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

If you have ever felt a tug-of-war between logic and emotion while bargain hunting, you are not alone. Black Friday has a unique way of sparking behaviours that seem completely irrational. Yet these reactions aren't random; they are deeply rooted in human psychology. So why does this annual shopping event have the power to make millions of us act as if snagging a discounted gadget is a matter of life and death? Let's find out. First, Black Friday deals are often not actually the best discounts of the year. Many companies use algorithm-driven dynamic pricing based on consumer data, which means that some items may be priced similarly − or even lower − during other sales throughout the year. Yet, year after year, we eagerly line up outside stores at dawn or crash e-commerce servers with our frantic clicks. This isn't about logic; it is about emotion. Black Friday isn't just a shopping event; it is a psychological battleground where our instincts take over. Imagine this: You are eyeing a limited-edition smartwatch, and there are only "two left in stock." Your heart races, your palms sweat, and you click "Buy Now" faster than you can think. This ambiguous mix of excitement and anxiety is carefully engineered by marketers. Scarcity cues − like low stock warnings and countdown timers − create urgency, triggering our fear of missing out (FOMO). FOMO isn't just a catchy acronym; it is a psychological response rooted in loss aversion. It describes how the pain of losing an opportunity is far more powerful than the joy of gaining something.

43. One can conclude from the passage that trying to buy an item at a cheap price during Black Friday sales ----.

A) sounds like an illogical behaviour, but psychologists think otherwise

B) pays off because prices offered at Black Friday are the cheapest of the year

C) is indeed a matter of life and death for some people around the world

D) is reasonable because the joy of gaining something is the most powerful emotion

E) is a popular phenomenon that results from people's emotional responses

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44. According to the passage, Black Friday deals ----.

A) are not necessarily bargains as millions of people think

B) are once-a-year opportunities that should not be missed

C) are eventually the end-product of the greed of many companies trying to improve their sales

D) cause many people to lose their mental balance in the end

E) may cause anxiety when people miss the opportunity to buy what they want for a bargain

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45. It is stated in the passage that FOMO ----.

A) is a byproduct of people's looking for limited edition items

B) and scarcity cues work together to pave the way for bargain deals

C) is triggered by impulse buys which take place at the last moment

D) might be the main reason for people to buy low-in-stock items on days like Black Friday

E) has become popular in the last decades with the rising prices of goods

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46. What is the primary purpose of the author?

A) To encourage people to avoid shopping on Black Friday

B) To explain the psychological factors driving irrational behavior during Black Friday shopping

C) To provide tips for finding the best Black Friday deals

D) To criticize the ethics of Black Friday marketing strategies

E) To inform about what fear of missing out is by giving examples from Black Friday purchases

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

For nearly two centuries, palaeontologists have wondered what sabre-toothed cats really looked like. Despite models in museums, dramatic paleoart, and even a starring spot in the Ice Age movies, the appearance of these long-fanged predators has been a mystery. All experts have really had to go on are fossilized bones and the occasional footprint. Now a frozen cub found in the Siberian permafrost has provided the world with a glimpse of a sabretooth that roamed across the Northern Hemisphere around 32,000 years ago. In 2020, "the frozen, mummified carcass was found by diggers prospecting for mammoth tusks. The frozen cub not only provides the first look at what a saber-toothed cat looked like in real life, but also represents a life stage that paleontologists know less about, as most fossils are from adult animals. The cub was identified as a baby *Homotherium latidens*. The carnivore, sometimes called a scimitar-toothed cat for its shorter, serrated canine teeth compared to the "dirk-toothed" *Smilodon*, was a lanky and wide-ranging predator that was better suited to running after prey than the ambush techniques used by the famous *Smilodon*. Found in both Eurasia and North America, the cat hunted juvenile mammoths and other megafauna. Fossil sites such as Friesenhahn Cave in Texas indicate that the felines sometimes made dens in caves to raise their cubs.

