

43-46: Answer these questions according to the passage below.

In the nineteenth century England, a formerly private and often clerical male profession became massively practised by women. Teaching became a vital part of the modern nation state's effort to build society-wide institutions – but teachers had lower income and living standards than other educated professionals. This and their origin from and work among peasant and workers' communities made unions a logical form of self-organising. By the mid-20th century, UK teachers' unions had gained important concessions when it came to pay, benefits and recognition across the profession. Yet especially since 1980, strikes have been crushed and unions weakened through **draconian** anti-labour laws. A sequence of laws has further limited the definition of "lawful" industrial action and curtailed workers' right to spontaneous collective organising. A high threshold to ballot for strikes was made mandatory, meaning that striking is lawful only upon a positive membership vote with a large turnout. The laws also prohibit solidarity action across sectors or among people working for different employers. Now, minimum service levels, which jeopardise public sector workers' freedom to undertake full industrial action, by obliging them to still provide a minimum "service" to the public, will further restrict teachers' ability to use strikes to campaign for better pay and working conditions – at a time when the profession is facing serious challenges.

43. It is clear from the passage that teaching ----.

- A) did not start as a job offered by the state in its earlier phases
- B) was a predominantly female profession before the 19th century
- C) belonged, as a profession, exclusively to the clergy in the 20th century England
- D) hasn't always been a low-paying job among educated professionals
- E) has seen its top point in terms of salaries during 1980s

In the nineteenth century England, a formerly private and often clerical male profession became massively practised by women. Teaching became a vital part of the modern nation state's effort to build society-wide institutions – but teachers had lower income and living standards than other educated professionals. This and their origin from and work among peasant and workers' communities made unions a logical form of self-organising. By the mid-20th century, UK teachers' unions had gained important concessions when it came to pay, benefits and recognition across the profession. Yet especially since 1980, strikes have been crushed and unions weakened through **draconian** anti-labour laws. A sequence of laws has further limited the definition of "lawful" industrial action and curtailed workers' right to spontaneous collective organising. A high threshold to ballot for strikes was made mandatory, meaning that striking is lawful only upon a positive membership vote with a large turnout. The laws also prohibit solidarity action across sectors or among people working for different employers. Now, minimum service levels, which jeopardise public sector workers' freedom to undertake full industrial action, by obliging them to still provide a minimum "service" to the public, will further restrict teachers' ability to use strikes to campaign for better pay and working conditions – at a time when the profession is facing serious challenges.

44. It is understood from the passage that teachers who want to go on a strike in the UK today ----.

- A) will have to have their union approve of the decision with a landslide majority ballot
- B) can only do so for a few days if they want the education to come to a complete standstill
- C) have better rights regarding the issue than they did in the mid-20th century
- D) will be enjoying the extensive rights they gained in 1980
- E) will not be able to stop working completely during the strike

In the nineteenth century England, a formerly private and often clerical male profession became massively practised by women. Teaching became a vital part of the modern nation state's effort to build society-wide institutions – but teachers had lower income and living standards than other educated professionals. This and their origin from and work among peasant and workers' communities made unions a logical form of self-organising. By the mid-20th century, UK teachers' unions had gained important concessions when it came to pay, benefits and recognition across the profession. Yet especially since 1980, strikes have been crushed and unions weakened through **draconian** anti-labour laws. A sequence of laws has further limited the definition of "lawful" industrial action and curtailed workers' right to spontaneous collective organising. A high threshold to ballot for strikes was made mandatory, meaning that striking is lawful only upon a positive membership vote with a large turnout. The laws also prohibit solidarity action across sectors or among people working for different employers. Now, minimum service levels, which jeopardise public sector workers' freedom to undertake full industrial action, by obliging them to still provide a minimum "service" to the public, will further restrict teachers' ability to use strikes to campaign for better pay and working conditions – at a time when the profession is facing serious challenges.

45. The underlined word 'draconian' in the passage is closest in meaning to ----.

- A) thwarted
- B) oppressive
- C) disturbed
- D) practiced
- E) puzzled

46. Which of the following best gives the purpose of the writer?

- A) To criticize the UK government for cutting the rights of teachers
- B) To give a brief history of the evolution of teachers' right to strike in the UK
- C) To convince the readers that teachers are earning less than they used to
- D) To give a detailed account of how teachers gained their right to strike
- E) To inform the readers about the policies used by the governments to curb the rights of teachers

47-50: Answer these questions according to the passage below.

