

## Paragraph Completion

### COMPLETE CONCEPT EXPLANATION

#### 1. Definition

Paragraph Completion is a reading comprehension and critical reasoning task in which a paragraph is presented with one or more sentences missing — typically the opening sentence, a middle sentence, or the concluding sentence. The candidate must select from the given options the sentence that, when inserted in the designated blank, makes the paragraph logically coherent, structurally unified, tonally consistent, and grammatically correct.

Unlike simple fill-in-the-blank grammar questions, paragraph completion tests a candidate's ability to simultaneously evaluate: (a) the logical flow of ideas, (b) the thematic continuity of the passage, (c) the grammatical compatibility of the inserted sentence, and (d) the appropriate stylistic and tonal register.

#### 2. Types of Blank Positions

Blank Position	What It Demands
Opening / First Sentence	Must introduce the topic, set tone, and logically lead into the sentences that follow.
Middle / Body Sentence	Must bridge the preceding idea with the following idea; maintain argument flow.
Closing / Last Sentence	Must logically conclude, summarise, or reinforce the central argument of the paragraph.

Blank Position	What It Demands
Transitional Sentence	Inserted between a shift in subject or perspective; must bridge two contrasting or sequential ideas.
Supporting/Illustrative Sentence	Provides an example, evidence, or elaboration for a claim made in surrounding sentences.

### 3. Core Strategies — The RULES

#### RULE 1

**Identify the Central Theme First. Before looking at options, read all available sentences and determine the one main idea the paragraph discusses. Every correct option must be directly relevant to this theme — not merely related, but precisely aligned.**

- Ex. 1**      If the paragraph discusses the drawbacks of deforestation, a sentence about the benefits of paper industry profit is thematically irrelevant even if grammatically correct.
- Ex. 2**      A paragraph on 'rising urban migration' cannot conclude with a sentence about rural farming subsidies unless it explicitly connects both.
- Ex. 3**      Before selecting, ask: 'Does this sentence serve the paragraph's one central argument?' If uncertain, it is wrong.

#### RULE 2

**Check Logical Continuity (The Flow Rule).** The inserted sentence must follow naturally from what precedes it and logically lead into what follows. Look for cause-effect links, contrast markers, sequential connectors, and elaboration signals.

- Ex. 1** If the sentence before the blank ends with a problem, the blank must offer either its cause, effect, solution, or an elaboration of the problem — not a new topic.
- Ex. 2** A sentence beginning with 'However,' signals a contrast. The blank must present an idea that is logically opposed to the sentence before it.
- Ex. 3** A sentence beginning with 'Therefore,' 'Hence,' or 'Thus' must be a conclusion; the preceding content must logically support it.

### **RULE 3**

**Track Pronouns and Noun References.** Every pronoun in the inserted sentence must have a clear antecedent in the surrounding text. If a pronoun has no identifiable noun to refer to, that option is incorrect.

- Ex. 1** If the blank sentence contains 'they', check whether any plural noun appears in the paragraph to which 'they' can refer logically.
- Ex. 2** If the blank sentence starts with 'This policy' or 'These findings', the preceding sentence must have introduced a 'policy' or 'findings' explicitly.
- Ex. 3** Beware of options that introduce a new pronoun ('he', 'she', 'it') without establishing the noun it refers to — this always creates a referential error.

## RULE 4

**Match the Tone and Register.** The inserted sentence must match the tone (formal/informal, optimistic/pessimistic, critical/neutral) of the rest of the paragraph. A casual or colloquial sentence inserted into a formal academic paragraph is always wrong.

- Ex. 1** In a paragraph written in measured academic prose, an option using slang ('the whole thing backfired badly') would be tonally inconsistent.
- Ex. 2** A satirical paragraph requires an option that maintains irony or wit; a factual, literal option would disrupt the register.
- Ex. 3** If the paragraph uses impersonal, passive constructions throughout, an option in first person ('I believe...') would violate the established tone.

## RULE 5

**Apply the Opening Sentence Rule.** If the blank is the first sentence, the correct option must (a) not use any pronoun whose antecedent is absent, (b) not begin with a connector like 'However' or 'Therefore' without context, and (c) introduce the topic without assuming prior knowledge.

- Ex. 1** An opening sentence cannot begin with 'Despite this trend' because 'this trend' has not yet been established in the paragraph.
- Ex. 2** A correct opening sentence states a general claim, poses a question, or presents a scenario that the rest of the paragraph will explore or justify.

**Ex. 3** The sentence 'Urbanisation has reshaped social fabric across the developing world' is a valid opener because it introduces a broad theme that subsequent sentences can narrow and develop.

## RULE 6

**Apply the Closing Sentence Rule. A concluding sentence must (a) not introduce new, unrelated information, (b) logically complete the argument, and (c) often use summary words like 'thus', 'ultimately', 'in sum', 'this suggests that', or end with a broader implication.**

**Ex. 1** A conclusion that introduces a completely new statistic without connecting it to the rest of the paragraph is incorrect — it extends rather than closes.

**Ex. 2** 'Thus, the long-term viability of the programme depends on sustained political will' — correct closing because it draws from the preceding discussion.

**Ex. 3** Beware of options that are merely additional examples; a concluding sentence synthesises, not illustrates.

## RULE 7

**Use Connectives and Discourse Markers as Diagnostic Tools. Words like 'moreover', 'nevertheless', 'in contrast', 'as a result', 'for instance', 'in addition', and 'consequently' reveal the logical relationship the inserted sentence has with its surroundings. Always verify this relationship exists.**

**Ex. 1** 'Moreover' signals addition — the inserted idea must add to, not contradict, the preceding point.

- Ex. 2** 'Nevertheless' or 'Yet' signals concession — the inserted sentence must acknowledge a counter-point while affirming the original claim.
- Ex. 3** 'For instance' or 'For example' signals illustration — the inserted sentence must be a specific case of the general claim made just before it.

## RULE 8

**Eliminate Options Through Contradiction Testing. An option that directly contradicts a factual or logical claim already made in the paragraph is automatically wrong, regardless of its grammatical correctness.**

- Ex. 1** If the paragraph states 'Water covers 71% of Earth's surface', an option asserting 'Most of the planet is dry land' is factually contradictory and must be rejected.
- Ex. 2** If the passage argues that regulation benefits consumers, an option stating 'Regulation is consistently harmful to all parties' creates a logical contradiction.
- Ex. 3** Contradiction testing rapidly eliminates 1–2 options, narrowing the choice before detailed analysis.

## RULE 9

**Watch for Scope Shifts and Overgeneralisations. Some options sound plausible but either narrow a broad paragraph artificially or expand a specific discussion to an unjustified generalisation. Both are wrong.**

- Ex. 1** A paragraph discussing literacy rates in one district cannot end with a sentence making claims about global education — that is an unjustified scope expansion.
- Ex. 2** Conversely, a paragraph about global climate change cannot be completed by a sentence that focuses only on one city's air quality — that narrows scope inappropriately.
- Ex. 3** The correct option preserves the scope (local/national/global, individual/collective) established in the paragraph.

## RULE 10

**Temporal and Tense Consistency Rule.** The inserted sentence must use tenses consistent with the temporal frame established in the paragraph. A paragraph written in the past tense cannot accommodate a sentence in the simple present as a factual claim about the past.

- Ex. 1** If the paragraph narrates historical events in past tense, an option saying 'Scientists now believe...' disrupts temporal consistency unless a time shift is explicitly signalled.
- Ex. 2** A paragraph using present-tense analysis ('the data show', 'researchers argue') requires an option in the same tense frame.
- Ex. 3** Future-tense options ('this will result in...') are only appropriate in paragraphs that are already forward-looking or predictive in nature.

#### 4. Common Errors Students Make

✓ CORRECT	✗ INCORRECT
Select the option that is grammatically correct AND logically fits the paragraph.	Select any grammatically correct sentence, even if it disrupts the paragraph's logic.
Verify that all pronouns in the option have clear antecedents in the surrounding text.	Choose an option with pronouns like 'they' or 'it' without checking what they refer to.
Match the tone: formal options for formal passages, analytical for analytical passages.	Insert a casual or colloquial sentence into an academic paragraph.
For opening blanks, reject any option starting with a connector ('However', 'Thus').	Choose an option starting with 'Thus' for an opening blank where no prior context exists.
For closing blanks, reject options that introduce brand-new information.	Select a closing sentence that adds a new example instead of concluding the argument.
Use logical connector words ('moreover', 'despite', 'consequently') as clues to the relationship.	Ignore connector words entirely and choose based on subject-matter familiarity alone.
Read all four options before choosing; eliminate wrong ones step by step.	Select the first option that 'sounds right' without reading the others.

#### 5. Comparison: Paragraph Completion vs. Sentence Arrangement (Para Jumbles)

Paragraph Completion	Para Jumbles (Sentence Rearrangement)
One sentence is missing; the rest are given in order.	All sentences are given but in jumbled order.

Paragraph Completion	Para Jumbles (Sentence Rearrangement)
Focus: identify the missing sentence from options.	Focus: identify the correct sequence of all sentences.
The paragraph's structure is already visible.	The paragraph's structure must be reconstructed entirely.
Requires identifying what is absent and what fits.	Requires establishing the opening, flow, and close from scratch.
Connector and pronoun clues come from surrounding context.	Connector and pronoun clues used to find adjacent pairs of sentences.
One blank, four options; only one fits perfectly.	Typically 5–6 sentences; multiple arrangement possibilities to test.

## 6. Memory Tricks / Mnemonics

Use the mnemonic **T.P.T.C.S.** to remember the five key checks before selecting any option:

- **T — Theme:** Does this option serve the paragraph's one central theme?
- **P — Pronouns:** Does every pronoun in the option have a clear antecedent?
- **T — Tone:** Does the option's tone match the rest of the paragraph?
- **C — Connectors:** Do the discourse markers in the option signal the correct logical relationship?
- **S — Scope:** Does the option maintain the paragraph's scope (not over-generalise or under-specify)?

For closing sentences, remember: **"No NEW, only THROUGH."** A conclusion does not introduce new information — it passes through the existing ideas to reach a final inference.

For opening sentences, remember: **"START CLEAN."** No trailing pronouns, no backward connectors. The first sentence must be self-sufficient.

## RULES SUMMARY — QUICK REVISION REFERENCE

All ten rules governing Paragraph Completion, presented as a consolidated reference table.

#	Rule	Example
1	Identify the Central Theme first; every option must be directly aligned to it.	<i>A paragraph on air pollution cannot end with a sentence about soil erosion unless explicitly linked.</i>
2	Check Logical Continuity; the inserted sentence must naturally follow the preceding idea and lead into the next.	<i>'However, critics disagree' must follow a sentence presenting a view that critics would oppose.</i>
3	Track all pronouns; every pronoun in the option must have a clear noun antecedent in the surrounding text.	<i>If the option says 'They were dismissed,' confirm which plural noun 'they' refers to in context.</i>
4	Match Tone and Register; formal passages need formal options; satirical passages need ironic options.	<i>A measured academic paragraph cannot accommodate 'the whole plan fell flat spectacularly.'</i>
5	Opening Sentence Rule: reject any option that begins with a backward connector or an unsupported pronoun.	<i>'Despite this challenge' cannot open a paragraph — 'this challenge' has not yet been mentioned.</i>
6	Closing Sentence Rule: reject options introducing new, unrelated information at the end.	<i>A correct closing synthesises existing ideas; it does not add a fresh example or new statistic.</i>

#	Rule	Example
7	<b>Connector Diagnostic:</b> the discourse marker in the option must signal the correct logical relationship.	<i>'Moreover'</i> means the option adds; <i>'Nevertheless'</i> means the option concedes — verify both hold.
8	<b>Contradiction Testing:</b> eliminate any option that contradicts a fact or argument already stated.	<i>If the passage calls a policy successful, an option calling it 'consistently harmful' is eliminated.</i>
9	<b>Scope Preservation:</b> the option must not over-generalise or artificially narrow the paragraph's focus.	<i>A city-level study cannot conclude with a global claim without explicit justification.</i>
10	<b>Tense Consistency:</b> the option must match the tense frame established in the rest of the paragraph.	<i>A historical narrative in past tense cannot accommodate a present-tense factual claim mid-paragraph.</i>

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS — PART 1 (Questions Only)

60 questions across four categories. No answers in this section. Attempt all questions independently before consulting Part 2.

