

Verbal Comprehension

Free Test

Questions Booklet

Instructions

This verbal comprehension test comprises **20 questions** and there is a time limit of **30 seconds** per question.

Read the passage of information thoroughly and select the correct answer from the four options. Read the question thoroughly to ensure you know what the question entails.

There is only one correct answer per question.

Base your answers only on the information given in the passage.

Organisational development (OD) is defined as a “deliberately planned effort to increase an organisations relevance and viability”. The concept of organisational development was conceived by German-American psychologist Kurt Lewin, who was among the first to apply social psychology, group dynamics and social research to the world of work. Since its beginnings, organisational development has become a popular and widespread method for implementing organisational change. The key principles underlying OD philosophy are primarily humanistic, focused around improving organisational performance by empowering its employees.

Q1 Where do the key principles of organisational development come from?

- a. Pragmatism
- b. Egalitarianism
- c. Humanism
- d. Objectivism

Researchers from the international agricultural research partnership have suggested that bananas could soon become a staple food source for millions of people in developing countries due to climate change. Rising temperatures and volatile weather makes growing existing critical foods, such as potatoes, maize and wheat difficult, leading to lower crop yields of these foods. However, bananas are much more adept at surviving in tropical climates frequently racked by high temperatures and weather volatility. Although, it may not be a viable food staple for all developing countries, it may become more critical for the economies of many developing nations in future years.

Q2 Which crop is not stated to have difficulty growing in increasing temperatures?

- a. Potato
- b. Barley
- c. Maize
- d. Wheat

The most expensive brand of coffee today on the open market is known as Kopi Luwak, or civet coffee, from Indonesia. What makes this brand of coffee unique is that it is made from the coffee beans eaten by the Asian palm civet. The civet eats the coffee berry for its fleshy pulp, along with the coffee bean inside, which is indigestible. However, while passing through the digestive system of the civet, proteolytic enzymes seep into the bean, making peptides shorter and increasing the number of free amino acids, improving the taste of the coffee bean. Similarly, due to the expensive and time-consuming process of searching for civet droppings, Kopi Luwak can be sold for up to \$3000 per kilogram.

Q3 Why does civet digestion supposedly improve the coffee beans taste?

- a. Lengthens coffee bean peptides
- b. Shortens coffee bean peptides
- c. Removes coffee bean peptides
- d. Increases number of coffee bean peptides.

Rare earth elements, also known as rare earth metals are a group of seventeen chemical elements in the periodic table. Contrary to their name, rare earth elements are relatively plentiful in the Earth's crust, with cerium as abundant as copper. However, these elements are rarely found in large enough deposits to make mining financially viable, hence the name rare earth. Currently over 90% of global rare earth element supply is met by the people's republic of China, despite only holding 23% of the world's proven reserves of these metals. China has been steadily decreasing its quotas of rare earth element exports due to environmental concerns, depleted reserves and difficulties with industry regulation, which may lead to shortages of rare earth elements in future years.

Q4 What is not a reason for lower rare earth element exports in China?

- a. Difficulties with regulation
- b. Environmental issues
- c. Reserve depletion
- d. International competition

Europa is the sixth closest moon of the planet Jupiter, and one of the largest moons in the solar system. Europa is slightly smaller than the Earth's moon and has a tenuous atmosphere composed primarily of oxygen. The surface of Europa is composed of water and is one of the smoothest in the solar system. Scientists suggest that it is possible Europa has an ocean of liquid water beneath its surface, making it a strong candidate for extra-terrestrial life. It is also predicted that heat energy from tidal flexing may cause oceans to remain liquid and drives geological activity similar to plate tectonics on Earth.

Q5 What makes Europa a potential home to extra-terrestrial life?

- a. Ocean below its surface
- b. Smooth ice water surface
- c. Atmosphere comprised of oxygen
- d. Geological activity

The Mojave Desert occupies portions of California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona in the United States. The desert is named after the Mohave tribe of Native Americans, and it displays typical basin and range topography. The Mojave Desert receives less than three hundred millimetres of rain a year and is generally between 2000 and 5000 feet in elevation. The desert experiences temperature extremes at both ends of the spectrum depending on the season. During winter temperatures may drop to around $-18\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ at higher elevations. During summer, the temperature may rise to over $49\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, making it the hottest place in the United States.

Q6 How much rain falls in the Mojave Desert per year?