Although people throughout the world put huge quantities of food out at feeding stations for birds and other wild animals, scientists still know relatively little about the consequences of providing food for wildlife. The most recent research, however, has found that feeding garden birds in winter seems to make them more resilient to infection. Winter can be tough for small birds. During cold winter nights, small birds reduce their body temperature by several degrees. While this would be lethal for a human, it saves lots of energy, helping birds to survive particularly cold nights. However, reducing body temperature is risky, and hypothermic birds are slow to wake and respond to a predator. A reliable food supply at bird feeders can help small birds avoid starvation and survive the harsh winter. Previous research showed that birds with access to feeders do not need to reduce their night-time body temperature as much as birds that did not have access to feeders. The extra energy birds get from human-provided food means they don't have to take the risk of becoming severely hypothermic. Supplementary feeding is controversial since some people are concerned that bird feeders may discourage birds from learning to forage for themselves. However, research suggests that supplementary food makes up only a small portion of birds' diets, and that birds do not become dependent on human-provided food.

47. Why do small birds reduce their body temperature during cold winter nights?

- A) To avoid predators
- B) To save energy
- C) To hibernate
- D) To increase infection resistance
- E) To migrate

Although people throughout the world put huge quantities of food out at feeding stations for birds and other wild animals, scientists still know relatively little about the consequences of providing food for wildlife. The most recent research, however, has found that feeding garden birds in winter seems to make them more resilient to infection. Winter can be tough for small birds. During cold winter nights, small birds reduce their body temperature by several degrees. While this would be lethal for a human, it saves lots of energy, helping birds to survive particularly cold nights. However, reducing body temperature is risky, and hypothermic birds are slow to wake and respond to a predator. A reliable food supply at bird feeders can help small birds avoid starvation and survive the harsh winter. Previous research showed that birds with access to feeders do not need to reduce their night-time body temperature as much as birds that did not have access to feeders. The extra energy birds get from human-provided food means they don't have to take the risk of becoming severely hypothermic. Supplementary feeding is controversial since some people are concerned that bird feeders may discourage birds from learning to forage for themselves. However, research suggests that supplementary food makes up only a small portion of birds' diets, and that birds do not become dependent on human-provided food.

48. It is made clear in the passage that one potential consequence of small birds becoming severely hypothermic during winter nights is ----.

- A) an increase in agility
- B) an enhancement in their foraging skills
- C) greater resistance to predators
- D) a slower response to predators
- E) an improvement in their migration patterns

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49. According to the passage, a reliable food supply at bird feeders ----.

- A) reduces birds' need to migrate to faraway places
- B) will increase the risk of human-borne infections for birds
- C) will reduce birds' need to reduce their body temperature
- D) may end up increasing birds' need for foraging
- E) will probably make birds more aggressive towards humans

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50. Which could be the best title for this passage?

- A) The Dangers of Winter for Small Birds
- B) Controversies Surrounding Bird Feeders
- C) Benefits of Supplementing Birds' Diets
- D) The Impact of Human-Provided Food on Animal Behaviour
- E) Survival Strategies of Small Birds in Harsh Winters

51-54: Answer these questions according to the passage below.

Despite the romantic notion that innovation is the province of rugged individuals toiling away in splendid isolation, a scientific focus on individual personality has not yet yielded accurate forecasts of creative behaviour. Scholars have combed the biographies of creative geniuses to find experiences and character traits likely to have contributed to their greatness. Yet they have failed to identify characteristics that powerfully predict which young people will go on to become creative geniuses. These efforts lack predictive power because they do not take into account the important role that social context plays. The nature and significance of innovation depend on the interaction between an individual's ideas and the time and culture in which that person lives. If Bruce Springsteen had been born in 1749 rather than 1949, we would have been unlikely ever to hear *Born to Run*. Such examples speak more generally to the influence that groups exert on creativity. In the 1970s, psychologists Henri Tajfel and John Turner developed the concept of social identity, noting that across a range of contexts, people understand themselves not only as individuals but also as members of the groups to which they belong. So a cubist painter – we'll call him "Pablo" – may sometimes think of himself in terms of his personal identity (Pablo), but on other occasions he will understand himself as a cubist, his social identity. In yet other situations, his social identity might be defined with reference to his nationality, gender or religion or to his role in a specific team, club or organization.