47. One can conclude from the passage that the rendition of the sabre-toothed cat in the movie Ice Age ----.

A) was so successful that scientists' interest in the cat increased exponentially

B) was in fact based on a *Smilodon* fossil which was found in Friesenhahn Cave in Texas

C) is iconic, and is till appreciated by millions all over the world

D) was based more on imagination than scientific evidence

E) was the result of a close analysis of the frozen cub found in the Siberian permafrost

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48. What makes the frozen sabre-toothed cub found in the Siberian permafrost unique?

A) The similarity it bears to a fossil of *Smilodon*

B) The way it was discovered by scientists

C) The fact that it is a first-of-its-kind fossil

D) The harsh conditions in which it was discovered

E) The way it was presented to the world

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49. According to the passage, *Homotherium latidens* is different from *Smilodon* in that ----.

A) it has shorter teeth with a texture like that of a saw
B) its fossil was found in an almost intact condition
C) it is sometimes called the "dirk-toothed" feline
D) its teeth length is way more than *Smilodon*'s
E) it is almost always accompanied by other cubs

Kıyas

For nearly two centuries, palaeontologists have wondered what sabre-toothed cats really looked like. Despite models in museums, dramatic paleoart, and even a starring spot in the Ice Age movies, the appearance of these long-fanged predators has been a mystery. All experts have really had to go on are fossilized bones and the occasional footprint. Now a frozen cub found in the Siberian permafrost has provided the world with a glimpse of a sabretooth that roamed across the Northern Hemisphere around 32,000 years ago. In 2020, "the frozen, mummified carcass was found by diggers prospecting for mammoth tusks. The frozen cub not only provides the first look at what a saber-toothed cat looked like in real life, but also represents a life stage that paleontologists know less about, as most fossils are from adult animals. The cub was identified as a baby *Homotherium latidens*. The carnivore, sometimes called a scimitar-toothed cat for its shorter, serrated canine teeth compared to the "dirk-toothed" *Smilodon*, was a lanky and wide-ranging predator that was better suited to running after prey than the ambush techniques used by the famous *Smilodon*. Found in both Eurasia and North America, the cat hunted juvenile mammoths and other megafauna. Fossil sites such as Friesenhahn Cave in Texas indicate that the felines sometimes made dens in caves to raise their cubs.

50. What is the main purpose of the author?

A) To provide an in-depth analysis of the hunting techniques used exclusively by the Smilodon species of sabre-toothed cats

B) To reveal how a frozen cub has helped palaeontologists understand the appearance of sabre-toothed cats

C) To discuss the methods scientists use to preserve fossils found in permafrost and other extreme environments

D) To explain in detail the reasons behind the extinction of sabre-toothed cats and other Ice Age predators

E) To compare the physical and behavioural traits of sabre-toothed cats with those of modern-day big cats like lions and tigers

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

Fast fashion is everywhere – in just about every mall, in the feeds of influencers on social media promoting overconsumption, and in ads constantly popping up online. Its focus on the continual production of new clothing is marked by speedy fashion cycles that give it its name. Fast fashion is intended to quickly copy high-end designs, but with low-quality materials, resulting in poorly made clothing intended to be worn once or twice before being thrown away. One of fast fashion's leading companies has a mission to put clothes in stores 15 days after the initial design. Another one adds up to 2,000 new items to its website daily. While others in the fashion industry are working toward more sustainable clothing, fast fashion is focused on profit. The market's value was estimated at about US$100 billion in 2022 and growing quickly. It is a large part of the reason global clothing production doubled from 2000 to 2014. The big winners in this game are the corporations. The industry has a reputation for exploiting workers and for excessive pollution and extraordinary waste. Consumers are pulled into an unhealthy, spiralling pressure to buy more as cheap clothes fall apart fast. Fast fashion also has a growing impact on the global climate. It is responsible for an estimated 8% to 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and its emissions are projected to grow quickly as the industry expands.

