their operations must be regulated; otherwise, unscrupulous elements will use the foreign tag to charge high fees even for poor facilities.

12. Nutrition is important to ensure proper brain formation and development, which starts in the womb: development of the brain goes on during early childhood. Iodine deficiency is known to affect a child’s Intelligence Quotient (IQ) adversely. It has also been established that children with deficient growth before age two are at an increased risk of chronic disease as adults, especially if they gain weight rapidly in the later stages of childhood. A low birth weight baby, who is stunted and underweight in its infancy and gains weight rapidly in childhood and adult life, is much more prone to chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.
 - a) Nutrition is important not only for the formation and development of the brain in the womb, and for the intelligent quotient as a child, but also for the physical well-being in adult life.
 - b) Nutrition affects brain formation and development; iodine is related to IQ. Low weight at birth and rapid weight-gain in childhood increases the risk of heart disease and diabetes in adult life.
 - c) Nutrition affects a child’s brain formation and development. Lack of iodine causes low IQ, whereas low weight babies develop heart disease and diabetes in later life.
 - d) Starting in the womb, nutrition affects the child’s brain formation and development. A low baby is more prone to develop cardiovascular disease and diabetes if it gains weight during childhood.

13. It sounds implausible. Roboticists have struggled for decades to understand bipedal locomotion, and even today's most sophisticated robots require huge amounts of energy and computer power to walk on two legs. But Dr Herr's credentials are sound. He is a leading authority on the biomechanics of legs, and in the past decade he has made several advances in the development of artificial legs and assistive walking devices, or "orthoses," enabling amputees to walk with a more natural gait than was previously possible.
 - a) It is an unbelievable task that Dr. Herr has achieved in developing assistive walking devices, or "orthoses"; roboticists are still far away from understanding bipedal locomotion.
 - b) Even when robots consume huge computing power and energy to walk, Dr Herr's "orthoses," enable amputees to walk with a more natural gait.
 - c) Dr Herr's "orthoses" or assistive devices for amputees challenge the roboticists who have failed to simulate bipedal motion without consuming huge computer power and energy.
 - d) Dr Herr has been successful in developing "orthoses" enabling amputees to walk with a natural gait; even sophisticated robots haven't come close to natural bipedal locomotion.

14. But there are solid reasons why the world has now convinced itself that oil is worth much less than before. On one side of the ledger there is supply, not only of oil itself, but also of the other fossil fuels which can often substitute for it, notably gas, which is more abundant than anyone would have imagined a few years ago, courtesy of the fracking boom. On the demand side, things have been developing even more rapidly, with a serious slowdown in the resource-intensive emerging economies, above all debt-laden China. The fracking revolution will not be reversed, and it increasingly looks like the Chinese flu will be hard to shake. All of which suggests that low oil prices could be here for a while.
 - a) Both demand and supply forces have resulted in the substantial reduction in global oil prices.
 - b) The demand for oil has been slowing due to slowdown of resource intensive economies and the supply has been hampered due to the availability of alternative resources, thus pushing prices down further.
 - c) The fracking boom has restricted the supply of oil to debt laden China resulting in lower oil prices.
 - d) The fracking boom on the demand side and the Chinese Flu on the supply side have caused sharp decline in global oil prices.

15. Stripping terrorists of their citizenship is tempting for governments and satisfying for voters. It allays concerns that jihadists may recruit and radicalize susceptible inmates while in prison, or that they might one day again roam France and wreak havoc. The symbolism – that a person waging war against France is no longer French – is politically popular: three-quarters of French people support Mr Hollande's proposal, according to a recent poll. Yet many on France's left see it differently. They say that the planned law could foment radicalisation by sending the message to dual-citizen Muslims that they are less French than the rest of society and, by creating unequal categories of citizenship, betray the cherished "egalite" enshrined in France's constitution.
 - a) Revoking the citizenship of terrorists is a very popular idea in France. However this could also have repercussions such as alienating citizens with dual citizenship and a violation of the "egalite" principle.
 - b) French President Hollande has proposed stripping jihadists of citizenship as this may be used to radicalize prison inmates. However the decision could also create unequal categories of citizenship.
 - c) In a symbolic gesture the French are demanding revoking the citizenship of known terrorists. This will prevent the recruit of prison inmates for antinational agendas.
 - d) Francoise Hollande has proposed a new bill to strip terrorists of their citizenship. This is an intensely debated argument.