51. The writer of the passage emphasizes the fact that creative behaviour ----.

- A) comes as a result of lonely people trying hard to create something in total isolation
- B) can easily be spotted the biographies of creative geniuses
- C) would mean something only if it is part of a strong social identity
- D) can best be explained by the example of Spanish painter, Pablo Picasso
- E) does not necessarily result from individual traits or isolation

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52. Which of the following is crucial in understanding the nature and significance of innovation?

- A) Individual character traits
- B) Social context
- C) Biographical details of creative geniuses
- D) Rugged individualism
- E) Innovation in splendid isolation

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53. The writer of the passage has given the example of Bruce Springsteen and his song *Born to Run* to show ----.

- A) the impact of rugged individualism on creativity
- B) the importance of personal identity in creative pursuits
- C) the influence of social context on creative expression
- D) the role of nationality in determining creative output
- E) the significance of creative geniuses in isolation

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54. According to the passage, psychologists Henri Tajfel and John Turner ----.

- A) came up with the concept of social identity to explain how people understand themselves
- B) were avid fans of cubist art, and especially admired Pablo Picasso
- C) were probably among the scholars who searched for clues of creative geniuses in biographies
- D) were once of the opinion that innovation can only come from people who work in isolation
- E) defined clear limits for the social identity of cubist artists

55-58: Answer these questions according to the passage below.

Over the last three years, a highly contagious, often deadly form of bird flu has taken a staggering toll on animals around the globe. The virus, known as H5N1, has infected birds in more than 80 countries. It has infiltrated big commercial poultry farms and tiny backyard henhouses, affecting 72 million farmed birds in the United States alone, according to the Department of Agriculture. It has struck a wide range of wild bird species, killing gulls and terns by the thousand. And it has turned up repeatedly in mammals, including foxes, skunks, bears, cats, sea lions and dolphins. (It has also caused a small number of deaths in people, primarily in those who had close contact with birds. The risk to the general public remains low, experts say.) The virus is not done yet. It is surging again in Europe and North America and causing mass animal mortality events in South America. It also appears to be spreading in the Antarctic region for the first time. "It continues to be unprecedented," said Thomas Peacock, a virologist at the Pirbright Institute in England. "By several measures, we're at the worst it's ever been, particularly in terms of geographical spread, how widespread it is in birds and how many mammals are getting infected." In Europe, however, where the virus has been circulating the longest, early signs suggest that this winter may not be as bad as the last few, Dr. Peacock said. And there is very preliminary evidence that some wild birds might be developing immunity to the virus.

55. Which of the following is true about the recent virus according to the passage?

- A) It has killed as many birds as it has mammals, such as foxes and bears.
- B) It has been wreaking havoc among the birds and some animals worldwide.
- C) Its consequences have been more severe in South America than in Europe.
- D) A new and potent vaccine to be used in birds is being developed for it.
- E) It has killed 72 million farmed birds in 80 countries across the world.

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56. What can be said about the virus' effect on humans according to passage?

- A) It is limited and the virus has affected those in close contact with avian species.
- B) It has been claiming the lives of people across 80 countries around the world.
- C) It seems to be affecting those stationed in Antarctic scientific missions.
- D) So far it hasn't been affected by geography, killing equal numbers of people everywhere.
- E) Its effects on humans are widespread, with many people having been killed in the USA alone.

Over the last three years, a highly contagious, often deadly form of bird flu has taken a staggering toll on animals around the globe. The virus, known as H5N1, has infected birds in more than 80 countries. It has infiltrated big commercial poultry farms and tiny backyard henhouses, affecting 72 million farmed birds in the United States alone, according to the Department of Agriculture. It has struck a wide range of wild bird species, killing gulls and terns by the thousand. And it has turned up repeatedly in mammals, including foxes, skunks, bears, cats, sea lions and dolphins. (It has also caused a small number of deaths in people, primarily in those who had close contact with birds. The risk to the general public remains low, experts say.) The virus is not done yet. It is surging again in Europe and North America and causing mass animal mortality events in South America. It also appears to be spreading in the Antarctic region for the first time. "It continues to be unprecedented," said Thomas Peacock, a virologist at the Pirbright Institute in England. "By several measures, we're at the worst it's ever been, particularly in terms of geographical spread, how widespread it is in birds and how many mammals are getting infected." In Europe, however, where the virus has been circulating the longest, early signs suggest that this winter may not be as bad as the last few, Dr. Peacock said. And there is very preliminary evidence that some wild birds might be developing immunity to the virus.