51. It can be understood from the passage that high-end designs ----.

A) generally have to copy the glamorous fast fashion designs
B) are everywhere, especially pumped up by social media influencers
C) are the main reason why there is overconsumption in fashion industry
D) sometimes appear in displays in as often as 15-day cycles
E) tend to have a longer lifespan than fast fashion items

Fast fashion is everywhere – in just about every mall, in the feeds of influencers on social media promoting overconsumption, and in ads constantly popping up online. Its focus on the continual production of new clothing is marked by speedy fashion cycles that give it its name. Fast fashion is intended to quickly copy high-end designs, but with low-quality materials, resulting in poorly made clothing intended to be worn once or twice before being thrown away. One of fast fashion's leading companies has a mission to put clothes in stores 15 days after the initial design. Another one adds up to 2,000 new items to its website daily. While others in the fashion industry are working toward more sustainable clothing, fast fashion is focused on profit. The market's value was estimated at about US$100 billion in 2022 and growing quickly. It is a large part of the reason global clothing production doubled from 2000 to 2014. The big winners in this game are the corporations. The industry has a reputation for exploiting workers and for excessive pollution and extraordinary waste. Consumers are pulled into an unhealthy, spiralling pressure to buy more as cheap clothes fall apart fast. Fast fashion also has a growing impact on the global climate. It is responsible for an estimated 8% to 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and its emissions are projected to grow quickly as the industry expands.

52. Which of the following is not among the effects of fast fashion mentioned in the passage?

A) Overconsumption of clothing items

B) Uncommon amount of waste

C) Global greenhouse gas emissions

D) Sustainable clothing

E) Unnecessary pollution

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53. Which can be understood from the passage?

A) Fast fashion companies will eventually opt for sustainable clothing.

B) It is possible for every company to add 2,000 new items to their collection every day.

C) Although big companies make a lot of money out of fast fashion, employees aren't given their worth.

D) Consumers are the victims in the atmosphere that fast-fashion creates.

E) High-end designs are responsible for the exponential increase in global clothing production.

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54. What is the primary purpose of the author?

A) To inform about the history of fashion cycles and the evolution of modern clothing trends through fast fashion

B) To explain the environmental and social impacts of fast fashion and highlight its unsustainable practices worldwide

C) To praise the affordability and accessibility of fast fashion for consumers worldwide despite its negative consequences

D) To provide a comprehensive guide on how to shop for high-quality clothing in a world dominated by fast fashion brands

E) To discuss innovative ways fashion corporations are shifting toward sustainable practices to address fast fashion's negative effects

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

Diabetes develops when the body fails to manage its blood glucose levels. One form of diabetes causes the body to not produce insulin at all. Called Type 1 diabetes, or T1D, this autoimmune disease happens when the body's defence system mistakes its own insulin-producing cells as foreign and kills them. On average, T1D can lead patients to lose an average of 32 years of healthy life. Current treatment for T1D involves lifelong insulin injections. While effective, patients taking insulin risk developing low blood glucose levels, which can cause symptoms such as shakiness, irritability, hunger, confusion and dizziness. Severe cases can result in seizures or unconsciousness. Real-time blood glucose monitors and injection devices can help avoid low blood sugar levels by controlling insulin release, but they don't work for some patients. For these patients, a treatment called islet transplantation can help better control blood glucose by giving them both new insulin-producing cells as well as cells that prevent glucose levels from falling too low. However, it is limited by donor availability and the need to use immunosuppressive drugs. Only about 10% of T1D patients are eligible for islet transplants. Islet transplantation is now considered a minor surgery, where islets are injected into a vein in the liver using a catheter. As simple as it may seem, there are many challenges associated with the procedure, including its high cost and a limited availability of donor islets. Transplantation also requires lifelong use of immunosuppressive drugs that allow the foreign islets to live and function in the body. But the use of immunosuppressants also increases the risk of other infections.

