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GRE verbal practice is an essential part of your GRE prep! Read on for 27 GRE verbal reasoning practice questions that cover question formats, types and difficulty levels you will see on test day. To start immediately, use the table below to skip to each practice question. If you return to this post, skip to the important takeaways. And when you feel safe in all areas, go over to our GRE practice test to test your knowledge! GRE Verbal Practice Table of Contents GRE Verbal: What to Expect There are three types of questions in the GRE verbal reasoning section: Reading Comprehension (RC), Sentence Completion (SC), and Phrase Equivalence (SE). Magoosh has you covered! Below are a number of GRE verbal practice questions with answers and explanations covering not only SC, SE, and RC, but also different question types and difficulty levels within these categories. (NOTE: We've set interactive buttons so you can select your answer when reviewing these questions. This way, you can keep track of your answers and check your work. Please note, however, that there is no possibility to submit them! Also, some of these issues are taken directly from Magoosh GRE, offered here in this post for free. These questions include links to their Magoosh GRE question/answer pages, which include video and text explanations.) About GRE Reading Comprehension I'm going to let you in on a secret about GRE Reading Comprehension. Within the GRE RC question format, there are two very different question formats: regular reading comprehension and paragraph arguments. Reading-comprehended farms are 1-4 paragraphs long and are followed by 2-4 questions. The questions in this format focus on a wide range of passage content: author positions, implied ideas, stated ideas, meaning or purpose of a given word, phrase, or sentence, and so on. The second format is the paragraph argument. PA passages are always a section long. The items themselves are relatively short, usually the 1/3 to 1/2 length of a single regular RC pieces mentioned above. PA issue format is all about logic. PAs always made an argument and are followed by a single logic-oriented question. PA issues come in six types: Weaken/Strengthen Evaluate Argument Paradox Assumption Fill-in-the-Blank These question types are described in Chris's blog post Types of Section Argument Questions about the revised GRE. Okay, let's get started. Below we will look at two reading passages and question sets followed by four Paragraph Argument questions. Long GRE Reading Comprehension Sample Passage In Don Giovanni, what is perhaps Mozart's best-known opera, there are two different endings, a phenomenon not entirely unknown in the composer's time, but one that invites the obvious question: Why did Mozart decide to include alternative endings for Don Giovanni when he did not do the same with his other famous operas, Die and Le Nozze di Figaro. Another question, and one not so obvious, is: why was Mozart himself unsure which of the two endings to choose, as evidenced by his correspondence with Lorenzo Da Ponte, the opera's librettist? A common answer is to treat both of these questions as one: Mozart was unsure of the inference, so he wrote both endings. Such a response ignores an important consideration: Why did Mozart decide to give these specific inferences? Libard gives a reasonable answer: The traditional ending - in the sense that it's the one that was popular during the composer's day and continues to be so today - is clearly more palatable to the audience. The hero, Don Giovanni, is chided for his libertine ways and then the cast appears in *tutti*, bellowing a merry chorus as the curtain falls. The audience is left to have an easy dose of entertainment, which, after all, was the target of many of the operas of Mozart's time. Fine, but what about the tragic ending? Libard trade the sensible for the flap-offers little more than that such an ending reflects the political climate of the day. This alternate ending - Don Giovanni is suddenly thrown down to hell, and instead of being redeemed, the hero comes out of the underworld chastened and the curtain falls - was interpreted by today's critics as heavy-handed didactics. Although such a view is not entirely without merit - Mozart ultimately aims to provide some lesson for his incorrigible Lothario - it still leaves the question unanswered as to why two endings and what exactly made Mozart intended to communicate that could not be housed in a traditional ending. One response recently offered by musicologist Gustavo Lucien is that Mozart balked at including a traditional ending, feeling that it was inappropriate with the serious tone of most of the opera. In fact, Don Giovanni falls more under the rubric of the opera series than *opera buffo*, the latter typically featuring light ends in which whole voices sing in an optimistic, big key. However, when Ponte insisted that immediately casting Don Giovanni to Hell, and offering him little opportunity for