### CATEGORY 1 — SPOT THE MISMATCH (Q1–Q15)

*Each question presents a paragraph with one blank. Four sentences are provided. One fits perfectly; three do not. Identify the correct option and be prepared to explain why each of the others fails logically, tonally, or grammatically.*

**Q1.** The debate over the use of smartphones in classrooms has intensified in recent years. Educationists are divided: some argue that these devices enhance learning through instant access to information, while others believe they are a source of constant distraction. \_\_\_\_\_ Schools must, therefore, frame a balanced and evidence-based policy.

- (A) Research indicates that regulated use of smartphones can improve academic outcomes when integrated with lesson objectives.
- (B) Smartphones were first introduced to the consumer market in the late 1990s and have since evolved significantly.
- (C) Many students prefer watching videos over reading textbooks, which is a growing concern for parents.
- (D) The government has proposed banning all electronic devices from public spaces used by minors.

**Q2.** \_\_\_\_\_ Glaciers in Greenland and Antarctica are melting at unprecedented rates, raising global sea levels. Island nations and coastal cities face the prospect of submergence within decades if the current trajectory continues.

- (A) The economic consequences of climate change are difficult to quantify in precise monetary terms.
- (B) Climate change has moved from a theoretical concern to a measurable, existential crisis.
- (C) Despite widespread awareness, many governments continue to delay action on carbon emissions.
- (D) Scientists have been studying ocean temperatures for over a century with remarkable precision.

**Q3.** The history of the English language is one of continuous borrowing and adaptation. Latin, French, Norse, and countless other tongues have each left their mark. \_\_\_\_\_ This linguistic flexibility is precisely what has made English the global lingua franca it is today.

- (A) As a result, English grammar is considered the most regular and rule-bound of all European languages.
- (B) Yet despite this rich blending, the language has never lost its essential identity or internal coherence.
- (C) English is spoken by over a billion people across every continent and climate zone on the planet.
- (D) French was once the dominant language of diplomatic correspondence across the European continent.

**Q4.** Artificial intelligence is increasingly being used to diagnose medical conditions. Algorithms trained on millions of patient records can now detect certain cancers earlier than experienced radiologists. \_\_\_\_\_ Despite such promise, the technology remains controversial within the medical community.

- (A) However, many hospitals lack the digital infrastructure needed to implement such systems equitably.
- (B) In one landmark study, an AI system identified diabetic retinopathy with 94% accuracy from retinal images.
- (C) Medical professionals typically complete a minimum of ten years of training before practising independently.
- (D) Pharmaceutical companies have begun investing heavily in AI-driven drug discovery pipelines globally.

**Q5.** Urban green spaces — parks, community gardens, and tree-lined avenues — play a role far beyond mere aesthetics. They regulate local temperatures, absorb pollutants, and provide habitats for urban biodiversity.

\_\_\_\_\_ Planners who treat green spaces as luxuries rather than infrastructure are therefore making a costly error.

(A) Many residents of large cities report that access to nature significantly reduces their stress levels.

(B) Moreover, they serve as critical buffers against the urban heat island effect, reducing energy consumption.

(C) City parks were historically designed as leisure spaces for the affluent sections of urban society.

(D) Landscaping contracts in major metropolitan areas represent a growing segment of the construction industry.

**Q6.** Microplastics have now been detected in the most remote environments on Earth — from the Mariana Trench to Arctic snow. \_\_\_\_\_ The full health implications for marine organisms and, by extension, for human populations that consume seafood are only beginning to be understood.

(A) These particles enter ecosystems through industrial discharge, synthetic textile washing, and degraded packaging.

(B) Plastic was invented in 1907 by Leo Baekeland and has since become integral to modern life.

(C) The recycling infrastructure in most developing nations is inadequate to handle plastic waste volumes.

(D) Consumer awareness campaigns have achieved limited success in reducing single-use plastic consumption.

**Q7.** Emotional intelligence — the ability to recognise, understand, and manage one's own emotions and those of others — has gained substantial attention in organisational psychology. Companies that cultivate emotionally intelligent leadership report lower attrition and higher productivity. \_\_\_\_\_ Yet measuring emotional intelligence reliably remains a significant methodological challenge.

(A) Teams led by emotionally intelligent managers tend to display greater cohesion and adaptability under pressure.

(B) IQ tests have long been used as the primary predictor of academic and professional success globally.

(C) Several leadership gurus have written bestselling books on the topic, making it a mainstream concept.

(D) Human resources departments often prioritise technical skills over interpersonal competencies during hiring.

**Q8.** The concept of a 'knowledge economy' rests on the premise that intellectual capital — skills, information, and innovation — is the primary driver of economic growth. In this framework, investment in education and research yields returns far greater than investment in physical infrastructure. \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) Nations that have prioritised human capital development consistently outperform those that have not in long-run economic indices.
- (B) However, critics argue that physical infrastructure remains the backbone of industrial economies even today.
- (C) The term 'knowledge economy' was first popularised by management theorist Peter Drucker in the 1960s.
- (D) Technology companies now constitute a significant share of global stock market capitalisation.

**Q9.** The Mauryan Empire, at its zenith under Ashoka, was one of the largest polities of the ancient world. \_\_\_\_\_ Following his military campaign in Kalinga, Ashoka underwent a profound moral transformation, renouncing violence and embracing the principles of dhamma, or righteous conduct.

- (A) Its administrative machinery extended from present-day Afghanistan to the southern tip of the subcontinent.
- (B) Chandragupta Maurya, the dynasty's founder, was advised by the celebrated political strategist Chanakya.
- (C) Buddhist philosophy holds that the cessation of desire leads to liberation from the cycle of rebirth.
- (D) Ashoka's rock edicts were written in Brahmi script and have been discovered across South Asia.

**Q10.** Freedom of the press is frequently cited as the cornerstone of democratic governance. An independent media holds power accountable, informs citizens, and provides a forum for public debate. \_\_\_\_\_ Without a free press, democracies risk sliding into systems where power operates without scrutiny.

- (A) Nevertheless, media consolidation in the hands of corporate or political interests has increasingly compromised this independence.
- (B) Journalists in several countries have reported dangerous levels of political harassment and legal intimidation.
- (C) Digital media has dramatically lowered the barriers to entry for new outlets and independent journalism.
- (D) Advertising revenue, which media organisations depend on, has declined sharply with the rise of social media platforms.

**Q11.** \_\_\_\_\_ High-altitude environments expose the body to reduced atmospheric oxygen, triggering physiological adaptations such as increased red blood cell production and changes in haemoglobin affinity. Elite altitude training camps use these responses deliberately to enhance athletic performance at sea level.

(A) The relationship between altitude and human physiology has been extensively studied since the early 20th century.

(B) Mount Everest, at 8,849 metres, represents the ultimate physical challenge that mountaineers aspire to conquer.

(C) Athletes from East Africa have dominated long-distance running for several decades due in part to genetic factors.

(D) Oxygen supplementation is widely used during surgery and in intensive care units around the world.

**Q12.** The gig economy — characterised by short-term contracts and freelance work rather than permanent employment — has expanded rapidly over the past decade. Workers gain flexibility and autonomy; employers reduce fixed labour costs. \_\_\_\_\_ Labour rights advocates argue that this arrangement systematically erodes the social safety nets built over generations of worker organising.

(A) However, this apparent exchange conceals a profound asymmetry: the worker bears all the risk.

(B) Platforms such as ride-hailing and food delivery services have become synonymous with the gig model.

(C) Many gig workers simultaneously maintain multiple income streams to compensate for income instability.

(D) Government tax revenue from self-employed individuals is notoriously difficult to track and enforce.

**Q13.** Cognitive biases — systematic patterns of deviation from rationality in judgement — affect even the most analytically trained individuals. The confirmation bias, for example, leads people to favour information that confirms their pre-existing beliefs. \_\_\_\_\_ Awareness of these biases does not automatically correct for them, but it is a necessary first step.

(A) Similarly, the availability heuristic causes people to overestimate the likelihood of events that come easily to mind.

(B) Psychologists Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky pioneered the empirical study of cognitive biases in the 1970s.

(C) Rational choice theory assumes that individuals consistently act to maximise their self-interest.

(D) Meditation and mindfulness practices are increasingly recommended as tools for improving emotional regulation.

**Q14.** The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system, stretching over 2,300 kilometres along the Queensland coast of Australia. It supports an extraordinary diversity of marine life and is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. \_\_\_\_\_ Coral bleaching events, driven by elevated sea temperatures, have now affected over 50% of the reef's coral cover.

(A) However, this ecological treasure is under severe threat from climate change, ocean acidification, and agricultural runoff.

(B) Australia's tourism industry generates significant revenue from reef-related activities each year.

(C) Coral reefs are often called the 'rainforests of the sea' because of their extraordinary biodiversity.

(D) Marine biologists have catalogued over 1,500 species of fish that inhabit the reef ecosystem.

**Q15.** Propaganda, in its modern sense, is the systematic dissemination of information — often biased or misleading — to promote a particular political agenda or ideology. Totalitarian regimes of the twentieth century deployed it with devastating effect through state-controlled media. \_\_\_\_\_ In the digital age, the tools and reach of propaganda have expanded exponentially, making critical media literacy more urgent than ever.

(A) Yet its techniques — emotional appeal, repetition, and the suppression of counter-narratives — have not fundamentally changed.

(B) Social media companies have introduced fact-checking labels to combat the spread of misinformation.

(C) Academic disciplines such as communication studies, political science, and sociology each analyse propaganda differently.

(D) The word 'propaganda' has its roots in a 17th-century Catholic Church committee tasked with spreading the faith.

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## CATEGORY 2 — FILL IN THE RIGHT WORD (Q16–Q30)

*Each question presents a paragraph with one blank [\_\_\_\_\_]. Four sentence options are given. More than one may appear grammatically plausible at first glance. Choose the ONE that is most precise in logic, tone, and grammatical compatibility.*

**Q16.** The philosopher argued that moral obligations are not derived from divine command but from reason alone. He maintained that rational beings are ends in themselves, not merely means to others' ends. \_\_\_\_\_ This principle became the foundation of an entire tradition of deontological ethics.

(A) Therefore, all moral rules must be tested for universal applicability before they can be considered binding.

(B) Consequently, ethics was reduced to a set of cultural conventions with no universal validity.

(C) This view, however, was rejected by most of his contemporaries who preferred utility-based moral frameworks.

(D) He concluded that morality is ultimately subjective, varying across cultures and historical periods.

**Q17.** Water stress affects nearly two billion people globally. As aquifers are depleted and rivers shrink, agricultural output in already-vulnerable regions is declining. \_\_\_\_\_ The consequences will ripple through global food supply chains, affecting prices and availability far beyond the regions immediately affected.

(A) If current rates of water extraction continue, many major food-producing regions face severe shortages within decades.

(B) Desalination technology has advanced significantly and is now economically viable in several arid nations.

(C) Governments in water-stressed regions have introduced subsidies to encourage water-efficient irrigation methods.

(D) Climate scientists have modelled multiple scenarios for precipitation patterns over the next century.

**Q18.** The novel's narrator is unreliable — a fact the author signals through subtle inconsistencies in the account and the narrator's own defensive tone. Readers are invited to read against the grain, assembling a truer picture from the gaps and contradictions in the telling. \_\_\_\_\_ This deliberate ambiguity is what distinguishes the work as a masterpiece of psychological fiction.

(A) The author seems to sympathise with the narrator's perspective, making the unreliability difficult to detect.

(B) As such, the act of reading itself becomes an act of critical interpretation rather than passive consumption.

(C) Many critics have praised the novel's language while noting the moral complexity of its central character.

(D) Unreliable narration was first theorised by literary critic Wayne C. Booth in his study of narrative rhetoric.

**Q19.** The moon's gravitational pull creates tidal forces that rhythmically raise and lower sea levels around the globe. \_\_\_\_\_ Engineers have now developed tidal energy systems that convert this perpetual mechanical force into electricity, offering a predictable and renewable energy source.

- (A) These tidal patterns have been used by coastal communities for navigation and fishing for millennia.
- (B) The moon is gradually moving away from Earth at approximately 3.8 centimetres per year.
- (C) Unlike solar and wind energy, tidal energy is consistent and unaffected by weather conditions.
- (D) The earliest observations of tidal behaviour were recorded by Babylonian and Greek astronomers.