55. The main reason why T1D occurs is that ----.

A) the patient's body overdoes the management of blood glucose levels

B) people are not careful about what they eat and develop a false autoimmune response

C) some people start taking insulin injections even if they are unnecessary

D) the disease takes an average of 32 years from a healthy person's life

E) the defence system in the patient's body start terminating insulin-producing cells

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56. Which could be inferred from the passage?

A) The treatments mentioned in the passage are not definitive cures for T1D.

B) Islet transplantation is the better option for the sufferers of T1D.

C) People who don't want to go through lifelong insulin injections opt for islet transplantation.

D) Some patients of T1D refuse to use real-time blood glucose monitors.

E) Immunosuppressive drugs are compulsory for people who get insulin injections.

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57. The main problem with the islet transplantation is that ----.

A) the procedure involves a major surgery that can risk a patient's life

B) only a small percentage of T1D patients can have the treatment

C) it can cause symptoms such as shakiness, irritability, and hunger

D) it necessitated the use of real-time blood glucose monitors

E) seizures and unconsciousness are among its main side effects

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58. What is the passage mainly about?

A) The passage explains how all types of diabetes can be cured through insulin injections.

B) The passage mainly focuses on the dietary causes of Type 1 diabetes.

C) The passage discusses T1D, its causes, treatments, and challenges regarding its treatments.

D) The passage is about advanced research curing diabetes without the need for lifelong treatments.

E) The passage primarily discusses the economic burden of diabetes worldwide.

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

An essential Atlantic Ocean current that regulates the planet's climate is weakening much faster than previously thought, according to a new study. The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), which includes the Gulf Stream, stabilizes climates in the Northern Hemisphere and beyond. But a new climate model that factors in freshwater melt from Greenland's ice sheet has suggested that, at the current rate of global carbon dioxide emissions, the current could weaken by as much as one-third in the next 15 years. The AMOC acts as a planetary conveyor belt, bringing nutrients, oxygen and heat north from tropical waters while moving colder water south − a balancing act that keeps both sides of the Atlantic 5 degrees Celsius warmer than it would otherwise be. But research into Earth's climate history shows that the current has switched off in the past, and a growing number of studies have hinted that climate change is causing the AMOC to slow. Worst-case scenarios suggest the current may collapse. If the current were to stop completely, it would sow chaos across the globe, causing temperatures to plummet across Europe, storms to proliferate at the equator, and other unforeseen effects to impact tipping points in the Amazon rainforest and other regions.

59 The latest study on the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation ----.

A) is different from the previous ones in that it has announced its inevitable demise

B) was funded by European countries that were concerned about their future climate

C) has altered our perception about the Earth's climate history

D) includes promising assumptions about the future of the Gulf Stream

E) has revealed some depressing possibilities regarding its fate

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60. According to the passage, what makes the results of the new study alarming is that ----.

A) the Gulf Stream will certainly cease to bring nutrients to north

B) Earth's climate history has had incidents that confirm the claims of the study

C) it gives a certain date on which the AMOC will cease to function altogether

D) it predicts a chaos scenario that will wreak havoc on Earth is as early as 15 years

E) it projects a total of 10 degrees Celsius decrease in ocean temperatures

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61. According to the passage, the collapse of the AMOC ----.

A) is inevitable, and all we can do is prepare for the worst effects

B) means most people in Europe will have to deal with storms emanating from the equator

C) will cause the temperatures at the equator to drop dramatically

D) could have far-reaching consequences that might go beyond Europe

E) might have to do with the slowing-down of carbon dioxide emissions

An essential Atlantic Ocean current that regulates the planet's climate is weakening much faster than previously thought, according to a new study. The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), which includes the Gulf Stream, stabilizes climates in the Northern Hemisphere and beyond. But a new climate model that factors in freshwater melt from Greenland's ice sheet has suggested that, at the current rate of global carbon dioxide emissions, the current could weaken by as much as one-third in the next 15 years. The AMOC acts as a planetary conveyor belt, bringing nutrients, oxygen and heat north from tropical waters while moving colder water south − a balancing act that keeps both sides of the Atlantic 5 degrees Celsius warmer than it would otherwise be. But research into Earth's climate history shows that the current has switched off in the past, and a growing number of studies have hinted that climate change is causing the AMOC to slow. Worst-case scenarios suggest the current may collapse. If the current were to stop completely, it would sow chaos across the globe, causing temperatures to plummet across Europe, storms to proliferate at the equator, and other unforeseen effects to impact tipping points in the Amazon rainforest and other regions.