- a. 300 mm
- b. 30 mm
- c. 330 mm
- d. Cannot say

The Japanese asset price bubble collapse led to the economic period known as “the lost decade” in Japan from 1991 to 2000. During the 1970s and 1980s Japan’s economic growth was particularly strong; fuelling speculation that Japan would rise, effectively, to superpower status. However, abnormalities within the Japanese economic system fuelled massive amounts of speculation from Japanese firms. High property prices combined with low interest rates led to large amounts of borrowing and heavy investment in domestic and foreign stock. However, the finance ministry realised this was an asset bubble, and subsequently raised interest rates, which in turn caused a crash in the stock market, leading to the bursting of the Japanese asset price bubble.

Q7 What economic conditions caused the large amounts of borrowing in Japan?

- a. High interest rates, low property prices
- b. High interest rates, high property prices
- c. Low interest rates, low property prices.
- d. Low interest rates, high property prices

Stagflation (portmanteau of stagnation and inflation) is a situation in which the inflation rate of a country's currency slows down, and the unemployment rate remains steadily high. It causes a dilemma with regards to public policy since actions designed to lower inflation may exacerbate unemployment and vice versa. One measure of stagflation, termed the misery index (addition of inflation rate to unemployment rate) has been used to assess levels of stagflation, and was even used to swing presidential elections in the United States in 1976 and 1980.

Q8 What conditions lead to stagflation?

- a. High unemployment, high inflation
- b. Low unemployment, low inflation
- c. High unemployment, low inflation
- d. Low unemployment, high inflation

Chaebols are a form of South Korean business conglomerate. They are often global multinational corporations, which include known brands in western markets such as Samsung, LG and Hyundai. The Chaebols share similarities to the Japanese Keirestu groups such as Mitsubishi, Toyota and Mitsui, however, Chaebols are more family orientated, being owned by blood members of the company's founders. Chaebols play a significant role in South Korean politics with many business leaders entering political offices, including the national assembly.

Q9 Which corporation is not a Chaebol nor a Keirestu?

- a. Sony
- b. Samsung
- c. Toyota
- d. Hyundai

Carbon emissions' trading is a form of emissions trading that targets the gas, carbon dioxide. Emissions trading works by setting a limit on the emissions produced by emitters, such as organisations, whom, therefore, have to buy carbon credits to permit them to emit particular volumes of carbon dioxide, motivating them to decrease their carbon footprint. Carbon emissions trading was the first gas involved in emissions trading and it makes up the bulk of emissions trading, with sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides also traded. This incentive to reduce carbon emissions may aid environmental efforts to meet obligations specified by the Kyoto Protocol; the agreement to "stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system."

Q10 What were the first gas emission permits to be traded?

- a. Carbon dioxide
- b. Sulphur dioxide
- c. Nitrogen oxides
- d. Chlorofluorocarbons

The Lockheed SR-71 “Blackbird” was an advanced long range strategic reconnaissance aircraft. The Blackbird was capable of reaching speeds in excess of Mach 3, over three times the speed of sound, making it the fastest air breathing manned aircraft from 1976 to date. Due to its maximum speed, in the event of a surface-to-air missile launch, the Blackbird’s evasive strategy was to accelerate and outrun the missile. Of the total thirty-two aircraft built, twelve were lost due to accidents and none to enemy action. The Blackbird would fly on the edge of space and due to the high-altitude flights, the Blackbird pilot would be required to wear a full pressure flight suit, similar to an astronaut’s space suit.

Q11 What was the total number of Blackbirds lost?

- a. 32
- b. 12
- c. 3
- d. None

Social democracy is a centre left political ideology that considers itself to be a form of reformist democratic socialism. Social democratic policies may include universal social rights to public services, such as healthcare, workers' compensation and care for the elderly. Social democracy is now connected with the trade union and supports collective bargaining rights for workers. Although social democracy was developed by Marxist and socialist intellectuals, the movement has since become synonymous with liberal capitalism, and critics of the movement suggest that it has abandoned its original aims and objectives, bearing little resemblance to the socialism from which it came.

Q12 What does the passage not state as a policy of social democracy?

- a) Workers compensation
- b) Collective bargaining
- c) Care for the elderly
- d) Cooperative enterprises

A random number generator is a computational or physical device designed to generate a sequence of numbers that lacks a pattern. Several methods for random number generation exist, but many fall short of achieving true randomness based on the use of statistical tests for randomness. Random number generators have been used for hundreds of years through devices such as dice, shuffling playing cards and roulette wheels, and have therefore been applied to games of chance. Similarly, random number generators have been used in situations in which fairness is approximated by randomization, such as selecting jurors and military draft lotteries.

Q13 What does the passage state is an application of a random number generator?