**Q20.** Bureaucratic red tape is frequently blamed for slowing the implementation of social welfare schemes. In many cases, eligible beneficiaries are unable to access entitlements due to complex documentation requirements and opaque processes. \_\_\_\_\_ Simplifying delivery mechanisms is therefore not merely a matter of administrative efficiency but of social justice.

- (A) Digitisation of government services has reduced processing times in sectors where it has been fully implemented.
- (B) These systemic barriers disproportionately affect those with the least capacity to navigate them.
- (C) Several states have introduced citizen service centres to provide a single point of access to government services.
- (D) Administrative reform has long been a declared priority of successive governments without decisive follow-through.

**Q21.** Satire, at its most potent, is not merely comedic — it is a vehicle for moral and political critique. Swift's 'A Modest Proposal' uses ironic advocacy to expose the callousness of English policy towards the Irish poor. \_\_\_\_\_ What appears to be absurd on the surface reveals, on closer reading, a precise and devastating diagnosis of social hypocrisy.

- (A) The effectiveness of satire depends on the reader's willingness to engage with its subversive premises.
- (B) Similarly, Orwell's 'Animal Farm' uses the fable form to critique the corruption of revolutionary ideals.
- (C) Many readers, encountering Swift's essay for the first time, are unsettled by its unflinching tone.
- (D) Literary historians have noted that satirical writing often flourishes under conditions of political repression.

**Q22.** Vaccine hesitancy — the reluctance or refusal to vaccinate despite availability — poses a growing threat to public health. It is driven by misinformation, distrust of institutions, and in some cases, deeply held ideological

convictions. \_\_\_\_\_ This means that purely scientific communication, while necessary, is insufficient on its own to address the phenomenon.

(A) Research shows that hesitancy is not simply a deficit of information but a product of complex social and psychological factors.

(B) Mandatory vaccination policies have been implemented in several countries with varying degrees of public acceptance.

(C) The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated vaccine development timelines in ways previously thought impossible.

(D) Social media algorithms have been found to amplify vaccine-sceptic content disproportionately.

**Q23.** Economic inequality has risen sharply in most advanced economies over the past four decades. The gains from productivity growth have been captured disproportionately by the top decile of earners. \_\_\_\_\_ The political consequences of this concentration are now visible in the form of rising populism and eroded trust in democratic institutions.

(A) Meanwhile, wages for median workers have stagnated in real terms despite consistent GDP growth.

(B) Tax policy is widely recognised as the most powerful tool for redistributing economic gains.

(C) Several economists have argued that some degree of inequality is necessary to incentivise innovation.

(D) International trade has reshaped labour markets in both developed and developing economies.

**Q24.** The printing press did not merely democratise access to text — it fundamentally altered the relationship between knowledge, authority, and power. Before Gutenberg, the reproduction of manuscripts was controlled by ecclesiastical institutions. \_\_\_\_\_ This disruption triggered centuries of religious, scientific, and political transformation.

(A) The press made it possible to disseminate ideas faster and more widely than any institution could control.

(B) Literacy rates in Europe began to rise significantly in the century following the introduction of print.

(C) The Protestant Reformation relied heavily on printed pamphlets to spread reformist theology.

(D) Gutenberg's bible, completed around 1455, is considered one of the most valuable books in existence.

**Q25.** Language shapes thought — or so the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis proposes. In its strong form, it argues that the language one speaks determines the categories in which one can think. \_\_\_\_\_ The weak version, however — that language influences but does not determine thought — has received considerable empirical support.

- (A) This strong version has been largely discredited; speakers of different languages can clearly conceptualise similar ideas.
- (B) Researchers have found that colour perception varies somewhat across speakers of different languages.
- (C) Noam Chomsky proposed, by contrast, that all languages share a universal underlying grammar.
- (D) Linguistic relativity remains a contested and actively researched area in cognitive science today.

**Q26.** The debate over capital punishment is one of the oldest in jurisprudence. Retributivists argue that some crimes are so heinous they warrant the ultimate penalty. \_\_\_\_\_. Neither position is easily resolved by appeal to empirical data alone, since the disagreement is fundamentally about moral values.

- (A) Abolitionists counter that the state should never arrogate to itself the irreversible power to end a human life.
- (B) Studies on the deterrent effect of capital punishment have produced contradictory findings across jurisdictions.
- (C) Over 100 countries have now abolished capital punishment in law or in practice.
- (D) The concept of proportionality in punishment dates to the Babylonian Code of Hammurabi.

**Q27.** The decline of biodiversity is not merely an ecological concern but an economic one. Ecosystem services — pollination, water purification, carbon sequestration, soil fertility — underpin agricultural and industrial productivity worldwide. \_\_\_\_\_. Valuing nature only when it is absent, it turns out, is a chronically expensive policy.

- (A) The economic cost of biodiversity loss has been estimated in the trillions of dollars annually by leading environmental economists.
- (B) Yet these services are systematically excluded from conventional economic accounting and GDP calculations.
- (C) Wetlands, forests, and coral reefs provide ecosystem services that no human technology can fully replicate.
- (D) Conservation biologists have called for the integration of biodiversity metrics into national income accounts.

**Q28.** Mindfulness — defined broadly as non-judgmental present-moment awareness — has moved from Buddhist meditation practice into clinical psychology, corporate training, and educational curricula. \_\_\_\_\_. Critics

caution, however, that its commercialisation has stripped it of its ethical and contemplative dimensions, reducing a profound practice to a stress-management technique.

(A) Clinical trials have shown that mindfulness-based cognitive therapy significantly reduces relapse rates in depression.

(B) Its mainstream adoption reflects both genuine therapeutic efficacy and effective marketing by the wellness industry.

(C) Several major corporations now offer mindfulness programmes as part of their employee wellbeing initiatives.

(D) Jon Kabat-Zinn is credited with introducing mindfulness into Western clinical medicine in the late 1970s.

**Q29.** Antibiotic resistance is widely regarded by epidemiologists as one of the most serious threats to global public health. The misuse and overuse of antibiotics — in human medicine and in livestock farming — has accelerated the evolution of resistant bacterial strains. \_\_\_\_\_ Without effective antibiotics, routine surgeries, chemotherapy, and the management of common infections become life-threatening.

(A) If unchecked, resistance could render the medical advances of the past century progressively obsolete.

(B) Several pharmaceutical companies have withdrawn from antibiotic research due to insufficient commercial returns.

(C) The WHO has published a priority pathogen list to guide antibiotic research and development priorities.

(D) Agricultural use of antibiotics as growth promoters has been banned in the European Union since 2006.

**Q30.** The rise of streaming platforms has irrevocably altered the economics of the entertainment industry. Content creators can now bypass traditional gatekeepers — networks, studios, and distributors — and reach audiences directly. \_\_\_\_\_ Yet this apparent democratisation coexists with an unprecedented concentration of market power among a handful of dominant platforms.

(A) Subscription models have allowed niche content to find and sustain audiences that broadcast television could never have served.

(B) Traditional broadcasters have seen steep declines in viewership as audiences migrate to on-demand services.

(C) The shift to streaming has created new financing models, with platforms investing heavily in original content.

(D) Music streaming has similarly disrupted the recording industry, transforming revenue from sales to per-stream royalties.

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### CATEGORY 3 — CHOOSE THE CORRECT SENTENCE (Q31–Q45)

*Each question provides a paragraph with one blank and four complete sentence options. Only ONE is correct. Select it and be ready to explain precisely why each of the other three fails.*

**Q31.** Deforestation in the Amazon basin has accelerated at an alarming pace over the past decade. Vast tracts of forest are cleared annually for agriculture, cattle ranching, and mining. \_\_\_\_\_ Scientists warn that the region is approaching a tipping point beyond which recovery may be impossible.

- (A) These industries generate significant tax revenue for the Brazilian government each year.
- (B) In addition, logging of rare timber species for export markets contributes substantially to forest loss.
- (C) However, satellite data has also shown pockets of forest regrowth in previously cleared areas.
- (D) Conservationists have proposed a complete moratorium on all economic activity within the basin.

**Q32.** The industrial revolution transformed not only the productive capacity of societies but also their social fabric. \_\_\_\_\_ The urban working class that emerged from this transformation eventually became the driving force behind labour rights movements.

- (A) It led to the rapid urbanisation of populations previously employed in subsistence agriculture.
- (B) Steam-powered machinery dramatically reduced the cost of textile production throughout Europe.
- (C) Child labour, though widely practised at the time, was gradually curtailed through legislative reform.
- (D) Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published the Communist Manifesto in 1848, during this period.

**Q33.** Despite decades of progress in gender equality legislation, the wage gap between men and women persists across most sectors and geographies. \_\_\_\_\_ Structural factors — including occupational segregation, career interruption for caregiving, and unconscious bias in promotion decisions — account for a substantial portion of the disparity.

- (A) Some researchers argue that the raw wage gap overstates discrimination by not accounting for differences in occupation and hours worked.
- (B) Women now outnumber men in higher education enrolment in many countries, a historic reversal.
- (C) Legislative mandates for pay transparency have been introduced in several European jurisdictions.
- (D) Cultural attitudes towards gender roles continue to influence career choices from an early age.

**Q34.** Quantum computing harnesses the principles of quantum mechanics — superposition and entanglement — to perform calculations that would take classical computers millions of years. \_\_\_\_\_ Once realised at scale, this capability could revolutionise fields from cryptography to drug discovery.

- (A) Classical computers process information in binary bits, each representing either a 0 or a 1.
- (B) Unlike classical bits, quantum bits or qubits can represent 0 and 1 simultaneously, enabling vast parallelism.
- (C) Research institutions and technology companies have invested billions of dollars in quantum hardware development.
- (D) The first working quantum computer was demonstrated by researchers at IBM in the early 2000s.

**Q35.** Access to clean drinking water remains one of the most basic and most persistently unfulfilled human rights. In sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, hundreds of millions of people rely on contaminated surface water, leading to preventable diseases. \_\_\_\_\_ Investment in water infrastructure must therefore be treated as a development priority, not a discretionary expenditure.

- (A) International aid organisations have funded numerous water and sanitation projects with mixed results.
- (B) The economic cost of waterborne diseases — in lost productivity, healthcare expenditure, and premature mortality — runs into hundreds of billions annually.
- (C) The United Nations designated access to clean water a human right in a 2010 General Assembly resolution.
- (D) Private sector involvement in water supply has been both praised for its efficiency and criticised for excluding the poor.

**Q36.** The concept of 'planned obsolescence' — the deliberate design of products to become outdated or non-functional within a predictable timeframe — has shaped consumer electronics for decades. Manufacturers benefit from shortened replacement cycles. \_\_\_\_ This dynamic has generated a growing electronic waste crisis with serious environmental consequences.

- (A) Consumers, in turn, face pressure to upgrade devices even when their current ones function adequately.
- (B) The right-to-repair movement has gained momentum as consumers demand the ability to fix their own devices.
- (C) E-waste contains hazardous materials including lead, mercury, and cadmium that leach into soil and groundwater.
- (D) Several countries have introduced extended producer responsibility regulations to address e-waste.

**Q37.** The placebo effect — improvements in patient outcomes caused by the belief that one has received an effective treatment — is one of the most intriguing phenomena in medicine. \_\_\_\_ Far from being a nuisance to be controlled in clinical trials, it reveals the profound connection between mental state and physical health.

- (A) It has been documented across a wide range of conditions, from chronic pain to depression to Parkinson's disease.
- (B) Clinical trials use placebo controls to isolate the specific effect of the treatment being tested.
- (C) The word 'placebo' comes from Latin, meaning 'I shall please', and was used in medieval prayer rituals.
- (D) Some researchers argue that placebo responses can be triggered even when patients know they are receiving a placebo.

**Q38.** Nuclear energy currently provides approximately 10% of the world's electricity and emits virtually no greenhouse gases during operation. \_\_\_\_ As the world urgently seeks to decarbonise its energy systems, the role of nuclear power has become the subject of fierce debate.

- (A) However, it remains controversial due to concerns about radioactive waste disposal, high construction costs, and the catastrophic risk of accidents.
- (B) Countries such as France and South Korea have historically derived over 70% of their electricity from nuclear sources.