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

A) How Europe's Climate is Completely Immune to the Effects of Global Warming and Climate Change

B) The History of Ocean Currents and Their Exclusive Role in Supporting Marine Life and Biodiversity

C) The Rapid Weakening of the Atlantic Ocean's Climate-Regulating Current and Its Global Impacts

D) Reversing the Flow of Ocean Currents: An Innovative Approach to Combating Global Climate Challenges

E) The Gulf Stream: A Solution to Climate Change Through Natural Ocean Currents

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

63. Claire:

— According to this article in the Popular Science magazine, I am left-brained.

Harry:

— Get rid of that magazine right now. You don't need nonsense like that.

Claire:

— But I am analytical and logical; besides, I lack any creativity.

Harry:

— ----

Claire:

— Well, I will keep the magazine unless you present any proof.

Harry:

— Ok then. How about a 2013 study done with 1,000 people which shows that a person uses both hemispheres of the brain and does not seem to be a dominant side?

Agree
Disagree

A) Though people do not fall neatly into the categories of left-brained or right-brained, there are differences in what the left and right hemispheres do.

B) While the two halves of the brain have different functions, people do not have a dominant side that affects their personalities and behaviors.

C) While the brain uses multiple areas to process and generate emotional responses, the right side of the brain is dominant in these processes.

D) Some people may primarily process language on the left side of their brain, while others may do so on the right side.

E) The left and right sides of the brain operate differently and are responsible for different bodily processes.

64. Student:

— What tools do crows use to get food from hard-to-reach places?

Teacher:

— Crows are remarkably intelligent birds. They can use sticks, stones, or even pieces of wire as tools to access food.

Student:

— ----

Teacher:

— They also display problem-solving skills, such as bending a wire into a hook to pull up a treat from a container.

A) Crows live in groups and seem to communicate a lot. Do they have their own way of "talking" like humans?

B) And do they teach these skills to other crows, or is it something each crow learns alone?

C) I've read that crows can recognize human faces. How does this help them in their survival?

D) So, this ability to use tools shows they are kind of intelligent. Are there other signs of their intelligence?

E) Isn't it fascinating how they can remember locations for months or even years?

65. Dave:

— Did you know that many tribal communities have practiced healing rituals for centuries?

Kim:

— Fascinating! It seems like they understood the connection between mind and body long ago.

Dave:

— ----

Kim:

— Oh, I see! So, these rituals must have laid the groundwork for modern holistic practices.

Dave:

— Exactly! Many tribal healing methods, like chanting, drumming, or herbal remedies, reflect a deep understanding of nature and human health.

A) But today, these practices are often combined with modern medicine to offer more comprehensive treatment.

B) Actually, many tribal healing methods focus on restoring balance, which seems similar to modern therapeutic approaches.

C) In some cases, tribal healers even relied on storytelling as a way to connect with patients emotionally.

D) Ancient healers saw illnesses as spiritual imbalances, but they didn't use physical treatments.

E) Right, but what you're referring to is the formal recognition of such practices in recent times.

66. Val:

— Why is saffron rice such a special part of Iranian cuisine?

Debbie:

— ----

Val:

— So, this is why it's considered so unique. Can you explain more about how it's prepared?

Debbie:

— Iranian saffron rice is cooked using a layering technique. The rice is steamed with saffron and butter, creating a golden crust called *tahdig*, which is crispy and flavorful.

A) This style is famous for its slow cooking, which allows the rice to absorb the saffron's flavor while forming a perfect golden crust.