57. According to the passage, Europe ----.

- A) is the continent where the effects of H5N1 virus have been felt the most
- B) is the last continent to be affected by the negative effects of H5N1 virus
- C) suffers the most severe outcomes produced by H5N1 virus
- D) will see a surge in the transmission of disease resulting from H5N1 virus
- E) might not be suffering from the H5N1 virus as severely as it did last year

Over the last three years, a highly contagious, often deadly form of bird flu has taken a staggering toll on animals around the globe. The virus, known as H5N1, has infected birds in more than 80 countries. It has infiltrated big commercial poultry farms and tiny backyard henhouses, affecting 72 million farmed birds in the United States alone, according to the Department of Agriculture. It has struck a wide range of wild bird species, killing gulls and terns by the thousand. And it has turned up repeatedly in mammals, including foxes, skunks, bears, cats, sea lions and dolphins. (It has also caused a small number of deaths in people, primarily in those who had close contact with birds. The risk to the general public remains low, experts say.) The virus is not done yet. It is surging again in Europe and North America and causing mass animal mortality events in South America. It also appears to be spreading in the Antarctic region for the first time. "It continues to be unprecedented," said Thomas Peacock, a virologist at the Pirbright Institute in England. "By several measures, we're at the worst it's ever been, particularly in terms of geographical spread, how widespread it is in birds and how many mammals are getting infected." In Europe, however, where the virus has been circulating the longest, early signs suggest that this winter may not be as bad as the last few, Dr. Peacock said. And there is very preliminary evidence that some wild birds might be developing immunity to the virus.

58. The passage is mainly about ----.

- A) the consequences of not having developed a vaccine for H5N1 virus
- B) the comparison among three continents in terms of the damage they have suffered due to bird flu
- C) a form of bird flu virus that has been afflicting the world in the last three years
- D) possible solution to the problem of bird flu epidemic in different continents
- E) the endeavours of virologists in England to find a way to prevent the spread of bird flu

59-62: Answer these questions according to the passage below.

Cats have a reputation for being aloof, but new research has found they interact with their owners in surprising ways. What the research discovered also shows how important this kind of interaction can be for cats' wellbeing. Fetching behaviour in domestic cats has been reported to be more common than coming when called, meowing on command, or playing games. There may also be breed differences in fetching – at least among purebreds. For example, Siamese cats and their crossbreed variations are known for being proficient fetchers. Wanting to know more about how and why cats fetch, researchers asked owners of cats who play fetch about this behaviour. Almost all of these cats had not been trained to fetch, and most were young when their owners first noticed they could fetch. Researchers discovered that cats prefer to be in control of their fetching sessions. According to their owners, the cats that usually initiate fetching sessions seem more enthusiastic about it. These cats both had more fetching sessions per month and retrieved the object more times in a single play session. Overall, the owners reported lots of differences in fetching behaviour. Some cats bring the object to their owner first, while others respond to their owner throwing an object first. Some cats only bring the object back half way. Some are fussy with the objects they want to play with, and some will only fetch at certain times or in particular areas of the house.

- 59. According to the passage, one unexpected finding researchers came up with regarding fetching behaviour among domestic cats is that ----.**
- A) it is more common than coming when called, meowing on command, or playing games
 - B) it is only common among Siamese cats and their crossbreed variations
 - C) it is not as common as coming when called or meowing on command
 - D) it has nothing to do with the wellbeing of cats, whether they are purebred or otherwise
 - E) it is a rather sporadic way of interaction among cats that are crossbreed