16. The Rainforest Alliance, an ethical certification organisation, has now stripped a group of Assam Company's plantations of its green frog seal. The Assam Company said the loss of its certification was because of a "minor error" on one estate 'Hajua' while spraying a plant extract, which it understood did not require personal protective equipment. It said that because the Assam company estates operate in a "single cluster", the other estates were automatically decertified.
 - a) The green frog seal is imperative for tea plantations to ensure demand from companies as it testifies to their ethical conduct.
 - b) Minor errors may sometimes have far reaching consequences as the Assam Company has realised.
 - c) Ethical conduct of business also includes their treatment of their staff. The Assam Company's green frog seal was revoked recently due to negligence in observing safety of employees.
 - d) A minor error in wearing protective gear has resulted in revocation of the Assam Company's green frog seal. An incident on one estate has resulted in decertification of all the other estates held by the company.

17. 'Kooks', from the 1971 album Hunky Dory, looks ahead to parenthood, alongside his then wife Angie, with optimism. It offers advice to a child growing up in unconventional circumstances. 'Kooks' isn't among Bowie's most famous songs. 'The better known Changes', 'Life on Mars' and 'Oh, You Pretty Things' all appeared on the same album. But many of his fans have taken to Twitter to praise it in the wake of his death, noting its anthemic quality, its openness and acceptance of difference.
 - a) Bowie's song 'Kooks' has always been a favourite with his fans, who have now taken to twitter to praise the song in the wake of his death.
 - b) Bowie's 'Kooks' has captured imaginations as a piece of advice to a child and for its quality of innocence and acceptance.

- c) The song, 'Kooks' was written by Bowie as a celebration of parenthood at the birth of his son. It offers advice and guidance and has become very popular after his death.
 - d) 'Kooks' may not be Bowie's most famous song but its theme of optimism and open acceptance serve as a means of guidance to a growing child. This has made it one of his most memorable songs.
18. The earth's volcanoes appear for the most part in three types of setting. The most familiar, and most of the most dangerous, are found where one tectonic plate overrides another, as happens in the ring of fire around the Pacific. Then there are those which sit over isolate "hotspots" of upwelling magma from deep in the earth, like the volcanoes of Hawaii. Finally, there are those – a great many, but normally deep under the ocean – formed at the spreading ridges where tectonic plates pull away from each other and new crust is formed. Iceland is peculiarly volcanic because it is formed by the intersection of a hotspot and a mid-ocean ridge.
- a) The earth's volcanoes exist in three settings: where one tectonic plate overrides another, over hotspots of upwelling magma, and under the oceans where plates are moving apart.
 - b) There are three types of volcanoes: the most dangerous ones over the tectonic plates, over the isolated hotspots of upwelling, and on ocean beds at the ridges of tectonic plates.
 - c) Volcanoes are of three types: where one tectonic plate overrides another, over hotspots of magma upwelling from within the earth, and ones at the spreading ridges where tectonic plates pull away from each other.
 - d) The earth's volcanoes appear in three types: where one tectonic plate overrides another, over hotspots of upwelling magma, and where plates are moving apart.
19. Although new battery technologies are emerging, their weight and size is likely to remain a drag on the development of electric and hybrid cars, forcing manufacturers to come up with new and inventive ways to shed weight and free up space. One solution which researchers are exploring is to build cars using a hybrid material: a carbon composite that is also capable of storing electrical energy. That way, car designers could combine structural form with electrical function.
- a) The manufacturers and designers of electric and hybrid cars are constrained by the weight and size of the batteries; hybrid material seems to be the only solution.
 - b) Since manufacturers and designers are constrained by the bulkiness of the batteries, researchers are exploring hybrid material capable of storing electrical energy.
 - c) By building cars with multifunction material, researchers are exploring a solution to the weight and size of batteries which are a drag on the development of electric and hybrid cars.
 - d) The structural form and function of electric and hybrid cars can be the solution to the bulkiness of the batteries that constrain both the manufacturers and the designers.
20. The mass production of optical mice has made the highly sophisticated sensors on which they rely very inexpensive. Additionally, advances in electronics and optics have yielded sensors that are both small and extremely precise. A generic optical mouse, costing only a few dollars, is capable of capturing and comparing surface images several thousand times per second. Often, this high resolution enables their use on a variety of surfaces-both traditional and ad hoc (e.g., palms, pants, bed covers).
- a) Advances in electronic and optics have facilitated the use of highly sophisticated sensors for high precision, low cost, multi-surface optical tracking in generic optical mice.
 - b) The mass production of optical mice has made the optical sensors inexpensive; sensors are now cheap, precise and can be used on any surface.
 - c) Mass production and advances in electronics and optics have yielded sensors that are cheap, high resolution, and capable of being used on any surface.
 - d) Advances in technology and mass production have made the generic optical mice capable of high precision, low cost, and multi-surface optical tracking.
21. Storing energy is one of the biggest obstacles to the widespread adoption of alternative sources of power. Batteries can be bulky and slow to charge. Hydrogen, which can be made electrolytically from water and used to power fuel cells, is difficult to handle. But there may be an alternative: magnesium. As school chemistry lessons show, metallic magnesium is highly reactive and stores a lot of energy. Even a small amount of magnesium ribbon burns in a flame with a satisfying white heat. Researchers are now devising ways to extract energy from magnesium in a more controlled fashion.
- a) Problems with the storage and handling of conventional energy sources have forced the researchers to turn their attention to magnesium which stores a lot of energy naturally.
 - b) As hydrogen and dry cells pose great obstacles to storing energy, researchers are looking at extracting energy from magnesium which stores a lot of energy.
 - c) As storing energy is a big obstacle to the adoption of alternative sources of power, researchers are looking at extracting energy from magnesium which stores a lot of energy.
 - d) Researchers are devising ways to extract energy form magnesium, as magnesium stores a lot of energy compared to the bulky dry cells and hydrogen.
22. Whales seem to stir up strong feelings. For conservationists, the majestic mammals have been in urgent need of protection ever since factory ships began slaughtering them in the middle of the last century. But advocates of

