

1. Jean:

- Almost all the science fiction films produced recently are remakes of the famous films from the 1950s and 60s. They're newer but I think most of them fall far short of their originals.

Paul:

- Are you kidding? Have you seen Tim Burton's 2001 remake of *Planet of the Apes*. It's vastly superior to the original as a work of visual art.

Jean:

- I see what you mean, but making a good sci-fi film is more than using impressive special effects.

Paul:

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Jean:

- I would say none of those. I think a sci-fi is at its best not when celebrating the spectacle but when it offers intelligent social and political commentary. That's what the new remakes lack.

A) You may be right. Still, does its being a remake change the reality that it simply relies on nostalgia?

B) Do you think the script, or the scenario, is more important than the actors and special effects?

C) Are you talking about actors? Or is it the decline in importance of cinema with the appearance of DVDs?

D) That's right, but does anyone care more for the popularity of the original film than that of the remake?

E) Can we see Burton's unique flair in the remake film with the same energy and impact of the original?

2. Alissa:

-Do you know the Roman theatre in the 3,000-year-old city of Volterra is currently being immortalised with three-dimensional (3D) scanning techniques for visiting?

Brian:

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Alissa:

-Scientists use laser scanning and drones to take full 3D scans of architecture and artefacts. These then can be reconstructed in a computer to produce identical 3D models.

Brian:

- So, this means now we can put on our virtual reality headset and virtually visit them whenever we want. That's cool!

Alissa:

- Exactly! I can't wait to see some 13th-century medieval castles without even getting out of my apartment.

A) How can 3D technology help scientists unearth historical truths?

B) Are virtual tours already possible thanks to the virtual reality technology?

C) So how are they going to preserve historic buildings preserved digitally?

D) Actually, why does the 3D technology attract our attention?

E) Do scientists all appreciate the benefits of virtual reality and 3D technologies?

3. Rick:

- After that presentation today, I have to agree that Henry Ford was really a business pioneer.

Sarah:

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Rick:

-Why not? He was the first to realize that in addition to focusing on providing a quality product at an affordable price, companies also need to understand that employees are potential customers.

Sarah:

- I see. That's why he doubled his employees' wages - so they could afford to buy his products?

Rick:

- Exactly! This makes him a real entrepreneur. If your workers become your customers, your business will thrive.

A) As your employees are involved in the decision making process, they can help to boost sales as well.

B) When it comes to being a real forerunner, I'm not sure if we can define him so.

C) Right, so he was the first to see that the production line was more efficient.

D) But we cannot say he made the products for middle- and upper-class consumers.

E) Ok, that was useful in that century, but can this strategy be applied to today's businesses?

as such.  
that way.  
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4. Sam:

- Have you heard some companies are now seriously thinking about mining asteroids?

Ashley:

- Really? I've never thought asteroids could offer commercial value. You know, it must be too costly even to go near an asteroid.

Sam:

- Incredibly, a metallic asteroid could contain enough gold, platinum, and nickel to make it worth thousands of billions of dollars.

Ashley:

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A) The real problem is to determine which asteroids are economically viable to exploit and how mining operations can be done reliably.

B) As a matter of fact, asteroids could help humans in many ways, including telling us about our place in the Solar System.

C) I think with inadequate laws and regulations, the race for asteroid-mining could lead to serious problems.

D) Well, water in asteroids could provide us with the raw materials for our exploration of the Solar System.

✓ E) But it may lead to rivalries and even hostilities among companies over who has the right to mine which asteroid. ✓

5. Professor:

- **Astrobiologists** are searching for signs of past life on Mars, where they'll probably never go.

Student:

- **How are they examining** the planet from **such a distance**?

Professor:

- **They designed** a very complicated instrument **to send to** the surface of the planet.

Student:

- ----

Professor:

- **It looks** like a lunch box. **It'll move across** the surface with three pairs of legs in tiny 100-micron size steps **and analyse** the chemical make-up of different areas.