Cats have a reputation for being aloof, but new research has found they interact with their owners in surprising ways. What the research discovered also shows how important this kind of interaction can be for cats' wellbeing. Fetching behaviour in domestic cats has been reported to be more common than coming when called, meowing on command, or playing games. There may also be breed differences in fetching – at least among purebreds. For example, Siamese cats and their crossbreed variations are known for being proficient fetchers. Wanting to know more about how and why cats fetch, researchers asked owners of cats who play fetch about this behaviour. Almost all of these cats had not been trained to fetch, and most were young when their owners first noticed they could fetch. Researchers discovered that cats prefer to be in control of their fetching sessions. According to their owners, the cats that usually initiate fetching sessions seem more enthusiastic about it. These cats both had more fetching sessions per month and retrieved the object more times in a single play session. Overall, the owners reported lots of differences in fetching behaviour. Some cats bring the object to their owner first, while others respond to their owner throwing an object first. Some cats only bring the object back halfway. Some are fussy with the objects they want to play with, and some will only fetch at certain times or in particular areas of the house.

60. According to the passage, one variation that exists in fetching behaviour among cats is that ---.

- A) all cats bring the object to their owner first
- B) cats are not particular about the objects they fetch
- C) some cats only bring the object back halfway
- D) cats fetch equally in all areas of the house
- E) all cats respond to their owner throwing an object first

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61. Which of the following is true about cats that usually initiate fetching sessions according to the passage?

- A) They are the ones that are less enthusiastic about fetching.
- B) They have fewer fetching sessions per month compared to other cats.
- C) They retrieve the object fewer times during a single play.
- D) They have no preference for fetching with respect to items.
- E) They retrieve the object more times in a single play session than others.

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62. The purpose of the writer is to ----.

- A) compare and contrast fetching behaviour between purebred and crossbreed cats
- B) suggest ways to improve interaction between cats and their owners
- C) elaborate on the playing behaviours of Siamese purebred cats
- D) inform the readers about the results of recent research on cats' fetching behaviour
- E) discuss whether all cats perform the same when it comes to playing fetch

63-67: For these questions, choose the best option to complete the dialogue.

63. Tara:

— **Look at this t-shirt! Isn't it so pretty?**

Karen:

— **Looks really good but I would never waste my money on that brand.**

Tara:

— **Why is that?**

Karen:

— ----

Tara:

— **I didn't know that, and I will try to make more responsible choices from now on. The t-shirt is still pretty, though.**

A) The material is the main problem: I can't wear anything other than viscose.

B) The last one I bought from that brand turned out to have serious defects.

C) The brand doesn't deserve the high price tag it has been forcing on the customers.

D) This one and similar fast fashion brands are responsible for millions of tons of waste.

E) The way they advertise their brand just irritates me to no end!

64. Jane:

- **All those climate summits, or the endeavors of climate activists will not be able to stop global warming in my opinion.**

Dave:

- **Why are you so pessimistic? People are trying to do their best.**

Jane:

- ----

Dave:

- **Wow! I also remember a global car producer doing the same. You may be right after all.**

Jane:

- **Unfortunately, yes.**

- A) Didn't you read the news? All the leaders who participated the latest climate summit went to the country where it was held in their private jets.
- B) Not really. A major engine producer was just forced to pay \$1.6bn for installing devices to defeat pollution controls on their trucks.
- C) The Clean Air Act implemented in California has just turned out to be a lie as it has no deterrent power on big corporations.
- D) Because I have every reason to be: Most people don't even care about the climate or the environment.
- E) The way I see it, this will become even worse, and even before 2030, when authorities think the Earth will go over the threshold of 1.5 degrees.

65. Dean:

— **This article comes up with a very interesting proposition about life on Mars.**

Thomas:

— **I thought there wasn't life on that planet.**

Dean:

— ----

Thomas:

— **Oh sorry. That is really interesting, but I don't think we will ever be able to start a colony on Mars.**

Dean:

— **Well, time will show that.**

A) What I meant to say was that if we ever grow plants on the planet, we will have to bring insects with us.

B) While on Mars, astronauts will have to grow food one way or the other.

C) You are interrupting me again! Please listen to what I have to say, will you?

D) You know what? Read the article yourself. Sometimes it is impossible to have a conversation with you!

E) The way they will handle sending people to Mars will depend on the technology of that time.

66. Jude:

— I wonder if Australia has always been an island.

Hailey:

— It sure wasn't. It was once part of a much larger landmass known as Gondwana, which also included what are now Africa, South America, Antarctica, India and Madagascar.

Jude:

— I thought the big primeval landmass was called Pangaea.

