

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

63. Dan:

- I fully support the new ban on social media use by under 16-year-olds.

Nancy:

- Why is that? Those teens want to maintain a sense of agency, and they want to be given the tools to navigate social media with their eyes wide open. They can't do it when it is banned.

Dan:

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Nancy:

- This is true for all of us, not only for teens. What is your point?

Dan:

- Teens are weaker than us when it comes to these inclinations. They cannot have total control on their brains.

- A) Social media has become an inescapable part of modern life, raising concerns across generations.
- B) The problem is that social media is designed to be addictive, and it capitalizes on our neurological tendencies.
- C) Psychological research suggests that outright bans or restrictions often backfire, especially among minors.
- D) We can all agree that something needs to change, but I'd argue the solution is not an all-out ban.
- E) Social media companies are the real culprits and should be held accountable for harms their platforms cause.

64. Clare:

- Are you still drinking water from plastic bottles? Are you aware of the harm it inflicts on the environment?

Dave:

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Clare:

- I don't trust the tap water in our city, with all the lead pipes and old infrastructure. What's with the glass anyway?

Dave:

- Some bottles can be as heavy as the water that they contain, effectively doubling the transport emissions. Thus, no alternative is free of carbon emissions.

- A) Do you think glass containers are carbon-free? You can't decrease carbon unless you drink tap water.
- B) The glass containers are notorious for moss development, which is as bad as tap water.
- C) Well, if you think glass bottles are greener than plastic ones, think again.
- D) Don't be so naïve! Our individual efforts mean nothing unless big corporations do something.
- E) Did you know that plastic bottles have a higher recycling ration than glass ones? Also, drink tap water if you are so carbon conscious.

65. Ben:

- I am so bored of the way people use the Internet: everyone's learning stuff through popular apps. Where are the people who learned new things from encyclopedias?

Jerry:

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Ben:

- What do you mean? I have never heard of the app you are talking about.

Jerry:

- It was not an app. StumbleUpon started as a website and then continued as a web browser extension, and it was a way to discover things you would have never known existed — a lot more joyful than TikTok's For You Page.

Ben:

- Being and old-school guy, I guess I missed it altogether.
- A) You have never heard of a phenomenon called StumbleUpon, haven't you?
- B) My favourite site's legacy lives on more than a decade after it drifted out of the mainstream.
- C) StumbleUpon was founded in 2001 by four students at the University of Calgary in Canada.
- D) Looking back, I can easily say StumbleUpon gave me a feeling of agency over my digital life.
- E) Most of them had already switched to StumbleUpon long before the likes of TikTok came out.

66. Kim:

- Bad news for your boyfriend: He won't be able to drive under the influence of alcohol and get away with it anymore.

Lisa:

- Why is that? He never gets caught. Did they recruit new police officers or what?

Kim:

— ----

Lisa:

- Come on! It will take ages for that high-tech camera to come to our town. We live in a town a little bigger than a village. Don't assume that people care about us.

- A) They have made a simple modification to the age-old speed-camera to detect drink-driving.
- B) I've heard that they have developed a fool-proof breathalyzer for drunk-drivers.
- C) They have been testing a new AI camera in Devon and Cornwall to detect drink-driving.
- D) In fact, they did, but they also bought new speed cameras to detect drunk-drivers who are speeding.
- E) The police will be cooperating with local officials from the municipality to tighten inspections.

67. Student:

- Sir, I have read in an article that tweed has the potential to rid us of the waste fast fashion produces as it is a 100% natural, renewable and biodegradable fabric, minimising the environmental impact of manufacturing.

Professor:

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Student:

- Why do you say that? It really did sound promising to me.

Professor:

- The first and foremost reason is that it has a limited source, which will never be enough for the whole world. Secondly, its production is tedious since already-low-in-number tweed manufacturers adhere to strict guidelines, which highly limit its production.

Student:

- I guess I have jumped to a hasty conclusion, yet again.