B) In fact, Persian cuisine is known for its delicate use of saffron, which is one of the most expensive spices in the world, giving rice its distinctive appeal.

C) Rice is central to Iranian cuisine, and saffron rice is often served at special occasions, symbolizing wealth and happiness.

D) Well, rice is an important part of Iranian culinary culture, especially in dishes like *chelow* and *polo*, where it's paired with stews or meat.

E) As far as I know, the unique aroma and color of saffron make Iranian rice dishes stand out, especially when combined with herbs and spices.

67. Student:

— What are the effects of physical activity on human health?

Professor:

— Engaging in physical activity can result in improved preservation of bone density, improved strength, reduced body fat, and better cardiovascular health.

Student:

— I guess a lot of research must have been done on this issue. Is there any type of simple activity that can benefit the least active members of the society?

Professor:

— ----

Student:

— Then there should be public health announcements encouraging all people to leave the couch they have been occupying.

A) Running can be more daunting or difficult for people who are generally not physically active.

B) Weight lifting is essential for maintaining muscle mass and cardiovascular health.

C) Walking. It is easier to maintain and provides significant life expectancy benefits.

D) First, we need to persuade people to leave their comfort zones and start moving.

E) High intensity interval training is for people who have been working out for a long time.

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

68. Natural sugars not only provide energy but also offer sweetness and flavor to entice us to eat the foods that contain important vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients.

A) As well as providing energy, natural sugars also enhance the sweetness and flavor of foods, which means we are appealed to foods that contain important vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients.

B) Besides supplying energy, natural sugars provide sweetness and flavor, making foods rich in essential vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients more appealing for us to consume.

C) As much as they are known to supply energy only, natural sugars also offer sweetness and flavor, which means we are attracted to foods that contain important vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients.

D) Different from other sugars, natural sugars provide energy, as well as offering sweetness and flavor, which is why we eat foods that contain important vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients.

E) In addition to the fact that they provide energy, natural sugars contribute sweetness and flavor, which can make nutrient-rich foods more enjoyable and satisfying to eat.

69. All living things have a blueprint provided by the DNA that is stored in every one of their cells, but the amount of DNA in each cell – referred to as genome size – spans an incredible range across the tree of life.

A) Though every living organism has a blueprint encoded in the DNA present in each of its cells, the quantity of DNA in a single cell, known as genome size, varies remarkably across the diversity of life.

B) Despite the blueprint − provided by the DNA that is stored in every one of their cells − they have, every living thing has quite a different range when it comes to the amount of DNA, also known as genome size.

C) Although every living organism possesses a blueprint in the form of DNA stored in each of its cells, the amount of DNA, or genome size, varies a lot among different organisms.

D) While every living organism carries a DNA blueprint within each of its cells, the amount of DNA, or genome size, differs greatly across species that have ever lived on Earth.

E) Every living organism carries a DNA blueprint in each of its cells; however, the amount of DNA, or genome size as it is popularly known, varies widely among species.

70. For the first three months, the infant's immune system has fewer innate infection-fighting immune cells, compared with adults, which means that infections that cause mild symptoms in adults or older children can be life-threatening for babies.

A) During the first three months of life, an infant's immune system contains fewer innate infection-fighting cells compared to adults; as a result, infections causing mild symptoms in older children can become life-threatening for babies.

B) In the first three months of life, an infant's immune system has fewer innate infection-fighting cells than that of adults; consequently, infections that produce mild symptoms in older children can be life-threatening for babies.

C) Infections that cause mild symptoms in adults or older children can be life-threatening for babies because the infant's immune system has almost no infection-fighting immune cells in the first three months of their lives.

D) During the first three months of life, an infant's immune system has fewer innate infection-fighting cells compared to adults, making infections that cause mild symptoms in older children potentially life-threatening for babies.

E) As infants have fewer innate infection-fighting immune cells than adults during their first three months of life, infections that are mild in adults or older children can pose life-threatening risks to babies.