Hailey:

— ----

Jude:

— **Alright. I am starting to put the pieces of the puzzle together, I guess.**

A) Yes. The eastern half of Gondwana, which included Australia, Antarctica, India and Madagascar, separated from its western half first.

B) Well, yes and no. The landmass that now includes New Zealand split from what is now eastern Australia long ago.

C) In fact, Australia ultimately separated from Antarctica to become its own continent about 35 million years ago.

D) Yes. Drifting at about 7 centimeters per year, Australia is the planet's fastest-moving tectonic plate.

E) You're right, actually. Gondwana was itself once part of the supercontinent Pangaea, from which it broke away about 200 million years ago.

67. TV Presenter:

- **Mr. Johnson, there's been a lot of buzz lately about hair transplants, and many people are curious about the reasons behind hair loss. Can you shed some light on this?**

Specialist:

— ----

TV Presenter:

- **Alright. It has nothing to do with nurture then. Can you please explain the process of a hair transplant in a way that our viewers can easily understand?**

Specialist:

- **Certainly. Hair transplant involves taking hair follicles from a donor area, usually the back of the head, and implanting them into the balding or thinning areas. This restores natural hair growth.**

TV Presenter:

- **I understand the procedure better now. Thank you.**

- A) Hair loss is solely caused by external factors such as wearing hats or using certain hair products incorrectly.
B) It's often related to genetic factors and hormonal changes, which influence the hair follicles and lead to hair loss.
C) Hair transplant can be achieved by simply applying topical creams without any surgical procedure or whatsoever.
D) Hair transplant is only suitable for individuals with a specific hair type and, unfortunately, it is not a universal solution.
E) Hair loss is a result of frequent hair washing, and avoiding washing can prevent the need for a hair transplant.

68-71: For these questions, choose the best rephrased form of the given sentence

68. While it is unlikely that unethical behaviour can ever be removed from the workplace, there are measures that can be put into place to encourage a more ethical working environment .

- A) Although completely eliminating unethical behaviour from the workplace is improbable, implementing measures can promote a more ethical working environment.
- B) Whereas some believe that workplace can never be free of unethical behaviour, others claim that putting some measures in place to foster a working environment that is slightly more ethical is possible.
- C) Completely eliminating unethical behaviour from the workplace is improbable, but there exist measures that can be implemented with a view to promoting a more ethical working environment.
- D) While some argue that complete elimination of unethical behaviour in the workplace is unattainable, others assert that introducing measures can create a working environment that is somewhat more ethical.
- E) As impossible as it sounds to eradicate unethical behaviour from the workplace, some believe that there are measures that can be implemented to inspire a more ethical working environment.

69. As many parents and teachers know, friendships can be the most important thing in the world to children and young people because they are integral to children's healthy development and learning.

- A) Friendships hold immense significance for children and young individuals, recognized by numerous parents and teachers, and this may stem from the role friendships play in the healthy development and education of children.
- B) It is known by many parents and teachers that children and young people can give friendships tremendous importance due to the integral role friendships play in the healthy development and learning of children.
- C) Parents and educators are aware that children and young individuals often assign some importance to friendships, given the important role these relationships play in the healthy development and learning of children.
- D) Recognized by parents and teachers, the value that children and young individuals attribute to friendships is well-known, and it arises from the role that friendships play in fostering the healthy development and learning of children.
- E) Acknowledged by parents and educators, the importance that children and young individuals place on friendships is widely known, and this stems from the crucial role that friendships play in nurturing the healthy development and learning of children.

70. Monitoring the decline in insect population and biodiversity has become increasingly important for conservation measures to be effectively implemented, but monitoring methods are often invasive, time and resource intense, and prone to various biases.

- A) While the significance of monitoring the decline in insect population and biodiversity for implementing conservation measures has increased, the methods used often entail invasiveness, require substantial time and resources, and are prone to various biases.
- B) Monitoring the decline in insect population and biodiversity has become extremely crucial for effective conservation measures; however, the methods employed for such monitoring often entail invasiveness, demand time and resources, and are susceptible to various biases.
- C) The importance of monitoring the decline in insect population and biodiversity for effective conservation measures has grown, yet the methods used for such monitoring are frequently invasive, resource-intensive, and prone to various biases.
- D) Though observing the decrease in insect population and biodiversity has gained heightened importance for the effective implementation of conservation measures, the monitoring methods frequently involve invasiveness, demand significant time and resources, and are susceptible to various biases.
- E) Despite the increasing importance of observing the decline in insect population and diversity to put conservation measures into practice, the methods used for such close monitoring are frequently invasive, resource-intensive, and prone to various biases.