(C) The Chernobyl disaster of 1986 and the Fukushima incident of 2011 severely damaged public confidence in nuclear technology.

(D) Small modular reactors represent a new generation of nuclear technology that proponents argue is safer and more flexible.

**Q39.** Digital surveillance technologies — facial recognition, predictive policing algorithms, and mass data interception — are increasingly deployed by governments in the name of security. \_\_\_\_\_ The tension between security imperatives and civil liberties is at the heart of some of the most consequential policy debates of the twenty-first century.

(A) However, these technologies are often deployed with limited legal oversight, raising serious concerns about privacy and democratic accountability.

(B) Authoritarian governments have been the most enthusiastic adopters of mass surveillance infrastructure.

(C) Technology companies that supply surveillance tools have faced growing pressure from civil society organisations.

(D) Data protection legislation such as the GDPR in Europe has placed some constraints on private data collection.

**Q40.** The opioid crisis in the United States has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives over the past two decades. It began with the aggressive and often misleading marketing of prescription opioids, particularly OxyContin, as non-addictive pain treatments. \_\_\_\_\_ The crisis illustrates the catastrophic consequences that can result when commercial incentives override regulatory responsibility.

(A) As dependency spread, many individuals transitioned to illicit opioids such as heroin and fentanyl when prescriptions became restricted.

(B) The pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma pleaded guilty to criminal charges and agreed to pay billions in settlements.

(C) Harm reduction strategies such as naloxone distribution and needle exchange programmes have been shown to save lives.

(D) Several US states have filed lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies.

**Q41.** Photography, since its invention in the 19th century, has carried the presumption of objectivity — the camera, unlike the painter, does not embellish. \_\_\_\_\_ The choices of framing, lighting, timing, and captioning are all acts of interpretation that shape what a photograph means to its viewer.

- (A) Yet this assumption is fundamentally misleading: every photograph is the product of multiple deliberate choices.
- (B) Digital editing software has dramatically expanded the range of manipulations available to photographers.
- (C) Photojournalists are bound by ethical codes that prohibit the staging or alteration of documentary images.
- (D) Susan Sontag's 'On Photography' remains one of the most influential critical analyses of the medium.

**Q42.** Migration — the movement of people across borders in search of safety, opportunity, or family — is among the defining issues of contemporary political life. Receiving countries experience both economic benefits and social tensions. \_\_\_\_\_ The challenge for democratic societies is to develop migration policies that are both effective and consistent with their stated commitments to human dignity.

- (A) The economic contribution of migrants is well documented: they fill labour market gaps, pay taxes, and often display high entrepreneurial activity.
- (B) Anti-immigration political parties have gained electoral ground in several European countries over the past decade.
- (C) The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a refugee and establishes the principle of non-refoulement.
- (D) Border enforcement expenditure in the United States has increased by several hundred percent since the 1990s.

**Q43.** The concept of cultural appropriation refers to the adoption of elements of one culture by members of another, typically where there is a significant power differential. \_\_\_\_\_ The line between appreciation, which involves respectful engagement, and appropriation, which exploits without acknowledgement, remains contested and context-dependent.

- (A) Critics argue that it perpetuates stereotypes and profits from cultural elements while the originating community continues to face discrimination.
- (B) Globalisation has accelerated the cross-cultural exchange of food, music, fashion, and language.

(C) Several fashion houses have faced public backlash for using culturally specific designs without crediting their origins.

(D) Anthropologists have long documented how cultures borrow from and influence one another throughout history.

**Q44.** Homelessness is not simply a consequence of individual failure — it is the product of systemic factors including housing affordability, mental health service gaps, substance dependence, and domestic violence.

\_\_\_\_\_ Effective policy responses therefore require coordinated action across housing, health, and social services rather than punitive or criminalising approaches.

(A) Research consistently shows that 'Housing First' programmes — which provide immediate stable housing — produce better outcomes than shelter-based models.

(B) The visible concentration of homeless individuals in urban centres has become a politically contentious issue in many cities.

(C) Charitable organisations play an important role in meeting immediate needs but cannot substitute for systemic policy.

(D) Veterans, formerly incarcerated individuals, and those who have aged out of foster care are disproportionately represented in homeless populations.

**Q45.** The Anthropocene — a proposed geological epoch marking the era in which human activity became the dominant force shaping Earth's systems — has entered mainstream scientific and cultural discourse. \_\_\_\_\_ Its official adoption as a geological epoch remains pending ratification by the appropriate scientific bodies, but the concept has already profoundly reframed how we think about human responsibility toward the planet.

(A) The term was popularised by atmospheric chemist Paul Crutzen, who argued that the Industrial Revolution marks the epoch's beginning.

(B) Geologists define epochs by identifying distinct signals preserved in rock strata, and the Anthropocene's marker — radioactive fallout from nuclear tests — is clearly detectable.

(C) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and ocean acidification are among the primary features of this new epoch.

(D) Whether the Anthropocene began with agriculture, industrialisation, or the atomic age remains a matter of scientific debate.

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### CATEGORY 4 — ANALYSE, REWRITE & EXPLAIN (Q46–Q60)

*Each question requires deep analytical engagement. Tasks include identifying the flaw in a paragraph completion attempt, rewriting for coherence, identifying competing grammatical or logical rules, and explaining the structural role of the missing sentence.*

**Q46.** A student completed the following paragraph by inserting option (C). Identify the error in this choice and explain which option should have been selected and why.

Paragraph: 'The Roman Empire's longevity is often attributed to its administrative genius — a vast network of roads, a standardised legal system, and a professional military. \_\_\_\_\_. Yet even these institutions could not prevent the empire's eventual decline, driven by economic strain, political instability, and external pressure.'

Options given: (A) These systems allowed Rome to govern an empire spanning three continents effectively for centuries. (B) Rome's influence on modern legal systems, languages, and architecture cannot be overstated. (C) The fall of Rome in 476 AD is generally considered the end of the Western Roman Empire. (D) Provincial governance was delegated to appointed administrators who reported directly to the emperor.

**Q47.** The following paragraph has been completed incorrectly. Identify which sentence was inserted, explain precisely why it is wrong, and provide a corrected version of the paragraph with the most logical sentence inserted.

Paragraph: 'Renewable energy sources — solar, wind, and hydroelectric — are increasingly cost-competitive with fossil fuels. [INSERTED SENTENCE]. The transition to clean energy is therefore no longer a question of technological feasibility but of political will and investment priority.'

Inserted sentence: 'Coal remains the single largest source of electricity generation globally.'

**Q48.** Read the paragraph below. The blank is the concluding sentence. Four options are provided. Two are subtly wrong for reasons beyond surface grammar. Identify all four options' flaws or merits and select the best.

Paragraph: 'The principle of judicial independence holds that courts must be free from interference by the executive and legislative branches of government. Where this independence is compromised — whether through executive pressure, inadequate funding, or judicial appointments driven by political loyalty — the rule of law is undermined. \_\_\_\_\_'

Options: (A) Thus, protecting judicial independence is not a procedural nicety but a prerequisite for a functioning democracy. (B) Consequently, many nations have enshrined judicial independence in their constitutions to prevent such abuses. (C) However, judicial activism — when judges interpret law expansively — is equally threatening to democratic governance. (D) Therefore, the selection of judges must be depoliticised and based on merit, qualification, and professional standing.

**Q49.** The paragraph below has three sentences. The second sentence (the blank) is missing. Two students proposed different completions. Evaluate both and explain which is superior and why.

Paragraph: 'The invention of writing was one of the most consequential developments in human history, enabling the accumulation and transmission of knowledge across generations. \_\_\_\_\_ This transformation laid the foundation for organised religion, legal codes, literature, and eventually science.'

Student A's completion: 'Writing systems emerged independently in Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and Mesoamerica, suggesting it arose from universal cognitive development.'

Student B's completion: 'For the first time, ideas, agreements, and narratives could be recorded and communicated beyond the limits of human memory and oral tradition.'

**Q50.** The following paragraph contains a logical gap between its second and third sentences. Write the missing sentence and explain how it bridges the two ideas.

Paragraph: 'The popularity of ultra-processed food has increased dramatically in low- and middle-income countries as urbanisation and rising incomes bring lifestyle changes. \_\_\_\_\_ Non-communicable diseases such as type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease now represent the leading causes of death in many of these same countries.'

**Q51.** A paragraph completion task presents the following paragraph with the opening sentence missing. The four options are given below. Identify which two are impossible for an opening sentence on grammatical or structural grounds alone, then select the best option from the remaining two.

Options: (A) 'This pattern of behaviour, first documented in the 1980s, continues to define corporate responses to environmental regulation.' (B) 'Corporate resistance to environmental regulation follows a predictable pattern: initial denial, then lobbying, then gradual compliance once alternatives are exhausted.' (C) 'Moreover, this dynamic is reinforced by the close relationship between regulatory agencies and the industries they are meant to oversee.' (D) 'Environmental regulations have consistently been opposed by the corporate sector on grounds of cost and competitiveness.'

**Q52.** The following paragraph is missing its third sentence (of five). Identify, with reasoning, which of the four options correctly fills the blank without disrupting the argument's logical chain.

Paragraph: 'Art has always been a site of political contestation. Authoritarian regimes have historically sought to control cultural production, commissioning propagandistic work and censoring dissent. \_\_\_\_\_ This pattern suggests that art's power to challenge authority is precisely what makes it so threatening to those who hold power. Underground art movements, from Soviet samizdat literature to anti-apartheid music, demonstrate that creativity cannot be fully suppressed.'

Options: (A) Artists who comply with state demands often receive resources and official recognition unavailable to their independent counterparts. (B) Conversely, artists who refuse to conform are frequently persecuted — imprisoned, exiled, or silenced by less overt means. (C) The relationship between art and politics has been theorised by thinkers from Plato to Antonio Gramsci. (D) Postmodern art deliberately resists political interpretation, preferring irony and self-referentiality over direct engagement.

**Q53.** Two paragraphs are given below, each with a different sentence inserted in the blank. Explain why the same sentence works in one paragraph but not the other.

Paragraph A: 'Economic growth alone does not guarantee human development. Access to healthcare, education, and social security determines quality of life far more than GDP per capita. [SENTENCE]. Countries with high GDPs but inadequate social provision rank poorly on human development indices.'

Paragraph B: 'The government's fiscal policy has focused primarily on stimulating GDP growth through infrastructure investment. [SENTENCE]. Critics argue that social spending must be prioritised alongside growth to address rising inequality.'

Sentence inserted in both: 'The Human Development Index, developed by the UNDP, captures dimensions of wellbeing beyond economic output.'

**Q54.** A paragraph on the 'tragedy of the commons' ends with the following sentence: 'Without governance mechanisms, rational individual behaviour collectively produces irrational outcomes at the group level.' Four candidate sentences are offered for the blank BEFORE this conclusion. For each candidate, explain whether it can logically precede this conclusion and why.

Candidate 1: 'Garrett Hardin first articulated this concept in his 1968 essay in the journal Science.'

Candidate 2: 'Each individual herder, acting in self-interest, adds more cattle to shared land, leading collectively to overgrazing and ruin.'

Candidate 3: 'Elinor Ostrom won the Nobel Prize for showing that communities can self-regulate commons without government intervention.'

Candidate 4: 'This is why state ownership of natural resources has consistently outperformed private or communal management.'

**Q55.** The paragraph below uses a contrastive argument structure (Claim → Counter-evidence → Reaffirmed claim). Identify which of the four options correctly fills the blank as the counter-evidence sentence.

Paragraph: 'Social media has been widely credited with enabling political mobilisation and democratic expression across the globe. \_\_\_\_\_ The net effect of social media on democratic health remains, at best, deeply ambiguous.'

Options: (A) The Arab Spring of 2011 demonstrated how social media could coordinate mass protest against authoritarian regimes. (B) Yet the same platforms have also been used to spread disinformation, incite sectarian violence, and enable surveillance. (C) Platform algorithms prioritise engagement, which often means that extreme or emotionally charged content is amplified. (D) Therefore, regulating social media content has become one of the most contested policy questions of the digital age.

**Q56.** Correct and rewrite the following completed paragraph, explaining all errors in the choice of inserted sentence.