- A) Is that the reason why tweed is everywhere this season, from luxury labels to high-street brands?
- B) You're right. There is something that makes tweed a more sustainable fabric than most: durability.
- C) Are you sure you haven't read it in a magazine during your flight?
- D) I wish it was so, but it is impossible for tweed to do even a fraction of what they claim in that article.
- E) People in Outer Hebrides won't be happy to hear that as they are already busy catching up with the orders.

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

68. Ever since the ancient Greeks first made observations of the circular Moon and the skies, scientists have known that the Earth is a sphere, so why doesn't our planet look round when we are standing in a park or looking out a window?

- A) Since the time of the ancient Greeks, who observed the circular Moon and the heavens, scientists have understood that Earth is a sphere, so why does our planet appear flat when we stand in a park or look out a window?
- B) Since the ancient Greeks observed the Moon's circular shape and studied the skies, it has been known that Earth must be a sphere, so why does the planet appear round only when we observe it from afar?
- C) Since ancient Greek times, when observers first noted the Moon's circular shape and studied the skies, scientists have recognized that Earth is a sphere so why doesn't our planet seem round when we stand in a park or gaze out a window?
- D) The ancient Greeks first made observations of the circular Moon and the skies, and since then, it has been assumed that the Earth is spherical in shape, so why doesn't it look round upon being viewed from a park or out of a window?
- E) The ancient Greeks showed that the Earth is flat by observing the Moon's circular shape and the skies, which means scientists have known this since then, but so why doesn't our planet seem round when we stand in a park or gaze out a window?

69. The Arctic can feel like a far-off place, disconnected from daily life if you aren't one of the 4 million people who live there, yet the changes underway in the Arctic as temperatures rise can profoundly affect lives around the world.

- A) Though the Arctic may seem like a distant, isolated region unless you are one of the 4 million people who call it home, the changes occurring there due to rising temperatures might have far-reaching impacts on lives across the globe.
- B) You may feel that the Arctic is a distant and isolated place unless you are one of its 4 million inhabitants, but rising temperatures mean that the changes happening there have already affected the lives around the world.
- C) The Arctic might seem like a remote and isolated region unless you are among its 4 million inhabitants, but rising temperatures have already caused changes that may be impacting lives worldwide.
- D) The Arctic may seem remote and detached from everyday life unless you are one of its 4 million residents, but the effects of rising temperatures there may already have been felt around the world.
- E) The Arctic can be seen as a remote place, disconnected from daily life if you are not among its 4 million inhabitants, but the changes occurring there as a result of climate change can deeply affect many lives around the world.

70. Cold weather can change the outer membrane of the influenza virus, making it more solid and rubbery, and scientists believe that the rubbery coating makes person-to-person transmission of the virus easier.

- A) Cold weather solidifies the influenza virus's outer membrane, creating a rubbery coating that scientists believe enhances its ability to spread between people.
- B) In cold weather, the influenza virus's outer membrane becomes solid and rubbery, a change that scientists believe enhances its stability and makes it easier to transmit from person to person.
- C) In colder temperatures, the influenza virus's outer membrane transforms into a more solid, rubbery layer, which, scientists suggest, facilitates easier transmission between people.
- D) The outer membrane of the influenza virus is transformed by cold weather, making it solid and rubbery, and this makes scientists think that people can get the virus more easily in winter.
- E) Cold weather alters the outer membrane of the influenza virus, making it solid and rubbery, which scientists believe increases the likelihood of transmission during winter.

71. Though people make long journeys to drink and bathe in the waters of the Yamuna, believing that this is spiritually purifying, it is causing serious harm to many as the Yamuna is considered to be one of the most polluted rivers in the world.