71. Although researchers and clinicians are getting much better at recognizing the many ways that autism can present, there are still many who are being overlooked.

A) While researchers and clinicians have significantly improved in recognizing the diverse ways autism can manifest, many sufferers are overlooked.

B) Whereas researchers and clinicians have made great strides in identifying the manifestations of autism, many individuals still go unnoticed.

C) There have been great improvements in the many ways autism manifests itself, but researchers and clinicians still miss some of the different types.

D) Researchers and clinicians are making great strides in identifying the diverse presentations of autism; even so, there are still many that go unnoticed.

E) Significant progress has been made in understanding the diverse ways autism manifests, yet researchers and clinicians still overlook certain variations.

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

72. The world we live in was built on horseback. Many people today rarely encounter horses, but this is a recent development. Only a few decades ago domestic horses formed the fabric of societies around the globe. ---- Mail was delivered by postal riders, people traveled by horse-drawn carriage, merchants used horses to transport goods across continents, farmers cultivated their land with horsepower, and soldiers rode horses into battle.

A) Scholars have long sought to find out how the partnership between humans and horses started.

B) The genus Equus, which includes horses and zebras, originated four million years ago in North America.

C) A stronger, more scientific understanding of horse domestication began to take shape in the 1990s.

D) Almost every aspect of daily life was linked to horses in an important way.

E) We now know that many other aspects of horse riding can leave a recognizable signature in an animal's teeth and bones.

73. The thyroid is found in the neck, and is responsible for producing hormones that in turn play a role in metabolism, growth and development in children, temperature regulation and in the functioning of the heart and digestive system. Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) is produced by the pituitary gland, another hormone-producing organ in the head. This in turn causes the thyroid to produce T3 and T4, which play a role in the aforementioned processes. ---- Conversely, hyperthyroidism – where thyroid levels are too high – is associated with weight loss and muscle weakness, high heart rate and blood pressure, feeling anxious and irritable.

A) Low levels of thyroid hormones can lead to symptoms including fatigue, weight gain, loss of hair and inability to concentrate.

B) These symptoms can make life tough, so doctors often prescribe *levothyroxine* to restore hormone levels and help people feel like themselves again.

C) Older adults are more prone to hypothyroidism, where the thyroid slows down and doesn't make enough hormones to keep the body running smoothly.

D) Those with slightly elevated TSH and slightly low T4 get a diagnosis of subclinical hypothyroidism, which might be treated with *levothyroxine*.

E) Hypothyroidism is diagnosed by looking at the free thyroxine (T4) levels in people with elevated TSH levels, and comparing the ratio between them.

74. Albert Einstein's theory of gravity, general relativity, is famously incomplete. As proven by physics Nobel laureate Roger Penrose, when matter collapses under its own gravitational pull, the result is a "singularity" – a point of infinite density or curvature. ---- As a result, the laws of physics as we know them suffer a complete breakdown. If we could observe singularities, our physical theories couldn't be used to predict the future from the past. In other words, science would become an impossibility.

A) Penrose also realised nature may hold a remedy for this fate – black holes.

B) In all the known mathematical descriptions of black holes, singularities are present in their core.

C) It is widely expected that any viable theory of quantum gravity should resolve the singularities present in the classical theory.

D) Though the defining equations of semi-classical gravity are known, solving them is another story entirely.

E) At a singularity, space, time and matter are crushed and stretched into nonexistence.

75. Every year, billions of vehicles worldwide shed an estimated 6 million tonnes of tyre fragments. These tiny flakes of plastic, generated by the wear and tear of normal driving, eventually accumulate in the soil, in rivers and lakes, and even in our food. Researchers in South China recently found tyre-derived chemicals in most human urine samples. ---- They account for 28% of microplastics entering the environment globally.

A) Despite the scale of the issue, tyre particles have flown under the radar.

B) We urgently need to classify tyre particles as a unique pollution category.

