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VERBAL REASONING TEST 2

Answers Booklet

Instructions

This verbal reasoning test comprises 15 questions, and you will have 25 minutes in which to correctly answer as many as you can.

You will be presented with a passage to read, and a statement about that passage. For each statement you must select one of the following answers:

True: The statement follows logically from the information contained in the passage.

False: The statement is logically false from the information contained in the passage.

Cannot Say: It is not possible to determine whether the statement is true or false without further information.

You will have to work quickly and accurately to perform well in this test. If you don't know the answer to a question, leave it and come back to it if you have time.

Try to find a time and place where you will not be interrupted during the test. When you are ready, begin the test.

Read the passage and answer the associated questions

It has long been standard practice for the coal ash which is generated from thermal power plants in South Korea to be sold to cement manufacturing companies. These companies are able to utilize this raw material in the methods they employ for producing cement. However, the recession we witnessed in the construction industry in the 1990s led to an oversupply of cement and therefore less demand for the coal ash. As a means of dealing with this issue, representatives from the cement industry put forward the idea that the Ministry of Energy should deregulate the use of industrial waste (such as the coal ash) used in kilns. It was believed that allowing coal ash to be used as kiln fuel would not only increase recycling rates of such waste but would also help improve management of the cement industry. Indeed, the use of industrial waste in kilns did see the recycling rate also increase by around 20% over a seven-year period.

Sadly though, the installation standards pertaining to exhaust gases in waste recycling and treatment facilities were not sufficient. This has led to a lack of appropriate monitoring of the type and volume of waste disposed of in kilns and we have seen a rise in the ill health of workers in some parts of the industry.

Question 1

Prior to the 1990s, coal ash could not be used as a kiln fuel in South Korea.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

The answer is Cannot say as the passage tells us that the changes put forward were to 'deregulate' the use of industrial waste (such as coal ash) for use in kilns. This implies that there were regulations previously but we cannot say for definite whether coal ash was used allowed to be used as a kiln fuel. If it was 'deregulated' it implies that before that there were regulations but we don't know exactly what they were.

Question 2

The Ministry of Energy proactively sought ways to handle the excess coal ash in an environmentally friendly way.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

This is false as the passage tells us that it was representatives from the cement industry who put forward the idea of deregulation to help with the excess of coal ash from thermal power plants.

Question 3

Deregulation of coal ash as a kiln fuel has resulted in positive outcomes overall.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

The final paragraph tells us that there has been a rise in ill health as a direct result of the lack of sufficient installation standards. There were some positive results but not all.

Question 4

Coal ash is classed as an industrial waste material in South Korea.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

The passage talks about '...deregulate the use of industrial waste (such as coal ash)...' thus we can deduce that coal ash is classed as industrial waste.

Question 5

Coal ash is in higher demand when the construction industry is in recession.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

This is not true as the passage tells us that the recession led to less demand for coal ash.

Read the passage and answer the associated questions

The majority of Member States have been holding discussions in recent years regarding the introduction of new taxes on the financial sector and the impact they would have on pensions. They recognize that creating additional taxes on the financial sector could be a path to alleviating the problems they now face in relation to pensions and the lack of funds available to run them. However, the reason for such debate relates to the role that the banks and other financial service institutions played in the causes of the crises as well as the current government support offered to the financial sector. There is also a general perception that, as financial activities are generally exempt from VAT, the financial sector is under-taxed currently.

One potential new tax rule being considered is that which would introduce a tax on as broad a range of financial transactions as possible. This could include bonds, shares and derivatives as a starting point. Almost all financial institutions would be liable but there would be exemptions for some day to day activities such as mortgages and payment services. An impact assessment of the likely revenue this tax could generate was close to 6 billion Euros per year.

That said though, as the tax revenue would be collected on the basis of the principle of residence of the financial institute, one has to consider the possibility that a bank based

in the area which is liable could transfer its transactions to a subsidiary outside of the relevant jurisdiction.

Question 6

The majority of Member States believe that it is important to find a way to generate extra income to alleviate the problems our pensions face.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

We know that 'the majority of Member States have been in discussions about the introduction of new taxes on the financial sector and their impact on pensions...' and then in the next sentence we are told they 'recognize that creating additional taxes on the financial sector could be a path to alleviating the problems they now face in relation to pensions and the lack of funds available to run them.' So, the majority are having the discussion and they are doing so as they can see that it could alleviate problems they have with lack of funds to run them hence the answer is True.

Question 7

The introduction of the tax would have a narrow focus in relation to the transactions it would cover initially.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

This is not true as the passage tells us that it will cover 'as broad a range of financial transactions as possible'. It does only list three types of transaction but there are there as examples, not as a definitive list as it prefaced with 'This could include...'

Question 8

One of the criteria that would impact whether a financial institution would be liable for the new tax is the geographical area in which it conducts its transactions.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

We know this to be true as the final passage talks about the text being collected on the principle of residence of the institution and also mentions that there may be a loop hole if an institution moved its transactions to an area outside of the relevant geography.