- A) Although people undertake long journeys to drink from and bathe in the Yamuna, believing it has spiritual cleansing powers, its severe pollution — making it the most polluted river in the world — is causing considerable harm to many.
- B) Despite the long journeys people make to drink from and bathe in the Yamuna, believing it to be spiritually purifying, the river's extreme pollution — ranked among the most polluted in the world — may cause serious harm to many.
- C) Despite people traveling long distances to drink from and bathe in the Yamuna, believing in its spiritual cleansing properties, its extreme pollution — making it the most polluted river in the world — might be causing significant harm to many.
- D) Although people make long journeys to drink from and bathe in the Yamuna, believing in its spiritual cleansing powers, its severe pollution — making it the most polluted river in the world — is inflicting significant harm on many.
- E) People travel long distances to drink and bathe in the waters of the Yamuna, believing it to be spiritually purifying, but the river's status as one of the most polluted in the world is causing significant harm to many.

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

72. A new solution inspired by swimming pools could protect diseased corals in the Tropical Atlantic . The corals in this area are being ravaged by the fast-spreading and highly lethal, deadly stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD), which is brought on by pollution and warming waters. --- Typically, antibiotics are used to prevent SCTLD, but these pollute the ocean and increase antibiotic resistance. Instead, chlorine powder – the same used to kill germs in swimming pools – is being mixed with cocoa butter to form a spreadable paste to treat the coral. The mixture doesn't threaten other species, including crabs, fish, and even humans.

- A) In the past, chlorine powder was never considered a solution for coral diseases, and scientists always opted for antibiotics.
- B) Now , an international team of researchers has discovered that chlorine powder could provide a protective barrier against the disease.
- C) Antibiotics have been proven to be a more effective solution than chlorine powder for treating coral diseases.
- D) While antibiotics are commonly used, researchers found they are more harmful to the coral than chlorine powder.
- E) At first, scientists have rejected chlorine powder as an effective treatment for coral diseases – especially SCTLD.

73. Bats have long been viewed as a menace. Their nocturnal lives, as well as their unusual looks and behaviour, earned them a reputation for devilry. Stories of blood-sucking, shape-shifting vampire bats were common across central Europe during the 1700s. More recently, their reputation took a hit during the coronavirus pandemic, as the flying mammals were implicated in the spread of the virus. ---- They have been much-maligned when, in fact, they are our best friends. They are fundamental for the wellbeing of entire ecosystems.

- A) But bats are some of the most unfairly treated animals on the planet.
- B) And now that climate change is killing them off, we might have learned to appreciate them too late.
- C) Some have a penchant for eating juicy fruits, a habit that means they pollinate seeds for around 550 species of plants.
- D) Bats can also ramp down their metabolism for days, or even weeks, to overcome periods of food scarcity.
- E) Crucially, some areas have seen an increase in bat die-offs as temperatures reach new highs.

74. Threats from disease were extensive in the 19th century. Tuberculosis killed an estimated 1 in 7 people in the U.S. and Europe, and it was the leading cause of death in the U.S. in the early decades of the 19th century. Smallpox killed 80% of the children it infected. The high fatality rate of diphtheria and the apparent randomness of its onset caused panic in the press when the disease emerged in the U.K. in the late 1850s. --- Closed sewers protect drinking water from faecal contamination. Pasteurization kills tuberculosis, diphtheria, typhoid and other disease-causing organisms in milk.

- A) Modern medicine has enabled citizens of wealthy, industrialized nations to forget that children once routinely died in shocking numbers.
- B) As a result of these sanitary, regulatory and medical advances, child mortality rates have sat below 1% in the U.S. and U.K. for the last 30 years.
- C) Vaccines created herd immunity to slow disease spread, and antibiotics offer cures to many bacterial illnesses.
- D) Multiple technologies now prevent epidemic spread of these and other once-common childhood illnesses, including polio, scarlet fever and cholera.
- E) The disconcerting image of a child nestled in sleep against another child's corpse may seem unrealistic.

75. The rapid surge in satellite mega-constellations is connecting much of the world to broadband internet. ---- And each year, more and more satellites are being launched to replace them. The dying satellites don't just wink out into the ether. Each one leaves a bit of itself behind. The satellites' fiery death throes, along with a steep rise in the number of rocket launches, are adding a glut of ozone-destroying and climate-altering pollutants to the stratosphere, researchers say.