71. Infections in the mouth during cancer treatment are especially dangerous, given the immune system's inability to fight back, so people with cancer can experience unique issues related to their oral health.

- A) As oral infections during cancer treatment pose a heightened risk, considering the immune system's diminished ability to resist, individuals diagnosed with cancer may encounter distinctive challenges concerning their oral health.
- B) Oral infections during cancer treatment pose a big risk, considering the compromised immune system's diminished ability to combat such infections; thus, individuals undergoing cancer treatment may encounter distinctive challenges concerning their oral health.
- C) Due to the compromised immune system's limited ability to fend off infections, oral infections during cancer treatment are particularly perilous, which gives rise to some challenges in oral health for individuals undergoing cancer treatment.
- D) Because of the immune system's reduced capacity to ward off infections, oral infections during cancer treatment pose a significant risk, leading to some challenges in oral health for individuals undergoing cancer treatment.
- E) Oral infections during cancer treatment are especially dangerous owing to the immune system's limited ability to combat infections, and this condition results in unique for individuals undergoing cancer treatment in maintaining their oral health.

72-75: For these questions, choose the best option to complete the missing part of the passage.

72. The extent to which forests have become Earth's grazing lands is much more difficult to assess. Cattle or sheep pastures in North America or Europe are easy to identify, and they support large numbers of animals. At least 2 million square km of such forests have been cleared for grazing lands. ---- These often support only very low numbers of domestic grazing animals, but they may still be considered grazing lands by national authorities.

- A) Vast areas remain unaltered as primeval forests, untouched by grazing activities.
- B) Surprisingly, urban areas contribute more to grazing lands than expected.
- C) Forests worldwide have thrived despite extensive conversion for grazing purposes.
- D) Less certain are the humid tropical forests and that have been cleared for grazing.
- E) Alternatively, Arctic regions exhibit unexpected trends in forest conversion for grazing.

73. Currently, earthquake risk models are mainly based on extrapolations from limited historical timescale and ground motion recordings from past quakes. ---- In California, a cluster of five precariously balanced rocks that stand just 9.3 miles (15 kilometres) from the fault in northern Los Angeles county hold clues to how strong shaking has been over the last 50,000 years. Using data from these rocks, researchers found that the ground will likely shake up to 65% less aggressively than current official hazard models for the Big One, the big earthquake anticipated in the region, suggest, according to the researchers.

- A) So, in line with expectations, seismic activity predictions can be accurately determined using current technologies.
- B) Yet, interestingly, recent advancements in technology have rendered earthquake risk models obsolete.
- C) And, surprisingly, historical timescales have proven to be irrelevant in assessing earthquake risks.
- D) Notably, ground motion recordings from past quakes have limited utility in earthquake risk models.
- E) But fortunately, a different group of sentinels have witnessed and captured data from these temblors for much longer than humans: rocks.

74. It has become common to blame the cost-of-living crisis for rises in shoplifting. However, several facts do not fit with this theory. --- Likewise, when department stores like John Lewis decry theft of their high-end products, this is not a cost-of-living issue – it implies organised gangs are operating for profit. That explanation, put forward by the retailers themselves, contradicts the idea that increased shoplifting is due to cost-of-living issues.

- A) Shoplifting by dependent drug users, for example, is not due to the cost-of-living crisis.
- B) Contrary to popular belief, economic hardships potentially influence shoplifting trends.
- C) Surprisingly, environmental factors are more closely linked to the rise in shoplifting.
- D) Interestingly, the surge in shoplifting can be attributed solely to technological advancements.
- E) Alternatively, statistics reveal that shoplifting is independent of societal cost-of-living challenges.

75. How many ways are there to leave this universe? Perhaps the best known exit entails the death of a star. In 1939 the physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer and his student Hartland Snyder, of the University of California, Berkeley, predicted that when a sufficiently massive star runs out of thermonuclear fuel, it collapses inward and keeps collapsing forever, shrink-wrapping space, time and light around itself in what today is called a black hole. ---Instead, at least in the early universe, giant clouds of primordial gas may have collapsed directly into black holes, bypassing millions of years spent in stardom.