Question 9

The governments involved in the discussions about the new tax believe that the financial sector is not paying enough tax at this stage.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

Whilst we know that there is a 'general perception that...the financial sector is under-taxed currently', we don't know for a fact whose belief that is as it is referred to as a general perception.

Question 10

Financial service institutions receive too much government support.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

We know they receive government support but we have no means of understanding whether that is too much.

Read the passage and answer the associated questions

Two charities have delivered a petition to the Prime Minister that has been signed by over 35,000 people. The petition, jointly organised by the 'Health Food Group (HFG) and 'Happy Heart and Mind is calling for a ban on junk food adverts before 9pm on any channel. The Government is also being urged to tighten advertising regulations and protect children in this regard more widely. The current regulations restrict junk food adverts from being showing during children's programming but there is nothing to stop them being shown during popular family slots, such as Saturday evenings when many children watch television with their families.

Casey Stemp coordinated the petition and is a strong advocate of the proposed changes. 'By removing junk food adverts from television at any time before 9pm, we would be seeing a simple, popular and effective move that would help parents to tackle the increasing desire of young people to consume such foods.'

The loopholes that junk food companies find mean that our younger generation are faced with a constant bombardment of junk food adverts. As future generations are becoming more and more obese, we have to look for opportunities to alleviate the temptations they are facing on a daily, if not hourly basis!

Question 11

Current advertising rules allow junk food adverts to be shown on some children's channels.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

This is not true as paragraph 1 tells us that the current regulations restrict junk food adverts during 'children's programming' which would of course include children's channels.

Question 12

Saturday evenings are a time when many families would be tempted to indulge in junk food.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

Whilst we know that junk food adverts can be shown on Saturday evenings, this doesn't imply that families would be more tempted to eat junk food at this time.

Question 14

The petition wants to see all junk food advertising banned from television.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

The petition is actually calling for all junk food advertising to be banned before 9pm on all channels but not to be banned completely.

Question 15

Junk food adverts create a temptation for children to eat that sort of food.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

The final paragraph tells us that young people are bombarded with junk food adverts and then goes on to tell us that they face temptation on a regular basis (and these temptations are created through the junk food adverts).

VERBAL REASONING TEST 3

Answers Booklet

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Try to find a time and place where you will not be interrupted during the test. When you are ready, begin the test.

Read the passage and answer the associated questions

Located in the western Pacific Ocean, the Mariana Trench is the deepest part of Earth's oceans. Although just under 70 km wide, this narrow trench extends over 2,500 km. Its deepest point is a valley called Challenger Deep, measuring 10.91 km under sea level. Challenger Deep is not, however, the section of seafloor closest to the Earth's centre. Because Earth's radius is less at its poles than at the equator, parts of the Arctic Ocean's seafloor are closer to its centre.

The bottom of Mariana Trench has been reached by four different expeditions, the first in 1960. These expeditions discovered fish and other oceanic life; a surprise given that water pressure at the trench's bottom is more than one thousand times atmospheric pressure at sea level. Samples collected from the Mariana Trench revealed a variety of tiny organisms, and giant amoebas called xenophyophores.

The Mariana Trench, which is in a subduction zone, has been mooted as a possible site for dumping nuclear waste. Proponents believe subduction, whereby one tectonic plate moves under another, would push radioactive waste down towards the Earth's core. Subduction zones, however, are prone to earthquakes, which raises safety concerns. In any case, international law bans disposing of nuclear waste in the ocean.

Question 1

The Earth is not a perfect sphere.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

True – The first paragraph states, “the Earth’s radius is less at its poles than at the equator”. Hence, the Earth is not perfectly round.

Question 2

High pressure conditions are generally not favourable for most living things.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

True – this can be deduced from the fact that the passage says that the discover of fish and oceanic life was “a surprise given that water pressure at the trench’s bottom is more than one thousand times atmospheric pressure at sea level”

Question 3

If dumped in the Mariana Trench, nuclear waste would be pushed under shifting tectonic plates.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

Cannot tell – this is a hypothetical situation, so although this is a theory given in the third paragraph, there is no way to answer this question definitively.

Question 4

Although assumed to be the deepest point in the world’s oceans, parts of the Arctic ocean are in fact deeper.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

False – the first paragraph says that parts of the Arctic Ocean are closer to the Earth's centre, but the first sentence definitively states that "the Mariana Trench is the deepest part of Earth's oceans".

Question 5

Xenophyophores are among the myriad of microscopic organisms dwelling in the Mariana Trench.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

False – while xenophyophores do indeed live in the Mariana Trench, they are described as "gigantic amoebas" – so they are not "microscopic" in size.

