



# Verbal Reasoning Practice Test 3

Question Booklet

---

Work-related stress is one of the biggest causes of sick leave in the U.K. If you've noticed you always seem to be rushing about, or miss meal breaks, take work home or don't have enough time for relaxation, for your family or for exercise, then you may well find yourself under stress, especially at work. There is often no one single cause of work-related stress, but it can be caused by poor working conditions, long hours, relationship problems with colleagues, or lack of job security. Stress is often the result of a combination of these factors that build up over time. Work-related stress can result in both physical problems, such as headaches, muscular tension, back or neck pain, tiredness, digestive problems and sweating; or emotional problems, such as a lower sex drive, feelings of inadequacy, irritability and lack of concentration. According to recent surveys, one in six of all working individuals in the UK said their job is very stressful, and thirty percent of men said that the demands of their job interfered with their private lives.

**Q1** Stress at work is often caused by relationship problems with your partner.

True

False

**Cannot say**

*This may well be true, but is not stated in the passage. However, relationship problems with **colleagues** are mentioned.*

**Q2** Stress can result in tiredness and a lack of concentration.

**True**

False

Cannot say

*Tiredness is listed under physical problems, and lack of concentration under emotional problems.*

**Q3** One in six working men said their job is very stressful.

True

**False**

Cannot say

*One in six working individuals said their job is very stressful, which is not 20%.*

**Q4** If you spend more time with your family, you will not suffer from stress.

True

False

**Cannot say**

*The passage says that stress can be caused by not spending enough time with your family. However, the opposite may or may not be true.*

---

For many years the hunt has been on to find an effective way to treat cancerous tumours using physical rather than chemical means. The latest breakthrough has been made by Dr Jennifer West at Rice University in Houston, Texas. West has done tests on animals using a procedure known as photothermal ablation. She injected millions of nanoparticles, which can absorb infra-red light, into the animals' bloodstreams. These particles go straight to the tumours because, unlike healthy tissue, tumours have abnormal blood capillaries that will let them through. A few hours later an optical fibre is inserted into the tumour and a blast of infra-red light is passed down the fibre which heats the particles and effectively cooks the tumour.

**Q5** Photothermal ablation is the latest breakthrough in chemotherapy for cancer.

True

**False**

Cannot say

*Photothermal ablation is a breakthrough in the treatment of cancerous tumours using physical, **not chemical**, means.*

**Q6** Nanoparticles are objects whose dimensions are measured in nanometres, or billionths of a metre.

True

False

**Cannot say**

*The happens to be true, but is not stated anywhere in the passage.*

**Q7** Nanoparticles absorb infra-red light and cook the tumours.

**True**

False

Cannot say

*The passage states: 'nanoparticles, which can absorb infra-red light', and later the infra red 'effectively cooks the tumour'.*

---

U3b Networks (short for the “Underprivileged three billion” who lack internet access) is a new company on Jersey set up by Greg Wyler, former owner of Rwanda’s national telephone company. He intends to provide cheap, high-speed internet access to remote areas in developing countries, especially in Africa where fast telecommunication links do not reach the interior. Mr. Wyler plans to charge \$500 per megabit per month, compared with \$4,000 using existing satellite systems. Mr Wyler has so far raised €40m from investors, but this seems like a risky investment in these turbulent economic times, especially as billions were lost on similar projects a decade ago. So why are they investing in the hope of finding customers in the world’s poorest regions? The reason is that previous projects were over-ambitious and set out to provide global coverage, whereas U3b’s project is far less ambitious and its services will only be available to a ribbon around the equator, covering most developing countries. It will initially use just five satellites circling 8,000km above the equator.

**Q8** There are three billion people in the world without internet access.

True

**False**

Cannot say

*As the name O3b Networks (short for the “other three billion” who lack internet access) suggests, there are three billion people **in developing countries** who lack internet access, implying there must be more in the entire world.*

**Q9** The satellites for the project will cost €8m each.

True

False

**Cannot say**

*There is no information to tell us the cost of each satellite. All we know is that the amount raised so far is €40m. The final cost may be much more and will not just include the cost of satellites.*

**Q10** Most developing countries lie close to the equator.

**True**

False

Cannot say

*We are told the ‘services will be only be available to a ribbon around the equator,*

---

*covering most developing countries.'*

---

We have all heard about bullying in schools, but bullying in the workplace is a huge problem in the U.K. which results in nearly 19 million days of lost output per year and costs the country 6 billion pounds annually. Workplace bullying is the abuse of a position of power by one individual over another. Otherwise known as harassment, intimidation, aggression, coercive management and by other euphemisms, bullying in the workplace can take many forms involving gender, race, age or some other less definable reasons. In a nutshell, workplace bullying means behaviour that is humiliating or offensive towards some individual. This kind of bullying can range from violence to less obvious actions like deliberately ignoring a fellow worker.