- A) And the collapse of a star does indeed result in the formation of a black hole.
- B) But it turns out that a dead star might not be needed to make a black hole.
- C) So black holes are thought to be formed through the collapse of massive stars.
- D) Otherwise the concept of black holes forming without the death of a star challenges existing theories.
- E) Thus, nearly every galaxy visible in the modern universe seems to harbour at its centre a supermassive black hole.

76-80: For these questions, choose the irrelevant sentence in the passage.

76. (I) Nearly a century ago, the astronomer Edwin Hubble discovered the balloon-like inflation of the universe and the accelerating rush of all galaxies away from each other. (II) Following that expansion backward in time led to our current best understanding of how everything began – the Big Bang. (III) Meanwhile, the high energy density of the early universe's crowded contents stretched space-time, pulling a small fraction of this matter safely from the fray. (IV) But over the past decade, an alarming hole has been growing in this picture: Depending on where astronomers look, the rate of the universe's expansion (a value called the Hubble constant) varies significantly. (V) Now, on the second anniversary of its launch, the James Webb Space Telescope has cemented the discrepancy with stunningly precise new observations that threaten to upend the standard model of cosmology.

- A) I B) II C) III D) IV E) V

77. (I) For generations, Western space missions have largely occurred out in the open. (II) Such missions highlight gaps in the regulation of spaceflight as well as concerns about whether exploring the cosmos will continue to benefit all humankind. (III) We knew where they were going, why they were going there and what they planned to do. (IV) But the world is on the verge of a new era in which private interests override such openness, with big money potentially on the line. (V) Sometime in the coming year, a spacecraft from AstroForge, an American asteroid-mining firm, may be launched on a mission to a rocky object near Earth's orbit, whose identity they will keep to themselves.

- A) I B) II C) III D) IV E) V

78. (I) Unlike the very limited functions of human hairs, hairs on tarantulas (and other spiders) can do so very many different things. (II) Some of these hairs act as sensory organs, helping tarantulas smell, taste, touch and detect vibrations from the world around them. (III) These sensory hairs are found mainly on the spiders' legs and mouthparts and feed into sensory nerves located in the spider's "skin" or cuticle. (IV) Tarantulas native to the Eastern Hemisphere, by contrast, do not have urticating setae. (V) The most sensitive hairs, called trichobothria, detect even the smallest changes in air movement because of their "ball and socket" attachment to the membrane in the cuticle.

A) I B) II C) III D) IV E) V

79. (I) In the director Wong Kar-wai's nostalgic films about neon-tinged 1960s Hong Kong, characters yearn for loves lost. (II) Today, many Hong Kongers are looking at their city with a similar longing as the Chinese territory (handed over by the British colonizers in 1997) undergoes a tumultuous political transformation. (III) After giant pro-democracy protests in 2019, an ongoing crackdown on speech and dissent has dismantled civil society groups and set off a wave of emigration. (IV) Famous restaurants shuttered under pandemic restrictions, and locals are flocking to small businesses operating as they did generations ago, not knowing when these living relics could also disappear. (V) One can time-travel in Sheung Wan, a charming neighbourhood where traditional stores sell tea and spices, just as they did more than a century ago, when the city was a colonial trading outpost.
- A) I B) II C) III D) IV E) V

80. (I) Starting around 1,800 miles beneath the surface, Earth's core is split into a swirling liquid outer boundary and a mostly solid inner layer. (II) This region is partially responsible for a number of our planet's geophysical dynamics, from the length of each day to Earth's magnetic field, which helps protect humanity from harmful rays emitted by the sun. (III) This shift is likely caused by a tiny misalignment between the inner core and the Earth's mantle – the layer below the Earth's crust, according to the researchers' new study. (IV) To better understand the inner workings of this core, the geophysical researchers, led by Hao Ding of Wuhan University, analysed in 2019 the movement of the Earth's rotational axis relative to its crust, which is known as polar rotation. (V) They detected a slight deviation in polar motion occurring roughly every 8.5 years, indicating the potential presence of an "inner core wobble," similar to the wobble of a spinning top.

- A) I B) II C) III D) IV E) V