Read the passage and answer the associated questions

Although considered quintessentially Japanese, sushi actually originated in southern China. Prior to the 14th century, sushi - meaning "sour-tasting" - was made by wrapping fish in fermented rice. This preserving process caused the fish to gradually ferment and acquire a sour flavour. Originally, only the fish was eaten. Over time, vinegar replaced the fermenting process. Sushi as we know it today dates from the mid-19th century, when fresh fish was wrapped in rice as a fast, convenient food.

There are a wide variety of sushi types, all containing rice. Nigirizushi, for example, is rice topped with fish and bound with a seaweed wrapper called nori. Futomaki are nori rolls filled with fish or vegetarian ingredients. Sushi chefs undergo extensive training, including presentation as well as preparation.

Because seafood and rice are low in fat and no cooking oils are used to prepare raw fish, sushi is widely viewed as healthy. Western sushi, however, often contains fattening ingredients, such as mayonnaise. Some fish used in sushi, such as tuna, can contain high concentrations of mercury. Eating incorrectly prepared sushi can result in food poisoning, caused by bacteria such as salmonella. Parasites, such as anisakis worms, can be found in some raw fish, causing illness if consumed.

Question 6

Contemporary sushi gets its sour taste from vinegar.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

Cannot tell – the first paragraph states that “Over time, vinegar replaced the fermenting process.” However, in the subsequent sentences describing modern sushi, no mention is made of whether vinegar is used in its preparation, so it is not possible to say whether vinegar is definitely an ingredient.

Question 7

In Nigirizushi, fish and rice are held together with nori.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

True – This is mentioned in the second paragraph 'Nigirizushi, for example, is rice topped with fish and bound with a seaweed wrapper called nori.'

Question 8

Futomaki sushi does not contain rice.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

False – While rice is not mentioned in the description of Futomaki – “Futomaki are nori rolls filled with fish or vegetarian ingredients” – an earlier sentence states that “There are a wide variety of sushi types, all containing rice.” The word “all” is an absolute. Hence, if it is a type of sushi, futomaki must contain rice.

Question 9

There are both health benefits and risks associated with eating sushi.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

True – this statement accurately sums up the last paragraph. While sushi is low in fat (a benefit), eating it could potentially cause illness (a risk).

Question 10

Originating in China, sushi was developed as an early form of fast food.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

False – While it is true that sushi originated in China, the first paragraph explains that sushi was developed as a form of food preservation involving a “gradual” fermentation – a slow, rather than fast, process.

Read the passage and answer the associated questions

In the United Kingdom, working mothers are entitled to 52 weeks' maternity leave. The first six weeks are paid at 90% of full salary and a further 33 weeks are paid a fixed rate, although some employers offer more generous maternity schemes. If a government proposal becomes law, however, this system will be replaced with flexible parental leave, which can be split between the father and mother. New mothers would be entitled to four months' paid maternity leave after the birth, with two weeks' paid paternity leave. This would be followed by seven month's flexible leave- of which four would be paid.

European member states must offer a minimum of 14 paid weeks of maternity leave, though many countries offer significantly more. France, for example, has 16 weeks' leave at 100% of salary. In Iceland, parents receive nine months' paid leave at 80% of salary, with each parent required to take three months leave and deciding how to share the remaining three. By comparison, the United States mandates twelve weeks' maternity leave - though this is unpaid for approximately 60% of mothers.

The UK's year-long maternity leave provision is intended to provide job security for new mothers. However, some critics believe that it actually damages women's career prospects. They argue that because of the inconvenience of maternity leave administration women are less attractive employees for small businesses. Advocates of the new flexible parental leave system believe that parenting is no longer exclusively a mother's preserve and that the new policy will promote gender equality.

Question 11

The UK's current maternity leave system is based on outmoded views of parenting.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

Cannot tell – this is a subjective opinion expressed in the final paragraph. “Advocates of the new flexible parental leave system believe that parenting is no longer exclusively a mother’s preserve”.

Question 12

The proposed flexible parental leave system would increase paid first-year leave to twelve months.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

False – not all twelve months would be paid. “New mothers would be entitled to four months’ paid maternity leave after the birth, with two weeks paid paternity leave. This would be followed seven month’s flexible leave – of which four would be paid.”

Question 13

The proposed flexible parental leave system is similar to the Icelandic model, in that mothers and fathers will be required to share the last seven months of leave.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

False – the passage says that flexible parental leave “can be split between the father and mother”. It does not say that it must be shared (as per Iceland).

Question 14

Paradoxically, the extension of women's maternity benefits is thought to potentially have negative implications on their employability.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

True – this is presented as a subjective opinion in the passage – “some critics believe that it actually damages women's career prospects.”

Question 15

The United States does not satisfy the European Union's statutory minimum maternity leave provision.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Cannot Tell

Solution

True – the second paragraph states that “European member states must offer a minimum of 14 paid weeks of maternity leave”. We are also told that “the United States mandates twelve weeks' maternity leave – though this is unpaid for approximately 60% of mothers.”