- A) Thus, currently, there are about 10,000 active satellites in orbit around the planet.
- B) By some estimates, there may be as many as 100,000 satellites in near-Earth orbit by the 2030s.
- C) But each year, hundreds of those satellites die, burning up in the atmosphere as they fall.
- D) The first step to understanding the scope of the problem is identifying the traces of burned-up spacecraft.
- E) They may serve a few years in a constellation network before being decommissioned.

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

76. (I) When researchers ask divorcees about their reasons for breaking up, infidelity always comes out on top. **(II)** Whether married or not, when someone is unfaithful, break-up often ensues — and the experience can be especially upsetting for the betrayed partner. **(III)** A recent study looking at more than 500,000 case studies carried out at Stony Brook University, in New York, found that infidelity is surprisingly common and takes many subtle forms. **(IV)** All of this confirms what you probably already knew — that, moral issues aside, infidelity might be best avoided, if you can help it. **(V)** And perhaps unsurprisingly, this can have a significant effect on our mental health.

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

77. (I) Many of us will have a set of black plastic spatulas, spoons and ladles lurking in our kitchen drawers. New research shows they can potentially leach toxic flame retardants like decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE) into our food. **(II)** Originally used in electronics to reduce fire risk, these chemicals are found in black plastic kitchen utensils made from recycled electronic waste. **(III)** However recent research suggests that some staples — black plastic utensils, plastic chopping boards and non-stick pans — can potentially release harmful substances into our food. **(IV)** Another recent study found that 85 per cent of black plastic household items tested, including fast food trays, children's toys and kitchen utensils, contained toxic flame retardants, with kitchen utensils among those with the highest concentrations. **(V)** DecaBDE is particularly harmful and has been linked to cancer, hormone and thyroid disruptions, developmental issues in children, neurobehavioural effects, and toxicity to the reproductive and immune systems.

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

78. (I) For more than a century, giant patterns and pictures sketched into the plains south of Lima, Peru, have mystified archaeologists. **(II)** But the Peruvian desert isn't the only place where AI is helping to find and interpret artefacts our ancestors left behind. **(III)** Named for their makers, the Nazca people who lived between 200 BC and 650 AD, the 'Nazca lines' remain one of archaeology's greatest mysteries. **(IV)** With the arid ground as their canvas, ancient Peruvians worked on a scale so vast that many of their designs can only be fully admired and appreciated from the air — ironically, a viewpoint the artists never had. **(V)** Since the 1940s, around 430 of these fascinating 'figurative' examples of Nazca lines have been discovered through ground and aerial surveys, but their meaning is still debated.

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

79. (I) Having systems of measurement, and of units, helps us understand ourselves and our surroundings. **(II)** This is true whether we are building, buying and selling, or adopting theories of fundamental physics. **(III)** Time is generally measured in relation to frequency and our current benchmark for it comes from atomic clocks. **(IV)** When we measure something, we are essentially comparing the thing being measured against a standard benchmark. **(V)** It is therefore crucial that the benchmark which we've made our notional mark is stable and not liable to change.

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

80. (I) Located in the north-western corner of Hunan province, Zhangjiajie is China's first national park, established in 1982. **(II)** This forest is part of the larger Wulingyuan Scenic Area that was included in Unesco's list of World Heritage sites in 1992 and later given Global Geopark status in 2001. **(III)** Scattered through the park are more than 3,000 pillar rocks and jagged peaks, formed by the process of natural erosion and the persistent movement of gentle water cutting through hard stone. **(IV)** Originally called the "Southern Sky Column", this rock soars 1,080m into the air with clumps of dense foliage outgrowth adding splashes of bright green to the overwhelmingly brown landscape. **(V)** The area encompassed by the national park is quite small, at just more than 48sq km, further divided into smaller sections that make it easy to cover the highlights in a couple of days.

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