*'The philosophy of utilitarianism holds that the right action is the one that produces the greatest happiness for the greatest number. [INSERTED: However, critics argue that it can justify morally repugnant acts if they produce a net gain in overall welfare — for instance, torturing one person to save five.] This insight challenges the foundations of utilitarian calculus.'* — A student marked this as having an incorrectly chosen insertion, but a second student disagreed, saying the insertion is correct. Who is right, and why?

**Q57.** The following paragraph has the correct answer inserted but the paragraph has an internal inconsistency introduced by the surrounding sentences. Identify the inconsistency and explain how it affects the inserted sentence's coherence.

Paragraph: 'The benefits of bilingual education are well documented in cognitive research. Children who learn two languages simultaneously demonstrate superior executive function and metalinguistic awareness. [CORRECT INSERTION: This cognitive advantage extends into adulthood, with bilingual individuals showing delayed onset of dementia symptoms.] However, research into bilingual education also suggests that it may slow initial literacy development in the dominant language.'

**Q58.** Four different paragraphs each have a blank. The same sentence — 'This, however, does not mean that all forms of government intervention are equally effective or desirable' — is proposed as the completion for all four. Evaluate whether this sentence can serve as the inserted sentence for each paragraph below, and explain precisely why it works or does not work in each case.

Paragraph 1 (blank in middle): 'Market failures occur when the free market produces inefficient or inequitable outcomes. \_\_\_\_\_ The design and calibration of interventions must be guided by evidence and adapted to context.'

Paragraph 2 (blank at end): 'Economists broadly agree that the state has a legitimate role in addressing market failures through regulation and public provision. \_\_\_\_\_'

Paragraph 3 (blank at start): '\_\_\_\_\_ Some interventions, such as price ceilings, can create shortages; others, such as targeted subsidies, can achieve distributional goals without distorting incentives.'

Paragraph 4 (blank at end): 'The state should stay out of economic affairs entirely. Every intervention crowds out private initiative and distorts market signals. \_\_\_\_\_'

**Q59.** A paragraph completion task presents a passage in which all four options are grammatically correct. Explain the analytical process you would use to select the single correct option, using the passage and options below as your working example.

Passage: 'The spread of English as a global lingua franca has generated considerable debate among linguists, educators, and policymakers. Some view it as a vehicle of opportunity; others as a form of cultural imperialism that marginalises indigenous languages. \_\_\_\_\_'

Options: (A) English is the official or co-official language in over 60 countries and is studied as a foreign language in most of the world's educational systems. (B) The dominance of English in international science, business, and diplomacy creates structural advantages for native speakers. (C) This tension is unlikely to be resolved soon; the trajectory of language shift is rarely reversed once it reaches a critical mass. (D) Efforts to promote multilingual education and protect endangered languages represent an important counter-movement to English hegemony.

**Q60.** The following passage has been constructed with a deliberate structural flaw: the inserted sentence, while logically related to the topic, creates an argumentative non sequitur. Identify the flaw, explain why it disrupts the paragraph, and rewrite the paragraph with a corrected inserted sentence.

Paragraph: 'Democratic backsliding — the gradual erosion of democratic norms, institutions, and practices from within — has emerged as one of the defining political phenomena of the 21st century. Unlike traditional coups, it proceeds through formally legal means: the weaponisation of electoral machinery, the politicisation of judiciaries, and the systematic intimidation of civil society. [INSERTED: The United States, Hungary, Brazil, Turkey, and India have all been cited by democracy indices as experiencing democratic backsliding to varying degrees.] The insidious nature of this process is that it often proceeds below the threshold of international crisis response, normalising each incremental erosion before the next.'

## **PRACTICE QUESTIONS — PART 2 (All 60 Detailed Answers)**

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Full explanations for every question. For MCQs: the correct option is identified and justified, and every incorrect option is explained. Category headings match Part 1.

### **CATEGORY 1 — SPOT THE MISMATCH: Answers (Q1–Q15)**

**Q1. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between a discussion of the divided opinions on smartphone use and the conclusion that schools need a balanced policy. Option A — noting that research supports regulated use — bridges the two sides of the debate with evidence-based nuance, directly informing the policy conclusion that follows. Option B introduces the history of smartphones, which is irrelevant to the educational debate and introduces a topic shift. Option C talks about student preferences for video, which is a tangential concern not aligned with the paragraph's focus on the policy debate. Option D introduces a government ban proposal — a new, unrelated policy position that contradicts the paragraph's call for a 'balanced' approach.*

**Q2. Ans:** Correct Option: (B)

*This is an opening blank. The sentences that follow discuss specific evidence (melting glaciers, rising sea levels, threat to coastal regions). The opener must introduce the broad topic. Option B — framing climate change as a 'measurable, existential crisis' — correctly sets the theme and leads into the specific evidence. Option A discusses economic consequences, which is not developed in the paragraph. Option C mentions government inaction, which shifts the focus to political behaviour rather than the physical phenomenon described. Option D mentions oceanographic research history — an interesting fact but completely disconnected from the paragraph's focus on current crisis impacts.*

**Q3. Ans:** Correct Option: (B)

*The paragraph discusses English borrowing from multiple languages, then the blank, then the conclusion that this flexibility made English a global lingua franca. The blank must logically connect 'borrowing and*

*adaptation' with 'linguistic flexibility'. Option B — noting that despite the blending, English retained its identity — provides the key logical step: it was the combination of openness and coherence that created flexibility. Option A directly contradicts the paragraph by calling English 'the most regular and rule-bound' — the opposite of what the paragraph implies. Option C states how many people speak English, which is a fact but does not bridge the borrowing history with the 'flexibility' conclusion. Option D gives historical background about French, which is off-topic and introduces an irrelevant comparison.*

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**Q4. Ans:** Correct Option: (B)

*The blank falls between the claim that AI detects cancers earlier than radiologists and the note that 'the technology remains controversial'. The blank must provide a specific piece of evidence that supports the paragraph's positive claim, creating a clear contrast with the controversy that follows. Option B — citing a specific study with 94% accuracy — perfectly illustrates the claim with concrete evidence before the 'despite' turn. Option A discusses hospital infrastructure gaps, which supports the 'controversial' side, disrupting the logical sequence. Option C discusses medical training duration — relevant to doctors, not to the capability of AI systems being discussed. Option D shifts to pharmaceutical AI investment, a tangential topic that does not illustrate the diagnostic capability being discussed.*

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**Q5. Ans:** Correct Option: (B)

*The blank falls between a sentence listing ecological functions of green spaces and a conclusion that planners who ignore these spaces make a 'costly error'. The blank must reinforce the case for green spaces' importance. Option B — adding the heat island buffer function and energy savings — extends the list of functional benefits coherently using 'moreover', strengthening the case for the conclusion. Option A mentions resident stress reduction — a social benefit, not ecosystem/infrastructure function, so it disrupts the scientific framing. Option C is a historical comment about park design for the affluent, which contradicts the paragraph's argument that these spaces serve broad public functions. Option D discusses landscaping contracts as a commercial sector — completely off-topic and shifting to economic/industry framing.*

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**Q6. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

The blank falls between the observation that microplastics are found everywhere and the statement that health implications are 'only beginning to be understood'. The blank must logically explain how microplastics get into these remote environments — their pathway. Option A explains the entry routes (industrial discharge, textile washing, degraded packaging), bridging the presence observation with the health concern. Option B provides plastic's invention history — irrelevant to the paragraph's focus on environmental contamination pathways. Option C discusses inadequate recycling infrastructure — a related concern but not a direct explanation of how microplastics enter the described environments. Option D discusses consumer campaigns — again relevant to plastic reduction but not to explaining microplastic distribution or health implications.

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**Q7. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

The blank falls between the general claim that EI leadership improves retention and productivity and the acknowledgement that measuring EI is a 'methodological challenge'. The blank must provide a specific illustration of EI's benefits before the qualification. Option A — teams showing cohesion and adaptability under EI leadership — provides the specific organisational benefit that justifies the paragraph's positive framing. Option B discusses IQ tests as predictors — an implicit contrast, but one that is not signalled by the text and introduces an off-topic comparison. Option C mentions popular books on EI — true and related, but it introduces popularity rather than substantive organisational outcomes. Option D notes HR prioritising technical skills — this contradicts the paragraph's positive framing of EI without the necessary rhetorical signal (like 'despite this').

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**Q8. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

This is a closing blank. The paragraph argues that investment in intellectual capital yields greater returns than physical infrastructure. The conclusion must reinforce this argument with evidence or a synthesising statement. Option A — nations prioritising human capital outperform others in long-run economic indices — is a synthesising evidence statement that directly confirms the paragraph's core claim. Option B introduces a counterargument about physical infrastructure — plausible as a debate point, but the paragraph is not structured as a debate; this would disrupt its argumentative direction. Option C provides historical context about the term's origin — informative but introduces new information instead of concluding. Option D notes

*tech companies' stock market weight — tangentially related to 'intellectual capital' but does not conclude the argument about investment returns.*

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**Q9. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the opening claim about the Mauryan Empire's size at its zenith and the specific detail about Ashoka's campaign in Kalinga. The blank must provide a factual bridge about the empire's geographical extent, which logically 'shows' what 'one of the largest polities' means. Option A — territory from Afghanistan to southern India — provides the geographical detail that grounds the claim of size. Option B introduces Chandragupta and Chanakya — correct historical information, but the paragraph is specifically about Ashoka, so this introduces an unconnected sub-topic. Option C discusses Buddhist philosophy of liberation — off-topic within this paragraph's historical-administrative focus. Option D mentions Ashoka's rock edicts — interesting, but this fact belongs after the Kalinga transformation is described, not before it.*

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**Q10. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the positive case for press freedom (accountability, informing citizens, debate) and the conclusion that without it, democracies risk eroding. The blank must acknowledge a threat to press independence, providing the logical tension that makes the conclusion meaningful. Option A — noting that media consolidation by corporate or political interests compromises independence — introduces the very threat that the conclusion warns against, creating a coherent structure. Option B discusses harassment of journalists — a related but more specific concern that doesn't directly address the structural threat to independence. Option C notes digital media lowering barriers — this is positive, counterpointing the concern without the argument needing it. Option D discusses advertising revenue decline — a commercial concern, not a threat to editorial independence per se.*

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**Q11. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*This is an opening blank. The sentences that follow discuss physiological responses to altitude (reduced oxygen, red blood cell production) and deliberate use in training. The opener must introduce the topic: the relationship between altitude and human physiology. Option A — 'the relationship between altitude and*

*human physiology has been extensively studied' — correctly introduces the topic that the following sentences substantiate. Option B discusses Mount Everest as a mountaineering challenge — related to altitude but about extreme sport aspiration, not physiological adaptation. Option C discusses East African runners' dominance — related to distance running but introduces genetics, not altitude physiology. Option D discusses oxygen supplementation in medical settings — medical use of oxygen is a completely different context from altitude training.*

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**Q12. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the apparent exchange in the gig economy (flexibility for workers, lower costs for employers) and the labour rights critique. The blank must introduce the logical pivot: revealing the imbalance behind the apparent exchange. Option A — 'this apparent exchange conceals a profound asymmetry: the worker bears all the risk' — is precisely the pivot point that connects the surface-level description to the labour critique. Option B identifies specific gig platforms — descriptive and true, but provides no analytical pivot toward the labour rights issue. Option C notes that gig workers hold multiple income streams — a descriptive consequence, but it does not introduce the 'asymmetry' that drives the critique. Option D discusses tax enforcement on self-employed workers — a tangential administrative concern unrelated to the labour rights argument.*

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**Q13. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the explanation of confirmation bias (favouring confirming information) and the statement that awareness doesn't automatically correct biases. The blank must add another bias as a further example — the word 'similarly' should signal this. Option A — describing the availability heuristic as causing overestimation of memorable events — is introduced with 'Similarly', correctly adding a parallel example of a second cognitive bias. Option B provides historical context about Kahneman and Tversky — informative but a digression from the examples-of-biases structure. Option C discusses rational choice theory — a different theoretical framework, not an example of bias. Option D mentions meditation and mindfulness — a suggested remedy, but the paragraph explicitly states that awareness is a 'first step', implying the remedies come later.*