A) What can astrobiologists discover on the planet?

B) Can you be more specific as to **the way it works**?

C) **How different** is their robot from **previous ones**?

D) Can this tool help us find evidence of ancient life on Mars?

E) Do you think this instrument be successful?

6. Journalist:

- Recently, images of **sea turtles** that drowned from becoming entangled in plastic bags have been widely shared on social media.

Ecologist:

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Journalist:

- **What** might be increasing **their chances of death** from plastic?

Ecologist:

- **They** tend to swim near the surface, where plastic floats, and **thus they** generally drift with plastic-rich currents.

Journalist:

- So, because **old turtles** encounter **lower concentrations of plastic debris in deep**, their risk of death is **lower and vice versa for the young ones**.

A) What a pity! Drowning is not the only threat from plastic bags. Sea turtles mistake plastic bags as jellyfish and ingest them, which leads to blockage or starvation.

B) Whether it's a plastic bag or any other kind of plastic material, plastic pollution impacts sea turtles at every stage of their life.

C) I think plastic trash in the world's oceans affects not only young sea turtles, but also many other sea creatures.

D) Very disappointing! Especially **young ones** are at **greater risk of being affected** by plastic pollution in the oceans than their elders.

E) Everything from cosmetics, cleaning products, toys to household items include bits of plastic that may eventually end up in the ocean.

7.

Journalist:

- What do you feel your strengths are as an author?

Author:

- My goal has always been to be honest. **Honest to the characters**, honest to the people who experience in real life what the character goes through on the page, **honest to myself** and the vision I hold. **I also have style of my own** in expression.

Journalist:

- How have you **developed these qualities**?

Author:

Journalist:

- **And, to be honest**, I love reading what comes out as a result.

A) Since my job is, in part, to write dialogues for the cinema, I think I have, over the years, gotten better and better at finding that honesty through what the characters say and leave unsaid.

B) I can go for long stretches when I don't write anything, but writing and being in the flow makes me happy and there's always an idea brewing.

C) When you're open to anything in reading and writing, leaving behind your biases, in time you come to **realize what suits** you **most** and **dwell on it longer**. And of course, **practice makes perfect**.

D) The process is never perfect, and since I rarely work from an outline, there's a lot of time spent just sitting and waiting for the next idea to come.

E) These days when I have a project in mind, I write at weekends unless I'm on a deadline. That way, I can allocate enough time for both my businesses and my creative work.

8.

Reporter:

- **The Enlightenment** was an intellectual time when scholars sought to shift inquiry away from the **supernatural** towards **physical and human nature**. What developments would you say **aided in the proliferation** of critical thinking in the Enlightenment period?

Historian:

and

1 Print culture plus the creation of a literate middle-class.

Reporter:

Historian:

2 - This expanding audience with more leisure time had at last access to pamphlets, essays, novels and such. And this allowed knowledge to be disseminated more quickly and be debated in salons and coffee houses.

A) What else changed along with the new way of thinking?

3 B) In what sense do you think these are interconnected?

C) How did the **printing press** help in the Enlightenment period?

D) Were there any factors that impeded the progress of this new thinking style?

E) How would you explain the impact of **leisure time on people's** access to new information?



9. Kelly:

- I've been **on a diet** and **jogging for** over a month, but I **haven't lost any pounds** yet. Look at you! You're always very fit. **What's your secret, Jason?**

Jason:

- **Just change your workout pattern.** Instead of jogging for 30 or 60 minutes, **mix up short, intense bursts** of activity with less hardcore moves **in between.** Try 4-minute intense workouts followed by 10 seconds of a moderate activity. It's called **high intensive interval training** - also called HUT.

Kelly:

- **Does it really work?** To be honest, **I don't think it can be as effective as longer workouts that gradually build in intensity.**

Jason:

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Kelly:

- **Then, I will give it a try and be fit just like you.**

A) It is a faster and more successful method you can advise to your friend if he can't cut down on fatty foods.