whaling present themselves as protectors of traditional culture, diets, and the rights of indigenous people. It is difficult to find any common ground, even when an honest attempt is made.

- a) Advocates present traditional culture, diets, and people's rights, and conservationists cite the need for protection for and against whaling.
 - b) It is difficult to find any common ground in the arguments of conservationists and advocates of whaling – except that both are emotional.
 - c) Whales stir up strong feelings in conservationists as well as advocates of whaling – with valid and irreconcilable reasoning on both sides.
 - d) Other than strong feelings the arguments of people who are for and against whaling are irreconcilable.
23. Many preventive measures for cognitive decline and for preventing Alzheimer's disease – mental stimulation, exercise, and a variety of dietary supplements – have been studied over the years. However, an independent panel convened this week by the National Institutes of Health determined that the value of these strategies for delaying the onset and/or reducing the severity of decline or disease hasn't been demonstrated in rigorous studies. Alzheimer's disease is a feared and heart-breaking disease, we wish we could tell people that taking a pill or doing a puzzle every day would prevent this terrible disease, but current evidence doesn't support this.
- a) The National Institutes of Health has determined that the strategies for delaying, reducing the severity of Alzheimer's disease hasn't been demonstrated in rigorous studies.
 - b) Alzheimer's disease cannot be prevented, delayed or its severity reduced by medication or through mental exercises.
 - c) There is no evidence whether Alzheimer's disease can be prevented, delayed or its severity reduced by pills or by doing puzzles.
 - d) An independent panel convened by the National Institutes of Health has reported that it has found insufficient evidence to support preventive measures for Alzheimer's disease.
24. Criminals watch television too and there is evidence they are also changing their behaviour. Most of the techniques used in crime shows are, after all, at least grounded in truth. Bleach, which destroys DNA, is now more likely to be used by murderers to cover their tracks. The wearing of gloves is more common, as is the taping shut – rather than the DNA-laden licking – of envelopes. Investigators comb crime scenes ever more finely now for new kinds of evidence, which is creating problems with the tracking and storage of evidence.
- a) Since criminals are also influenced by television shows, they change their behaviour to leave fewer traces, forcing investigators to search for new kinds of evidence.
 - b) Criminals learn from television shows that bleach can destroy DNA and have learnt to cover their tracks giving rise to the need for new kinds of evidence.
 - c) The problem of having to search for new kinds of evidence arises from criminals who watch television learning to cover their tracks better.
 - d) Since criminals learn from television that bleach destroys DNA, wearing gloves, and taping envelopes etc., cover their tracks; investigators now look for new evidence.

Answer Key:

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