**Q14. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the description of the reef's size and UNESCO status and the specific threat data (50% coral bleaching). It must introduce the general threat before the specific evidence is given. Option A — 'under severe threat from climate change, ocean acidification, and agricultural runoff' — correctly introduces the general category of threats, of which coral bleaching (in the next sentence) is one specific manifestation. Option B discusses tourism revenue — relevant to the reef's value but does not connect to the threat narrative. Option C provides the 'rainforests of the sea' metaphor about biodiversity — descriptive, but the paragraph already implied biodiversity in its opening; this adds no logical step. Option D gives a species count — supporting biodiversity, not introducing the threat narrative that follows.*

**Q15. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the observation that totalitarian regimes used propaganda through state-controlled media and the conclusion that digital-age propaganda is more dangerous than ever. The blank must bridge these two points by noting what has persisted (the techniques) even as the medium has changed. Option A — 'its techniques — emotional appeal, repetition, suppression of counter-narratives — have not fundamentally changed' — is the precise logical bridge: techniques are constant, while reach has expanded (next sentence). Option B discusses social media fact-checking — a contemporary response, not a bridge between historical and digital propaganda. Option C notes that different disciplines study propaganda differently — an academic observation with no structural role in this argument. Option D gives the etymology of 'propaganda' — an interesting aside, but it introduces new information rather than bridging the paragraph's historical-to-digital transition.*

## CATEGORY 2 — FILL IN THE RIGHT WORD: Answers (Q16–Q30)

**Q16. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The paragraph argues that morality is derived from reason, that rational beings are ends in themselves, and that this became 'the foundation of deontological ethics'. The blank must present the logical consequence of*

the 'ends in themselves' premise that leads to this foundation. Option A — that moral rules must be universally applicable (the categorical imperative) — is precisely the logical step from 'rational beings as ends' to 'deontological foundation'. Option B contradicts the paragraph: if ethics is merely cultural convention with 'no universal validity', it cannot become the foundation of a tradition. Option C introduces a counter-claim about contemporaries rejecting the view — this is contradicted by the final sentence confirming the view became foundational. Option D says the philosopher concluded morality is 'ultimately subjective' — a direct contradiction of the paragraph's rationalist premise.

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**Q17. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

The blank falls between 'agricultural output in vulnerable regions is declining' and 'consequences will ripple through global food supply chains'. The blank must project the trajectory — what happens next — that would produce those ripple effects. Option A — 'if current extraction rates continue, food-producing regions face severe shortages' — is the projective statement that creates the direct causal link to global supply chain consequences. Option B discusses desalination as a solution — plausible for water stress but contradicts the paragraph's negative trajectory and disrupts logical flow. Option C mentions government subsidy initiatives — a policy response, not a projection of the threatened outcome. Option D notes climate scientists' modelling — related but vague; it doesn't provide the specific projection that justifies the 'consequences will ripple' sentence.

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**Q18. Ans:** Correct Option: (B)

The blank falls between the description of an unreliable narrator (with gaps and contradictions) and the final sentence calling this ambiguity the mark of a 'masterpiece'. The blank must draw out the implication of the unreliability for the reader's experience. Option B — 'the act of reading becomes an act of critical interpretation rather than passive consumption' — correctly identifies what the unreliability demands of the reader, linking the narrative technique to the evaluative conclusion. Option A contradicts the paragraph: it says the author 'seems to sympathise', making unreliability 'hard to detect' — but the paragraph explicitly says the author 'signals' the unreliability through 'subtle inconsistencies'. Option C notes critics' praise — a supportive but generic observation that doesn't advance the analytical argument. Option D gives theoretical

*history of unreliable narration — introduces new external information instead of synthesising the paragraph's internal argument.*

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**Q19. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the description of tidal forces raising and lowering sea levels and the sentence about engineers developing tidal energy systems. The blank must bridge the physical phenomenon with its engineering application. Option A — 'tidal patterns have been used for navigation and fishing for millennia' — provides the historical bridge showing that humans have always leveraged tidal cycles, making the engineering application a natural next step. Option B notes the moon is moving away — a scientific fact but entirely unrelated to the paragraph's focus on human use of tidal energy. Option C compares tidal energy's consistency to solar and wind — this anticipates the engineering application's benefits but logically belongs after the engineering application is introduced. Option D discusses ancient astronomical observation of tides — an interesting historical note but about scientific observation, not human use of tidal patterns.*

---

**Q20. Ans:** Correct Option: (B)

*The blank falls between the observation that eligible beneficiaries cannot access entitlements due to complex processes and the conclusion that simplifying delivery is a matter of 'social justice'. The blank must explain why — specifically, who is most affected — to justify the 'social justice' framing. Option B — 'these systemic barriers disproportionately affect those with the least capacity to navigate them' — directly connects the bureaucratic barriers to the most vulnerable, providing the logical justification for the 'social justice' conclusion. Option A discusses digitisation's success — a positive note about solutions, but it pre-empts the conclusion and doesn't justify the 'social justice' frame. Option C describes citizen service centres — another solution-oriented observation that doesn't address the equity dimension. Option D criticises governments for not following through — a political critique that introduces an accusatory tone not established in the paragraph.*

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**Q21. Ans:** Correct Option: (B)

The blank falls between the description of Swift's satirical technique and the observation that what seems absurd reveals 'a devastating diagnosis'. The blank must provide a parallel example — the word 'similarly' is the key connector. Option B — Orwell's *Animal Farm* using the fable form to critique revolutionary corruption — is introduced with 'Similarly', providing a structurally parallel example from a different author, enriching the argument about satire's political function. Option A discusses the reader's role — a meta-observation about reading, not a parallel example of political satire. Option C describes readers' reaction to Swift — anecdotal and does not add a parallel example. Option D notes that satire flourishes under repression — a historical generalisation that, while related, does not provide the specific parallel example signalled by the argument's logic.

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**Q22. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

The blank falls between the description of hesitancy's drivers (misinformation, distrust, ideology) and the conclusion that 'purely scientific communication' is insufficient. The blank must explain why scientific communication alone doesn't work. Option A — 'hesitancy is not simply a deficit of information but a product of complex social and psychological factors' — directly explains why: the problem isn't ignorance of facts but social and psychological complexity. Option B discusses mandatory vaccination — a policy response that doesn't explain why communication alone fails. Option C mentions COVID-19 accelerating vaccine development — unrelated to the communication strategy problem. Option D discusses algorithmic amplification — a contributing cause, but it is already implied by 'misinformation' and doesn't explain why information-alone strategies fail.

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**Q23. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

The blank falls between 'gains captured by the top decile' and 'political consequences visible in populism and eroded trust'. The blank must provide the specific distributional data point that connects elite gain to political backlash. Option A — 'wages for median workers have stagnated in real terms despite consistent GDP growth' — is the precise statistical bridge: it shows that growth didn't reach the middle, which explains the political discontent. Option B discusses tax policy — a solution-oriented observation that doesn't show the distributional data. Option C presents an economists' counterpoint about inequality as an incentive — a contrasting view not aligned with the paragraph's negative assessment. Option D discusses international

*trade reshaping labour markets — a cause of inequality but not the specific stagnation data that bridges elite gains and political backlash.*

**Q24. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between 'ecclesiastical institutions controlled manuscript reproduction' and 'this disruption triggered centuries of transformation'. The blank must describe the disruption — what the printing press did that changed control over knowledge. Option A — 'the press made it possible to disseminate ideas faster and more widely than any institution could control' — is the precise description of the disruption: it broke the ecclesiastical monopoly on information. Option B notes rising literacy rates — a consequence of the press, but it doesn't describe the disruptive mechanism itself. Option C mentions the Protestant Reformation's use of print — a specific consequence, but the blank should explain the disruption before citing its results. Option D discusses Gutenberg's bible — a historical fact that introduces the press's product, not its systemic impact on knowledge control.*

**Q25. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the description of the strong Sapir-Whorf hypothesis (language determines thought) and the claim that the weak version (language influences thought) has support. The blank must address the fate of the strong version before the pivot to the weak one. Option A — 'this strong version has been largely discredited; speakers of different languages can clearly conceptualise similar ideas' — correctly dismisses the strong version before affirming the weak one. Option B notes colour perception variation — this actually supports the weak version, not the dismissal of the strong one; it belongs after the blank. Option C introduces Chomsky's counter-theory — relevant, but the paragraph is about the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis specifically; introducing Chomsky here creates a topic tangent. Option D notes linguistic relativity remains contested — too vague, and it doesn't provide the specific rejection of the strong version required by the pivot structure.*

**Q26. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between 'retributivists argue heinous crimes warrant the ultimate penalty' and 'neither position is easily resolved'. The blank must present the opposing position (abolitionist) to create the 'neither' that the*

conclusion requires. Option A — 'abolitionists counter that the state should never arrogate to itself the irreversible power to end a human life' — provides exactly the counter-position, completing the debate structure. Option B discusses deterrence studies — an empirical reference, but the paragraph explicitly states the issue isn't resolvable by empirical data. Option C notes how many countries have abolished capital punishment — a statistical fact that implies a position without articulating it. Option D references the Code of Hammurabi — historical context for proportionality, not the abolitionist counter-argument required.

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**Q27. Ans:** Correct Option: (B)

The blank falls between listing ecosystem services and the conclusion that 'valuing nature only when it is absent is chronically expensive'. The blank must explain the gap — why these valuable services are not properly accounted for. Option B — 'these services are systematically excluded from conventional economic accounting and GDP calculations' — explains the paradox: the services are valuable but invisible in economic metrics, which is why they are undervalued until lost. Option A gives the dollar value of biodiversity loss — a strong statistic, but it describes the consequence of undervaluation, not the mechanism (exclusion from accounting). Option C notes services that cannot be replicated — supports the argument but doesn't explain why they are undervalued in decision-making. Option D advocates for integrating biodiversity into national income accounts — a policy recommendation that belongs after the diagnosis, not as the diagnosis.

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**Q28. Ans:** Correct Option: (B)

The blank falls between the spread of mindfulness into corporate and educational settings and the critics' concern that commercialisation has stripped its depth. The blank must provide a balanced explanation of why mindfulness was adopted — acknowledging both genuine efficacy and commercial forces. Option B — 'its adoption reflects both genuine therapeutic efficacy and effective marketing by the wellness industry' — is the balanced bridge that sets up the critics' concern (the marketing/commercialisation side) while acknowledging the legitimate therapeutic basis. Option A notes clinical trial support for mindfulness in depression — supports the 'genuine efficacy' side but does not introduce the commercial dimension needed to set up the critique. Option C describes corporate mindfulness programmes — illustrates the commercialisation without explaining it. Option D identifies Jon Kabat-Zinn — historical background, not the bridge between adoption and critique.

**Q29. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the description of antibiotic resistance accelerating and the sentence listing what becomes impossible without effective antibiotics. The blank must project the overall consequence of unchecked resistance that makes those specific failures inevitable. Option A — 'if unchecked, resistance could render the medical advances of the past century progressively obsolete' — provides the broad existential consequence that frames the specific losses (surgery, chemotherapy) listed next. Option B discusses pharmaceutical companies withdrawing from research — a cause or exacerbating factor, but it doesn't project the overall consequence. Option C describes the WHO's priority pathogen list — a policy response, not a statement of consequences. Option D notes the EU's agricultural antibiotic ban — a relevant policy but again a response, not a projection of consequence.*

**Q30. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between content creators bypassing gatekeepers and the 'yet this coexists with market concentration' paradox. The blank must elaborate the positive case for democratisation before the 'yet' reversal. Option A — 'subscription models allow niche content to find audiences that broadcast television never could' — substantiates the democratisation claim with a specific mechanism, making the 'yet' reversal more powerful. Option B discusses traditional broadcasters' viewership declines — describes one side of the disruption but doesn't substantiate the democratisation claim for creators. Option C discusses new financing models and platform investment in original content — relevant to the industry's economics but doesn't speak to creator access or audience reach. Option D shifts to music streaming — a related but different industry, and the pivot disrupts focus without contributing to the paragraph's specific argument.*

### CATEGORY 3 — CHOOSE THE CORRECT SENTENCE: Answers (Q31–Q45)

**Q31. Ans:** Correct Option: (B)

Option B correctly names a specific additional cause of deforestation (logging of rare timber for export) and is introduced with 'In addition', which signals that it adds to the list of causes (agriculture, cattle ranching, mining) already given. This reinforces the preceding sentence's point before the scientist's warning follows. Option A — about tax revenue — shifts the argument to an economic benefit of deforestation, contradicting the paragraph's negative framing. Option C — mentioning forest regrowth — introduces a counterpoint not set up by the paragraph and disrupts the warning trajectory. Option D — proposing a moratorium — introduces a policy recommendation that is far too specific and extreme to serve as the factual middle sentence.