B) **On the contrary,** its advantages outweigh those of other types of **diets** so it helps lose weight with **little exercise.**

C) It might be the latest trend, but if you think being healthy is more important than burning calories, you must try long term ones.

D) It sounds awesome, and in your case it seems to have worked. You can do it in the gym or outdoors.

E) **It's the other way around.** In fact, studies have shown that **you burn more calories and fat soon after you start.**

10.

Bill:

- We don't know how to cope with cyberbullying and this new selfie culture. My daughter lives in a virtual world. Sometimes I think she lives to display her life online. She doesn't seem to recognize our worries at all.

Andy:

- It's a tough time to be a teen. She's living in a sensitive age, so you need to sympathize with her.

Bill:

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Andy:

- Experts warn that teenagers are in the midst of a mental health crisis: self-harm and depression are soaring, especially among girls. If I were in your shoes, I'd encourage her to engage in some social activities, such as sport or art clubs.

A) I completely agree, but we do not know where to start to help her get away from this virtual world.

B) Well, we don't want to criticise her actions and decisions. We just want her to be happy.

C) Don't you think as parents we exert more pressure on her by talking about this issue all the time?

D) Do you think we should ask her to put herself into our shoes to make her understand how we feel?

E) We really care about her, but this doesn't mean that we can interfere in her business.

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11.

Hanna:

**I'm fascinated by history, but maybe you can tell me more about what a historian does.**

Jason:

**- Certainly. In a nutshell, historians conceptualize, describe, explain, and interpret the past. That is, they answer questions like "What happened, how, and why?".**

Hanna:

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Jason:

**- Trying to understand all the dimensions of an event, as demanding as it may be, is definitely quite engaging.**

A) Sure. As a historian, it's possible to earn a good salary if you publish ground breaking research.

B) That sounds very exciting, but it must be challenging as well given the large scope of the questions it addresses.

C) That might be difficult, but the job of a historian is not easily defined as there are contradictory definitions.

D) Well, history is no longer an interesting discipline since technology has made many aspects of the career unnecessary.

E) We historians focus on "why" questions: "Why did this event happen?" We leave the questions of "what" and "how" to writers .

12. Ian:

- **According to some estimates, there are now more than one billion videogames in the world.**

Michael:

- **I think play is ubiquitous. I mean, everybody likes to play videogames because they offer a lot with their fantastic environments, fabulous design, some social content, and competition.**

Ian:

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Michael:

- **I agree. I do hear stories about people who just play games endlessly and start to ignore the other aspects of their lives.**

A) In fact, some experts often talk about some potential risks of gaming for teenagers, like violent video games.

B) They will be more beneficial if we could integrate some educational content to videogames for young people.

C) Well, as in everything consumed in moderation, they are fun, yet there are many people hooked on online games.

D) We have witnessed dramatic changes in both content and design of the videogames over the past several decades.

E) When we talk about addiction, it is really impossible to associate video gaming to addiction or dependence.

13. Researcher:

- **There are some studies claiming that the higher a family's socioeconomic status, the more successful their children will be at school.**

Education expert:

- **I don't believe that it is possible to predict a child's academic potential just by looking at his or her family's income. There are many other variables that should be taken into account.**

Researcher:

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Education expert:

- **IQ levels, cognitive abilities, learning styles, personality characteristics, or goals for the future. These all have an important role to play in children's school success, with each affecting success to varying degrees.**

Researcher:

- **As such, a more comprehensive approach is likely to yield a better grasp of the big picture when it comes to success in this context.**

A) So, are children from disadvantaged homes more successful than those of high-income families?

B) Then, can you briefly explain what is it that enables a child to do well at school?

C) True, but does school quality alone have much to do with children's future career?

D) So, may growing up poor have a negative impact on children's certain abilities?

E) How can you tell us what affects school success more than income does?