✓C) These tyre particles are a significant but often-overlooked contributor to microplastic pollution.

D) Tyre particles tend to be made from a complex mix of synthetic and natural rubbers, along with hundreds of chemical additives.

E) We know that heavier vehicles, including electric cars, wear down their tyres faster and generate more microplastic particles.

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

76. **(I)** Contrary to what many people believe, video gaming is not a bad activity with which to engage. **(II)** One study conducted in Japan between 2020 and 2022 challenges the commonly held negative perceptions of video gaming. **(III)** To some extent, this may be common sense; gaming is, after all, something that many people do on a daily basis. **(IV)** Just think about the number of people that play Wordle, Connections, or Sudoku (I bet you know a few). **(V)** However, no one seems to suggest that playing such games is bad for you.

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

77. **(I)** Thanks to bestselling authors like Jonathan Haidt and Jean Twenge, the public has become increasingly aware of the rapid rise in mental health issues among younger people in many western countries. **(II)** Their warnings about the destructive impact of social media have had an effect, reflected not least in a wave of schools across Europe banning smartphones. **(III)** One could contend that all social problems, even those that social science has yet to fully understand, affect mental health. **(IV)** While it is good to draw attention to the rising rates of depression and anxiety, there is a risk of becoming fixated on simplistic explanations that reduce the issue to technical variables like "screen time". **(V)** According to a review in the journal Psychological Medicine, the reported prevalence of long-standing mental health conditions among four- to 24-year-olds increased sixfold in England between 1995 and 2014 and more than doubled in Scotland between 2003 and 2014 − long before smart phones became a household item.

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

78. **(I)** Scientists in China have uncovered a "supergiant" deposit of high-quality gold ore hidden near some of the country's existing gold mines. **(II)** The vast reserve, which could be the largest single reservoir of the valuable metal left anywhere on Earth, is worth billions of dollars and caused the global price of gold to skyrocket to near-record highs. **(III)** When the new deposit was uncovered at the Wangu gold field in the northeast of Hunan province, representatives from the Geological Bureau of Hunan Province told Chinese state media. **(IV)** Workers detected more than 40 gold veins, which contained around 330 tons (300 metric tons) of gold down to a depth of 2,000 meters. **(V)** It is hard to keep track of the amount of gold left in the various mines across the world due to fluctuations in the rate of extraction at each site and a lack of transparency in reporting results.

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

79. **(I)** The history of Western architecture is marked by a series of new solutions to structural problems. **(II)** During the period from the beginning of civilization through ancient Greek culture, construction methods progressed from the shed roof and simple truss to the vertical posts, or columns, supporting horizontal beams, or lintels. **(III)** Greek architecture also formalized many structural and decorative elements into three Classical orders − Ionic, Doric, and Corinthian − which, to a greater or lesser extent, have influenced architecture since that time. **(IV)** Not until the 19th century, with the advent of cast-iron and steel construction, did a new architectural age dawn and higher, broader, and lighter buildings become possible. **(V)** Following them, the Romans exploited the arch, vault, and dome and made broader use of the load-bearing masonry wall.

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

80. **(I)** A possible ancient shoreline has been found in the region of Mars explored by the Chinese rover Zhurong, providing further evidence that an ocean may once have covered a vast area of the lowlands in the planet's northern hemisphere. **(II)** Water is a key ingredient for life, and the past presence of an ocean on Mars raises the prospect that Mars once might have been capable of harbouring microbial life at its early stage. **(III)** The rover landed in the southern Utopia Planitia region of Mars in May 2021 and remained active for nearly a year. **(IV)** Researchers studying data from Zhurong have previously found hints of liquid water as recently as 400,000 years ago. **(V)** Now, scientists at Hong Kong Polytechnic University have conducted a comprehensive analysis of the topographic features in the landing area, combining data from satellites with observations from the rover, and they have found features consistent with the existence of a shoreline in southern Utopia Planitia.

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

Tanımlama