**Q11** Bullying in the workplace costs the UK 6 billion pounds every year.

**True**                      False                      **Cannot say**

*Bullying...costs the country 6 billion pound annually.*

**Q12** Another name for workplace bullying is coercive management.

**True**                      False                      **Cannot say**

*Coercive management is a euphemism for bullying i.e. a less direct expression to make it sound less severe.*

**Q13** Bullying in the workplace is sometimes the result of religious intolerance.

True                      False                      **Cannot say**

*Though this may be true, there is no mention of this in the passage.*

**Q14** Ignoring someone is a kind of bullying.

**True**                      False                      **Cannot say**

*The passage says that ignoring a fellow worker is a less obvious kind of bullying.*

---

The search for extra-terrestrial life in the universe took a step nearer to fruition with the discovery in June of what are believed to be traces of water on the surface of Mars. Life as we know it requires water and its presence on Mars may point towards the existence of past life on the planet. The Phoenix Mars Lander landed on the plains of Mars on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2008, searching for signs that the Martian environment might once have been habitable to life. When it dug a ditch in the planet's surface, photos revealed small patches of bright material. Four days later those patches had disappeared, causing scientists to speculate that they were water ice that had previously been buried and which vaporised when exposed to the air. Scientists insisted that if the patches had been salt, they wouldn't have disappeared and if they had been solid carbon dioxide, then they wouldn't have vaporised.

**Q15** The Phoenix Mars Lander has provided proof that life once existed on Mars.

True

**False**

Cannot say

*Scientists can only speculate that the patches were ice and the presence of water does not necessarily guarantee life.*

**Q16** Living beings require water to survive.

True

False

**Cannot say**

*Life as we know it requires water. It is unknown whether life could have evolved somewhere in the universe without dependence on water.*

**Q17** The patches could have been a different substance from water.

**True**

False

Cannot say

*The scientists have ruled out salt and solid carbon dioxide, but there may be a different explanation.*

---

Most workers in the U.K. over the age of 16 are legally entitled to a minimum rate of pay, called the minimum wage. An independent body called the Low Pay Commission (LPC) each year reviews the rate and recommends to the government what it should be. With few exceptions, the minimum wage is the same for all types of work and all kinds of business. The current amount for people over 22 years of age is £5.73 an hour. The rates for younger workers are less. However, the following groups are not entitled to receive the minimum wage: workers under school leaving age, the genuinely self-employed, some apprentices, au pairs, armed service personnel and voluntary workers. Also agricultural workers have separate rates of pay set by the Agricultural Wages Board.

**Q18** The Low Pay Commission sets the rate of the minimum wage each year.

True

**False**

Cannot say

*The LPC recommends the rate. The government sets the rate based on their recommendation.*

**Q19** The Agricultural Wages Board sets the rates for agricultural workers.

**True**

False

Cannot say

*Agricultural workers have separate rates of pay set by the Agricultural Wages Board.*

**Q20** The minimum wage for workers over 16 years of age is £5.73 an hour.

True

**False**

Cannot say

*This is the rate for people over 22 years of age. The rates for younger workers are less.*

**Q21** All au pairs receive less than the minimum wage.

True

False

**Cannot say**

*The passage says that au pairs are not **entitled** to the minimum wage. Very likely some of them do; however the passage does not say so.*

---

The 2008 A-level results show that 97.2% of students passed compared with 96.6% in 2007. 25.9% gained A grades, a rise of 0.6%. The number of students sitting A levels, 827 737, was also a record. This high success rate is causing concerns in some quarters that the exams are getting easier. However, the government insists that the results reflect increased spending and improvements in teaching. Meanwhile the general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, Dr Mary Bousted, has berated teaching methods in schools as spoon-feeding students to pass exams without developing the desire to continue learning and the skills necessary to learn independently. In reply the general secretary of the University and College Union, Sally Hunt, suggested it is unfair to downplay the students' results and the hard work of their teachers.

**Q22** The improvement in A level results is a reflection of an increase in the number of students sitting the exams.

True

**False**

Cannot say

*The improvement is given as a percentage, so is independent of the number of students sitting the exams.*

**Q23** A level exams are getting easier.

True

False

**Cannot say**

*Some people have expressed concerns that the exams are getting easier, but no evidence of this notion is given in the passage.*

**Q24** The general secretary of the University and College Union has suggested that students are being spoon-fed to pass examinations.

True

**False**

Cannot say

*This suggestion was made by the general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, not the general secretary of the University and College Union.*

---

International Development Secretary, Douglas Alexander, has compared sanitary conditions in developing countries today with the situation in London 150 years ago when Parliament had to be closed owing to sewage running through the streets of the capital and a stench from the River Thames – an event that has been called ‘The Great Stink’. Today more than 1 billion people in developing countries have no toilets and 900 million have no access to clean water. Mr. Alexander’s response has been an announcement that the Department of International Development plans to build more than 50 million toilets and provide clean drinking water to more than 25 million people in developing countries over the next five years. This plan is part of the department’s broader strategy to help poor countries in Africa and Asia to better manage their water resources and fight the effects of climate change.

**Q25** ‘The Great Stink’ occurred in London.

**True**

False

Cannot say

*We are told that this event occurred 150 years ago in London.*

**Q26** When the project to build toilets is completed, on average twenty people are going to have to share one toilet.

True

False

**Cannot say**

*We are told there are 1 billion people who have no toilet and that 50 million toilets will be built – that’s a ratio of 20 to 1. However, it’s not clear whether all developing countries will benefit from this project.*

**Q27** It is planned that more than 25 million more people will have access to clean drinking water in five years’ time.

**True**

False

Cannot say

*The passage says: ‘The Department of International Development plans to provide clean drinking water to more than 25 million people in developing countries over the next five years.’*