- a. Games of chance
- b. Statistical sampling
- c. Survey sampling
- d. Divination

The Seawise Giant was an ultra large crude oil crude carrier super tanker, and was subsequently the longest ship ever built. She possessed the greatest deadweight tonnage ever recorded and when fully laden, her weight was 657,019 tonnes, making her the heaviest ship of any kind and the largest self-propelled man-made object ever built. She was last used as a floating storage and offloading unit off the coast of Qatar. The vessel was sold to an Indian ship breaker and renamed Mont for her final journey in December 2009. The ship was then sailed to, and intentionally beached at, Gujarat, India for demolition.

Q14 What was not a record held by the Seawise Giant?

- a. Heavysset ever ship
- b. Longest ever ship
- c. Tallest ever ship
- d. Largest self-propelled man-made object

The Singapore strategy was a naval defence policy of the British Empire between 1919 to 1941. The strategy was aimed at deterring aggression from the Empire of Japan by stationing a fleet of the royal navy in the Far East, which could defend against a Japanese force heading towards India or Australia. Singapore was chosen as the most suitable location for this naval base in 1919 and continued for the next two decades. However, the strategy was widely believed to have ultimately led to the sinking of the Prince of Wales and The Repulse by Japanese air attack. The subsequent fall of Singapore was described by Winston Churchill as, “the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history”.

Q15 What ship in the passage was sunk by a Japanese attack?

- a. The Repulse
- b. The Hood
- c. The Ark Royal
- d. The Duke of York

The Dutch elm disease is caused by a member of the sac fungi spread by the elm bark beetle which affects elm trees. The disease was originally believed to be native to Asia; the disease has been accidentally introduced to America and Europe, where it is devastated native populations of elms which have not evolved resistance to the disease. The name “Dutch elm disease” refers to the identification of the disease by Dutch phytopathologists rather than the origin of the disease itself, which was later confirmed to be from Asia. To help prevent the spread of the disease, research into developing hybrid elm trees with Asian elm species have shown considerable resistance to the disease and may be a way of re-introducing elm trees in areas devastated by Dutch elm disease.

Q16 Where did the Dutch elm disease originate?

- a. America
- b. Asia
- c. Africa
- d. Europe

A building society is a financial institution owned by its members as a mutual organisation. Building societies offer banking and related financial services such as mortgages. The term “building society” arose in 18th century Britain from cooperative savings groups. In the UK today, building societies actively compete with banks for most consumer banking services, especially with regards to mortgages and saving accounts. The number of building societies in the UK fell by four during 2008 due to a number of mergers and the financial crisis. Due to further mergers and demutualisations, the current number of building societies is 47.

Q17 The number of building societies in the UK fell by how many in 2008?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4

The Ansari X prize was a space competition in which the X prize foundation offered \$10,000,000 for the first non-government organisation to launch a reusable manned spacecraft into space twice within two weeks. This prize was modelled on the early 20th century aviation prizes and aimed to help propagate low cost spaceflight. The winning team and, therefore, the first group to launch a successful private space flight was the Tier One program, which launched the manned space plane SpaceShipOne in 2004. Since then, other X prizes have been announced, such as launching and operating a rover on the lunar surface.

Q18 What was the name of the winning program of the Ansari X prize?

- a. Canadian arrow
- b. Starchaser industries
- c. Tier One
- d. Inter orbital systems.

The Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria is the official name for the largest Christian church in Egypt and the Middle East. This church belongs to the oriental orthodox family of churches, which includes the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the Syriac Orthodox Church and the Indian Orthodox Church. The Coptic Orthodox Church was established by Saint Mark in the middle of the 1st century, approximately 42 AD. The head of the Coptic Orthodox church is the Pope of Alexandria and patriarch of all Africa on the Holy Seat of Saint Mark. As of 2012, about 10% of Egyptians belong to the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria.

Q19 Which church was founded by Saint Mark?

- a. The Ethiopian Orthodox church
- b. The Coptic Orthodox church.
- c. The Indian Orthodox church
- d. The Syriac Orthodox church

Bell's palsy is a form of facial paralysis resulting from a dysfunction of the cranial nerve that results in the inability to control facial muscles on the afflicted side. Although numerous other conditions may cause facial paralysis, such as brain tumour and stroke, if no cause can be identified the condition is known as Bell's palsy. Corticosteroids have been found to improve outcomes while anti-viral drugs have not shown any benefit. Early treatments of steroids are necessary in order to be effective treatments. However, even without treatment, many sufferers will carry a good prognosis and 85% show signs of recovery within 3 weeks after onset.

Q20 What is the cause of Bell's palsy?

- a. Stroke
- b. Unknown cause
- c. Brain tumour
- d. Concussion

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