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**Q32. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

Option A — urbanisation of previously agricultural populations — is the direct social transformation that connects the preceding claim (industrial revolution transformed society) with the following claim (the urban working class drove labour rights). Urbanisation is precisely the mechanism that created the 'urban working class'. Option B discusses textile production costs — an economic rather than social transformation and does not explain the creation of the working class. Option C mentions child labour legislation — a consequence of the working class movement, not the creation of it; this belongs later in the paragraph's chronology. Option D names Marx and Engels — an important event but introduces political theory rather than the social transformation described.

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**Q33. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

The paragraph transitions from 'the wage gap persists' to 'structural factors account for a substantial portion'. Option A — that the raw wage gap overstates discrimination by not controlling for occupation and hours — introduces the methodological nuance that justifies the subsequent claim that structural factors (rather than simple discrimination) account for the disparity. This is the precise analytical bridge. Option B about women outnumbering men in higher education is an important trend but introduces a new sub-topic without connecting to the wage gap analysis. Option C on pay transparency legislation is a policy intervention, not an analytical explanation of the gap's persistence. Option D about cultural attitudes influencing career choices is a cause of occupational segregation, which is listed as a structural factor — it belongs as a sub-point, not as the bridging sentence.

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**Q34. Ans:** Correct Option: (B)

*Option B — explaining that qubits represent 0 and 1 simultaneously, enabling 'vast parallelism' — is the mechanism that explains why quantum computers can perform calculations classical computers cannot. It directly follows the mention of superposition/entanglement and directly precedes the claim about 'revolutionary' capability. Option A explains classical binary computing — useful background but the paragraph already signals the contrast; this would create redundancy rather than explanation. Option C discusses investment in quantum hardware — a commercial fact, not a technical explanation of quantum advantage. Option D places the first quantum computer at IBM in the early 2000s — historical context, but the paragraph is about capability and application, not history.*

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**Q35. Ans:** Correct Option: (B)

*The blank precedes the conclusion that water investment is a 'development priority, not a discretionary expenditure'. For this conclusion to follow logically, there must be a sentence that demonstrates the high cost of failing to invest. Option B — the economic cost of waterborne diseases (productivity loss, healthcare, premature mortality) runs into hundreds of billions annually — provides precisely this economic justification. Option A about aid organisations and mixed results introduces evaluation of interventions — interesting but doesn't support the 'investment is non-discretionary' conclusion. Option C notes the 2010 UN resolution — legal/political background, not an economic argument for investment priority. Option D on private sector involvement introduces a debate that is unrelated to the investment priority argument.*

---

**Q36. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between 'manufacturers benefit from shortened replacement cycles' and 'this dynamic has generated an e-waste crisis'. The blank must show the consumer side of this cycle, completing the description of 'this dynamic'. Option A — consumers face pressure to upgrade even when devices work — describes the consumer burden that, combined with manufacturer benefit, constitutes the dynamic that produces e-waste. Option B introduces the right-to-repair movement — a policy response to the problem, not a description of the dynamic itself. Option C describes e-waste's hazardous components — a consequence of*

*the crisis, not a description of the consumer-manufacturer dynamic. Option D mentions producer responsibility regulations — a policy response that belongs after the problem is fully described.*

---

**Q37. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the definition of the placebo effect and the statement that it 'reveals the profound connection between mental state and physical health'. The blank must provide the empirical breadth that justifies calling it 'one of the most intriguing phenomena'. Option A — documented across chronic pain, depression, and Parkinson's — provides the cross-condition evidence that establishes the phenomenon's scope, justifying the 'profound connection' conclusion. Option B describes clinical trial methodology — relevant but shifts focus from the phenomenon itself to research design. Option C gives the etymology of 'placebo' — interesting but introduces new information rather than supporting the argument about the phenomenon's scope. Option D notes open-label placebo effects — a fascinating specific finding, but it functions as a deeper nuance rather than the primary scope-establishing sentence.*

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**Q38. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the positive description of nuclear energy (low emissions, 10% of electricity) and the statement that its role is under 'fierce debate'. The blank must introduce the specific concerns that make it controversial. Option A — radioactive waste disposal, high costs, catastrophic accident risk — covers the three major objections that explain the controversy. Option B notes countries with high nuclear proportions — supports nuclear's viability but doesn't introduce the controversy. Option C mentions Chernobyl and Fukushima — specific accidents that are important, but the paragraph requires the general categories of concern first, then specifics can follow. Option D introduces small modular reactors — a future solution, not an explanation of current controversy.*

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**Q39. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between 'digital surveillance deployed in the name of security' and the 'tension between security and civil liberties'. The blank must introduce the civil liberties concern that creates the 'tension'. Option A — 'these technologies are often deployed with limited legal oversight, raising serious concerns*

*about privacy and democratic accountability' — directly introduces the civil liberties concern, creating the tension described in the following sentence. Option B notes authoritarian governments as enthusiastic adopters — relevant context but doesn't introduce the concern about democratic accountability directly. Option C discusses civil society pressure on technology companies — a response to the problem, not the articulation of the problem itself. Option D mentions GDPR — a regulatory response, but the paragraph is building the problem statement before discussing regulatory responses.*

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**Q40. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the cause (misleading marketing of OxyContin as non-addictive) and the conclusion about 'catastrophic consequences when commercial incentives override regulatory responsibility'. The blank must show the chain of events — how the initial deception led to mass harm. Option A — as prescriptions became restricted, individuals transitioned to illicit opioids like heroin and fentanyl — is precisely this chain: the transition from prescription to illicit drugs is the mechanism of mass harm that the conclusion refers to. Option B discusses Purdue Pharma's criminal charges — a legal consequence, not the mechanism of spread. Option C describes harm reduction strategies — policy responses, not the causal chain of crisis escalation. Option D mentions state lawsuits — legal actions that are consequences and responses, not the mechanism of harm.*

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**Q41. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the claim that photography carries a 'presumption of objectivity' and the claim that 'choices of framing, lighting, timing, and captioning' are acts of interpretation. The blank must introduce the logical pivot: this presumption is misleading. Option A — 'yet this assumption is fundamentally misleading: every photograph is the product of multiple deliberate choices' — is the pivot sentence that introduces the argument and directly leads into the specification of those choices. Option B discusses digital editing capabilities — a specific modern example of manipulation, but the paragraph is making a broader argument about photography's inherent subjectivity, not about digital manipulation specifically. Option C notes photojournalists' ethical codes — a response to the problem but doesn't articulate the problem itself. Option D references Susan Sontag — an intellectual authority, but this introduces external reference rather than making the core argument.*

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**Q42. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between 'receiving countries experience economic benefits and social tensions' and 'the challenge for democracies is developing policies consistent with human dignity'. The blank must substantiate the 'economic benefits' side to establish what is at stake before the challenge is stated. Option A — migrants fill labour gaps, pay taxes, display high entrepreneurial activity — provides the economic evidence that makes the 'benefits' claim concrete and valuable, justifying the need for dignified rather than restrictive policies. Option B about anti-immigration parties addresses the 'social tensions' side — already acknowledged in the preceding sentence. Option C about the 1951 Refugee Convention introduces a legal framework — relevant to migration policy but not to the economic argument being established. Option D about border enforcement costs shifts to a financial/security dimension disconnected from the economic benefits argument.*

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**Q43. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the definition of cultural appropriation (adoption across a power differential) and the observation that the line between 'appreciation' and 'appropriation' is 'contested'. The blank must explain why appropriation is considered harmful — which is what makes the line contested. Option A — 'it perpetuates stereotypes and profits while the originating community continues to face discrimination' — provides the harm argument, explaining why 'appreciation' can slide into 'appropriation' and why it matters. Option B about globalisation accelerating cultural exchange describes the phenomenon's context but doesn't explain the harm. Option C about fashion houses facing backlash provides an example of appropriation disputes but doesn't articulate the underlying harm argument. Option D about anthropologists documenting cultural borrowing throughout history tends to normalise the practice rather than explain the harm dimension.*

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**Q44. Ans:** Correct Option: (A)

*The blank falls between the claim that homelessness results from systemic factors and the conclusion that effective responses require 'coordinated action rather than punitive approaches'. The blank must provide specific evidence that grounds the policy conclusion in research. Option A — Housing First programmes provide immediate stable housing and produce better outcomes — is the evidence-based finding that justifies*

the 'coordinated action' approach over punitive responses. Option B about urban political contention introduces political context but doesn't support the policy conclusion. Option C about charities' limitations is relevant but doesn't provide the research evidence needed to justify a specific coordinated policy model. Option D about over-represented populations provides epidemiological data about who is homeless, not about what works.

**Q45. Ans:** Correct Option: (B)

The blank falls between the claim that the Anthropocene concept has entered mainstream discourse and the conclusion that its official adoption 'remains pending ratification' while it has 'reframed human responsibility'. The blank must explain the scientific basis and the specific marker that could enable ratification. Option B — the Anthropocene's marker (nuclear fallout from tests) is clearly detectable in rock strata — explains precisely how the geological standard for epoch recognition would be met, directly addressing the 'pending ratification' claim. Option A attributes the term to Paul Crutzen and links it to the Industrial Revolution — relevant historical context but does not address the geological ratification question. Option C lists features of the Anthropocene — descriptive but does not advance the ratification argument. Option D notes the unresolved debate about the epoch's starting point — this is an additional complexity rather than a bridge to the ratification sentence.

#### **CATEGORY 4 — ANALYSE, REWRITE & EXPLAIN: Answers (Q46–Q60)**

**Q46. Ans:**

The student selected Option C — 'The fall of Rome in 476 AD is generally considered the end of the Western Roman Empire.' This is incorrect for a critical structural reason: the blank falls in the middle of the paragraph, between the description of Rome's administrative strengths and the sentence that begins 'Yet even these institutions could not prevent the empire's eventual decline'. Option C describes the fall — which is the same event that the following sentence ('yet...eventual decline') is about to introduce as a contrast. Inserting the fall date here pre-empts the contrast and makes the 'Yet' sentence redundant and illogical. The correct option is

A — 'These systems allowed Rome to govern an empire spanning three continents effectively for centuries.' This sentence affirms the effectiveness of the administrative institutions described, which then makes the 'yet...could not prevent decline' a meaningful, dramatic contrast. Option D about provincial governance is plausible but too narrow — it introduces a specific administrative mechanism rather than affirming the system's overall effectiveness. Option B about Rome's lasting influence shifts to legacy rather than to its functioning during the empire's life.

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**Q47. Ans:**

The inserted sentence — 'Coal remains the single largest source of electricity generation globally' — is incorrect. The paragraph argues that renewable energy is increasingly cost-competitive and that the transition is now about political will rather than technological feasibility. The inserted sentence introduces a fact about coal's current dominance that directly contradicts the paragraph's positive trajectory. It implies that renewables have not yet displaced fossil fuels, which undermines the preceding claim about competitiveness and the conclusion about feasibility. The corrected paragraph should use a sentence that elaborates on the cost-competitiveness finding. A suitable replacement: 'In major markets, the levelised cost of solar and wind energy has fallen by over 80% in the past decade, now undercutting new fossil fuel plants on price.' This sentence substantiates the 'cost-competitive' claim and creates a logical bridge to the 'feasibility is no longer the question' conclusion.

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**Q48. Ans:**

Option A is the strongest concluding sentence. It correctly synthesises the argument — that compromised judicial independence undermines the rule of law — and elevates it to a statement of democratic principle ('not a procedural nicety but a prerequisite'). This is what a conclusion should do: it does not introduce new information but draws the final implication.

Option B — 'consequently, many nations have enshrined judicial independence in constitutions' — is plausible but is a factual observation about what has been done, not a synthesising conclusion about why it matters. It introduces new information (constitutional entrenchment across nations) rather than synthesising the paragraph's argument.