14. Clare:

- A current study has revealed that some caterpillars can consume 92 milligrams of plastic in half a day.

Andy:

- Amazing! That's fast, considering it takes at least 100 years for a plastic bag to decompose naturally. Scientists believe that a single enzyme is what breaks down the plastic.

Clare:

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Andy:

- Think of a scenario in the future where they can isolate it, produce it on a large scale, and use that to biodegrade plastics.

A) Can this ability be of any use in our struggle against plastic islands?

B) Will a plastic bag begin to decompose naturally in the years to come?

C) Do caterpillars really digest plastic rather than just bite it?

D) Can we produce it on a large scale to biodegrade plastics?

E) Have they made clear if they can consume it faster or not?

15. Maggie:

- In California's Central Valley, industrial activities, farming and traffic have made the air quality so bad that four areas in the region now rank among the top 10 dirtiest cities in the US.

Judith:

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Maggie:

- It is. As far as I know, exposure to pollutants can cause memory impairment and weaken the immune system.

Judith:

- Well then, the government must take necessary precautions as soon as possible to protect people.

A) Well, can you tell me the effect of smog emissions on vulnerable groups?

B) How terrible for those who live there! It must be threatening their health.

C) A group of environmentalists have recently launched a health campaign to deal with air pollution.

D) Is the government is doing its best to protect their health?

E) Is it possible to cope with air pollution if the government takes immediate action?

16. Professor:

- Can you please tell me what the science of psychology is?

Student:

- It focuses on people's emotions, perceptions, and thoughts. It's also concerned with the consistency and change in an individual's behaviour.

Professor:

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Student:

- Even so, most people think of psychology as a field that particularly studies how we behave in certain situations.

A) It's very important to recognise the relevance of basic concepts and principles of psychology to real-life situations.

B) I certainly agree that studying psychology helps us a lot to better understand others' feelings and behaviours.

C) So you mean psychologists often limit themselves to the study of outward, observable behaviour.

D) It deals with not just what people think or feel, but it also studies our mental processes, personality traits, dreaming and motivation.

E) It has many subfields such as educational psychology, but most people think that it focuses solely on human behaviour.



17.Interviewer:

- You have a very unique and important job – you de-ice aeroplane wings. What you tell us about this job?

Aeroplane Tech:

- As you know, aeroplanes are designed to cope with extreme temperatures. But, even a little build-up of ice can change the shape of the wings which can change their ability to generate lift.

Interviewer:

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Aeroplane Tech:

-Well, yes, but in severe conditions they can be inadequate. That means people like me need to be on hand to apply high pressure blasts of antifreeze to ensure a safe flight.

- A) Can de-icing systems cause damage to the aeroplane itself?
- B) Don't aeroplanes have de-icing systems built into them?
- C) Are there any examples of crashes because of insufficient de-icing?
- D) Is it possible for de-icing systems to fall short in reducing the ice on the wings?
- E) Are people like you important in the decision to de-ice a plane?

18. Greg:

-Traditional cheese making is a lengthy process. Modern production methods are much faster, but they make the cheese less tasty. How do you deal with this?

Tom:

- Well, we're experimenting with a technique that uses sound waves to speed up the rate of natural cream -milk separation. Smaller fat globules are retained in this process, and this gives a creamier taste.

Greg:

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Tom:

- We've been able to carry out this process in just five minutes, as opposed to the normal 6 hours.

Greg:

- That's amazing!

- A) How long does it take for the cheese to be delivered to the supermarket?
- B) How much faster is this method compared to the natural separation process?
- C) How many days in total do you need to produce cheese using this process?
- D) When did you carry out the first cream -milk separation using sound waves?
- E) So, how exactly do you produce this creamier taste with your new technique?

1.	C
2.	C
3.	B
4.	E
5.	B
6.	D
7.	C
8.	B
9.	E
10.	A
11.	B
12.	C
13.	B
14.	A
15.	B
16.	D
17.	B
18.	B