*Option C — about judicial activism as 'equally threatening' — introduces a completely new and contradictory idea: the paragraph argues that threats to judicial independence endanger democracy; Option C argues that judges exercising independence too broadly is also a threat. This introduces a counter-argument not set up in the paragraph and contradicts its direction.*

*Option D — that judge selection must be depoliticised — is a specific policy recommendation, not a conclusion. It narrows the broad argument about institutional independence to one procedural mechanism. The paragraph ends with a principle; Option D ends with a procedure.*

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**Q49. Ans:**

*Student B's completion is superior. The correct insertion — 'For the first time, ideas, agreements, and narratives could be recorded and communicated beyond the limits of human memory and oral tradition' — does precisely what a middle sentence must do: it bridges the general claim (writing was consequential) with the following specific consequences (religion, legal codes, literature, science). The connection is causal: writing allowed ideas to be preserved and transmitted, which is why those specific institutions could develop.*

*Student A's completion — about writing systems emerging independently in multiple civilisations — is factually interesting but introduces an anthropological observation about independent development that is not connected to the cause-and-effect structure. The following sentence ('this transformation laid the foundation for organised religion...') does not logically follow from 'writing arose independently in multiple places'; it follows from 'writing enabled preservation and transmission beyond memory'. Student A's sentence is thematically related but structurally wrong.*

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**Q50. Ans:**

*The missing sentence must bridge 'ultra-processed food increasing as urbanisation and income rise' and 'non-communicable diseases now leading causes of death in these same countries'. The logical link is the dietary transition's health consequences. A suitable insertion: 'These dietary shifts — from traditional, minimally processed foods to calorie-dense, nutrient-poor alternatives — have triggered a sharp rise in obesity and metabolic disorders across urban populations.' This sentence explains the mechanism: urbanisation → dietary shift → metabolic health crisis → NCDs, providing the causal link between the paragraph's opening observation and its concluding epidemiological claim.*

**Q51. Ans:**

Options A and C are impossible for an opening sentence on structural grounds. Option A begins with 'This pattern of behaviour, first documented in the 1980s' — the demonstrative pronoun 'This' requires an antecedent, which cannot exist in an opening sentence. Option C begins with 'Moreover, this dynamic is reinforced by...' — 'moreover' is an additive connector that signals the sentence is adding to something already stated, which cannot be the case for an opening. 'This dynamic' also has no antecedent. Among the remaining two, Option B is the correct choice. It introduces the topic (corporate resistance to environmental regulation), defines its structure (initial denial, lobbying, eventual compliance), and is entirely self-sufficient — no pronouns without antecedents, no backward connectors. Option D is also structurally valid as an opener, but it is more generic ('have consistently been opposed') and less informative, providing no mechanism. Option B is superior because it introduces both the topic and its characteristic pattern, which the subsequent sentences (A and C) would elaborate.

**Q52. Ans:**

Option B is correct. The sentence — 'Conversely, artists who refuse to conform are frequently persecuted — imprisoned, exiled, or silenced by less overt means' — provides the direct logical counterpart to the preceding sentence (about compliant artists receiving rewards). The word 'conversely' signals this symmetry. Following this, the claim that 'art's power to challenge authority is precisely what makes it so threatening' follows naturally: the persecution of non-conforming artists proves that authority perceives art as threatening. This also logically precedes the examples of underground art movements. Option A describes compliant artists receiving rewards — this would be a logical predecessor to Option B but cannot itself bridge the censorship claim and the 'threatening to authority' conclusion. Option C introduces Plato and Gramsci's theories — intellectually interesting but a digression that breaks the paragraph's factual narrative momentum. Option D about postmodern art resisting political interpretation is a counterpoint to the paragraph's argument, not a bridge within it.

**Q53. Ans:**

*The sentence — 'The Human Development Index, developed by the UNDP, captures dimensions of wellbeing beyond economic output' — functions correctly in Paragraph A but fails in Paragraph B.*

*In Paragraph A, the paragraph argues that 'economic growth alone does not guarantee human development' and gives evidence (access to healthcare, education, social security). The HDI sentence fits here as a formal measurement framework that validates the multi-dimensional argument. The sentence that follows — 'Countries with high GDPs but inadequate social provision rank poorly on human development indices' — uses the HDI concept, so introducing it just before makes that final sentence logical and well-grounded.*

*In Paragraph B, however, the paragraph is about fiscal policy focused on GDP growth and critics calling for social spending. The HDI sentence introduces a measurement framework from a different institutional context (UNDP) without any signal that the paragraph is about measurement tools. The critics' argument in Paragraph B doesn't depend on the HDI; it depends on a value judgement about what governments should prioritise. The HDI sentence is informationally tangential in this context and does not serve the logical transition from the fiscal policy claim to the critics' argument.*

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**Q54. Ans:**

*Candidate 1 (Hardin's 1968 essay) can logically precede the conclusion, but only weakly. The conclusion is about rational individual behaviour producing irrational group outcomes — Hardin's essay articulates this mechanism. However, merely citing the essay doesn't illustrate the mechanism, which the conclusion requires as immediate context. It works as an opener but not as the direct predecessor to that specific conclusion.*

*Candidate 2 (each herder adds cattle → collective overgrazing) is the strongest predecessor. It directly illustrates the mechanism — individual rationality producing collective irrationality — that the conclusion states in abstract terms. This is precisely the example that makes the conclusion legible.*

*Candidate 3 (Ostrom won the Nobel for showing communities can self-regulate) actually contradicts the conclusion. The conclusion states that 'without governance mechanisms, rational individual behaviour produces irrational outcomes'. Ostrom's work shows that communities ARE governance mechanisms — that self-regulation is possible. Placing Candidate 3 before the conclusion would make the conclusion a non sequitur.*

*Candidate 4 (state ownership outperforms private or communal management) is an overgeneralisation that Ostrom's work directly refutes. It would also contradict the conclusion, which is about the absence of governance mechanisms, not about which type is best.*

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**Q55. Ans:**

*Option B is the correct counter-evidence sentence. The paragraph's structure is: Claim (social media enables democratic expression) → Counter-evidence (blank) → Reaffirmed ambiguity. The counter-evidence must present the negative case — what social media does that undermines the positive claim. Option B — 'Yet the same platforms have also been used to spread disinformation, incite sectarian violence, and enable surveillance' — uses 'Yet' (the contrastive marker), directly addresses the same platforms mentioned in the claim, and lists harms that directly counter the democratic expression claim.*

*Option A (Arab Spring) supports the original claim — it is the claim-side evidence, not counter-evidence. It cannot logically serve as the 'counter-evidence' in this structure. Option C (algorithms amplify extreme content) is a mechanism that explains how the negative effects of Option B occur — it belongs as elaboration of counter-evidence, not as the primary counter-evidence sentence itself. Option D (therefore, regulating social media is contested) uses 'Therefore', signalling a conclusion — it is a concluding sentence, not a counter-evidence sentence, and cannot precede the 'net effect remains ambiguous' conclusion.*

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**Q56. Ans:**

*The second student is correct: the insertion is logically sound. The paragraph argues that utilitarianism holds that the right action maximises overall happiness, and the final sentence says this 'challenges the foundations of utilitarian calculus'. The inserted sentence — 'critics argue that utilitarianism can justify morally repugnant acts if they produce net welfare gain — for instance, torturing one person to save five' — is precisely the challenge that the final sentence refers to. The insertion is the critics' objection that constitutes 'this insight' in the final sentence. Without it, 'this insight' has no referent.*

*The first student's marking of it as incorrect is therefore wrong. The error in the first student's reasoning is likely a misreading of tone: the inserted sentence describes a disturbing scenario (torture), which may have seemed inappropriate — but disturbing examples are precisely how serious philosophical critiques work. The*

sentence's grammatical construction ('critics argue that...') correctly frames it as a position held by critics, not as the author's endorsement. The overall tone remains analytical.

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**Q57. Ans:**

The correct insertion — 'this cognitive advantage extends into adulthood, with bilingual individuals showing delayed onset of dementia symptoms' — is logically coherent in itself and directly extends the preceding claim about cognitive benefits. However, the internal inconsistency in the paragraph is introduced by the final sentence: 'research into bilingual education also suggests that it may slow initial literacy development in the dominant language.' The phrase 'also suggests' implies that the paragraph has been presenting a uniformly positive picture and this is an additional finding. But the 'however' at the start of this sentence signals a contrast — which works. The inconsistency is subtler: the inserted sentence establishes a long-term benefit (delayed dementia), and the final sentence raises a short-term cost (slower initial literacy). These are not contradictory — they can both be true. The inconsistency lies in the paragraph's failure to explicitly signal that it is now pivoting from long-term cognitive benefits to short-term developmental trade-offs. A bridging phrase such as 'Despite these long-term advantages...' in the final sentence would resolve the tension and make the inserted sentence's coherence complete.

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**Q58. Ans:**

The sentence — 'This, however, does not mean that all forms of government intervention are equally effective or desirable' — is a nuanced qualifier. Its function is to accept the legitimacy of intervention (implicitly) while cautioning against assuming all interventions are equivalent.

Paragraph 1 (blank in middle): This works. The preceding sentence states that market failures occur and the following sentence discusses evidence-based calibration. The qualifier bridges these by accepting intervention while demanding quality — exactly the logical transition needed.

Paragraph 2 (blank at end): This works as a concluding qualifier. The paragraph argues for state legitimacy in addressing market failures; the inserted sentence correctly adds the nuance that not all interventions are equal. It does not introduce contradictory information — it refines the claim.

*Paragraph 3 (blank at start): This does not work as an opening sentence. 'This, however' uses a demonstrative 'This' that requires an antecedent — but there is no preceding text. An opening sentence cannot begin with a backward-referring 'This'.*

*Paragraph 4 (blank at end): This does not work. The paragraph argues that the state should 'stay out of economic affairs entirely' and that 'every intervention distorts'. The proposed sentence implicitly accepts that some interventions may be desirable — which directly contradicts the paragraph's claim that all interventions are harmful. It would introduce a logical contradiction, not a nuance.*

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**Q59. Ans:**

*Analytical Process: Step 1 — Identify the blank's structural position. It is a closing or transitional sentence, following a description of two opposing views on English as lingua franca. Step 2 — Determine what the blank must do. It must either synthesise the two views, establish a forward-looking implication, or signal how the tension will be resolved or persist. Step 3 — Apply theme: the passage is about the debate over English's global role, not about English's spread as a fact. Step 4 — Test options.*

*Option A (English is official in 60+ countries, studied widely) is factual background — it supports the 'opportunity' view but does not address the tension or close the passage's argumentative arc. It introduces new descriptive information rather than synthesising.*

*Option B (dominance creates structural advantages for native speakers) elaborates the 'cultural imperialism' view — it is thematically aligned, but it is a supporting argument for one side, not a synthesis or resolution. It does not close the passage.*

*Option C (tension is unlikely to be resolved soon; language shift is rarely reversed) is the correct option. It acknowledges the tension, makes a forward-looking observation about its persistence, and closes the debate framing without adding new information. The clause 'rarely reversed once it reaches critical mass' shows analytical depth. This sentence synthesises both positions into a prognosis.*

*Option D (multilingual education as counter-movement) introduces a specific advocacy position — it is too narrow and too prescriptive as a conclusion for a passage that has maintained analytical distance. It would change the passage's register from analytical to advocacy.*

**Q60. Ans:**

*The flaw: the inserted sentence — listing countries cited by democracy indices as experiencing backsliding — is factually related to the topic but functions as an illustrative list, not a structural bridge. The paragraph's argument moves from definition (democratic backsliding through formally legal means) to examples of mechanisms (weaponising elections, politicising judiciaries, intimidating civil society) to the concluding observation that the process normalises incrementally. The list of countries does not advance this argument — it merely names instances. Furthermore, it disrupts the logical chain: the sentence before it describes mechanisms; the sentence after it describes the insidious nature of the process. The list of countries doesn't serve as the conceptual bridge between these two ideas.*

*Corrected inserted sentence: 'What makes this process particularly difficult to counter is that each step — taken in isolation — can be defended as legal, routine, or procedurally legitimate, even as cumulatively they hollow out democratic substance.' This sentence bridges the mechanisms (described before) and the insidious normalisation (described after) by explaining the precise mechanism of normalisation. It preserves the analytical register, introduces no new topics, and advances the argument.*

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— End of Document: Paragraph Completion —