redemption, would likely leave the audience feeling ambivalent. Such an inference also suggests that the librettist had not been able to think of a tidy decision. Ponte was so not so much against a tragic ending as he was an abruptly tragic ending. Perhaps even Mozart was unsure what to do with Don Giovanni when he was in hell and may have even worked out another ending, using the light ending as a tinkering solution until he reached such a goal. In that case, Don Giovanni's fate can best be answered by the fact that Mozart, through debt, ill health and the composer's obligation to compose works for his patrons, was unable to return to a work he had presented. Question 1 In the context in which it is applied, presented almost means A) considered B) discarded C) sled over D) accidentally forgotten E) set aside indefinitely Click here for the answer Explanation Answer: E) set aside indefinitely is the answer. (Want to know why sledding or considered are not correct answers? Click here to see frequently asked questions and see a video explanation.) Question 2 The author of the passage would distance himself from all the following statements about Libard's response to the existence of double endings to Don Giovanni EXCEPT? A) Libard's explanations of Don Giovanni's multiple endings are not uniform in their utility. B) Libard does not give much insight into both of the questions raised in the first paragraph. C) Libard's understanding of 18th-century audiences is flawed. D) Libard's interpretation of the tragic end of Don Giovanni has more in common with Lucien than with Lorenzo Da Ponte. E) Libard's views, although not entirely accurate, are consistent probing. Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: An explanation: This is a trickily worded question, which amounts to a double negative. Take exception means disagreeing with. Because this is an EG's question, the answer is something that the author would either agree or not clearly disagree with. The author agrees with (A) because Libard provides two explanations regarding the issues raised by the author. The author considers one explanation reasonable, the other missing. Therefore, the author agrees that Libard's explanations are not uniform in their applicability. (Want to know why E is wrong or what trading the sensible for pat means? Click here to see frequently asked questions and a video explanation.) Question 3 According to the passage, Mozart's use of a tragic ending allowed him to obtain which of the following? Select ALL answers that apply. A) He was able to teach a moral about reckless behavior. B) He was able to be in accordance with the conventions of the opera prevailing in his time. C) He was able to give a decision that would allow the audience to feel satisfied. Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: A single explanation: In the third paragraph, the passage says that Mozart ultimately aims to give ... Therefore (A). The passage says the traditional ending did not fit with the serious tone of the opera, and so Mozart did not use the traditional (= non-serious) ending. The tragic conclusion was therefore not typical and not in line with the conventions of the time. (B) is not correct. (C) describes the traditional ending, not the tragic ending. (C) is incorrect. (View and answer this question with video legend.) Question 4 Highlight the phrase in the passage that describes an explanation of Mozart's contemporaries about the composer's goal of choosing a tragic ending. NOTE: This question cannot be displayed here on the blog because it You to scroll through the passage in a sidebar and click sentences in the passage to highlight them. This is also how it works on the real GRE! Click here to access and this question, complete with video explanation. Short GRE Reading-Comprehensible Test Passage For much of the 20th century These researchers, however, based their conclusions on faulty reasoning, arguing that scaly skin was common to all ectotherms (birds that are ectothermic, don't have scaly skin), and that the dinosaur's size could account for ectothermy (some adult dinosaurs weighed as little as ten pounds). Displacing this theory is a whole new way of thinking: dinosaurs were actually mesotherms, neither hot- nor cold-blooded. By taking this middle ground, some paleontologists argue that dinosaurs were faster than a similar-sized reptile yet not requiring as much food as a similar-sized mammal. To substantiate this theory, paleontologists intend to study how birds, the dinosaur's closest existing relative, might have at some point been mesotherms. Question 5 The two parts of parentheses serve to do which of the following? Select the answer. A) Summarize two claims that the author of the passage ultimately rejects. B) Highlight commonalities between birds and dinosaurs. C) Give counterarguments to commonly held views on physical aspects of dinosaurs. D) Describe a recent theory that the author of the passage supports. E) Provide information on conflicting notions about dinosaur behavior. Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: C Explanation: Note the structure of the sentence, based their conclusions on faulty reasoning, claiming that scaly skin was common to all ectotherms. The bold part is the specific claim. Look at a part in parentheses and how it relates to the bold part above: (birds that are ectothermic do not have scaly skin). This is a clear denial of the bold part. Exactly the same thing happens with the second claim of researchers: ... the size of the dinosaur could account for ectothermy. Here's the objection (in parentheses) that states the bold part is untrue: (some adult dinosaurs weighed as little as ten pounds). This points to the answer (C): Gives a rebuttal to a commonly held view of the physical aspects of dinosaurs - the commonly held view is that dinosaurs are ectotherms simply because they have scaly skin. (Want to know why A isn't correct? Click here to see the video legend.) Question 6 Which of the following suggests the passage concerning birds? Select ALL answers that apply. A) They possess certain traits that are not common to all ectotherms. B) They require more food than a mammal of the same size. C) Over time, they could have undergone a change in how they regulate body temperature. Click here for answers and explanation Answer: A, C Explanation: The passage that some researchers claimed that all ectotherms have scaly skin, but birds that are ectotherms do not have scaly skin. Therefore, they have certain features that they do not share with other ectotherms, i.e. the lack of scaly skin. Answer: [A]. The passage mentions that dinosaurs require less food than a mammal of the same size. But there is no mention of how much food a bird requires. Sure, birds, like dinosaurs, might have been mesothermic, but mesothermy relates to body temperature regulation, not to the amount of food consumed. The last sentence states that birds could have at some point been mesotherms. That is, they could have changed from mesotherms to ectotherms. From the first sentence, we learn that ectothermic describes body regulation. Therefore birds possibly changed the way they regulate the body temperate. Answer [C]. (Want to know why A is correct? Click here to see this question's video explanation.) Section Argument Passenger NOTE: By far the most common GRE Section Argument question types are: Weaken/Strengthen, Evaluate Argument, Paradox, Assumption. These question types are listed below. Question 7 The Malbec grape, originally grown in France, has become the most important variety in Argentina. This is surprising because most Malbec grown in Argentina is grown at high altitudes, while the Malbec grape was once grown at low altitudes. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the conclusion of the argument? Select the answer. A) The Bordeaux grape is the most popular grape in France, but is rarely, if ever, grown in Argentina. B) Some varieties are unable to grow at high altitudes. C) The soil at high altitudes is packed with nutrients that help the Malbec grape grow. D) Malbec wine is susceptible to phylloxera, a plant lice that only grows at low altitudes. E) Malbec has recently had an increase in popularity, and can be found in many different countries. Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: D Explanation: Answer: Here we have a big reason why the Malbec grape cannot be grown at low heights: Phylloxera will destroy the grape. (Want to know why C is wrong? Click here to see the answer and explanation.) Question 8 Downtown Greensborough is a major financial center where many citizens either drive or rely on public transport to get to work. The setup has led to a wave of pedestrians who have been hit and killed by vehicles. In a bid to limit the number of pedestrian-related deaths, Greensborough has installed speed reduction signs at the six city intersections where the highest number of deaths have occurred in the last year. The Greensborough city government predicts that the number of pedestrian deaths will drop significantly once speed reduction signs have been installed. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the validity of Conclusion? Select the answer. A) Some of those driving to work in downtown Greensborough have a valid driver's license. B) The number of annual pedestrian mortality rates outside the centre is much lower than in the centre. C) The six intersections where the signs are installed are responsible for a majority of pedestrian deaths in downtown Greensborough. D) The new speed reduction signs will be in neon orange and clearly placed. E) Red light cameras, which are used to catch motorists running red lights, were installed yet the number of pedestrian deaths did not decrease. Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: C Explanation: In this case, what the test authors do is anticipate a possible weakness in the argument. They essentially defuse a potential objection by showing how this objection is no longer valid. For example, if someone said, hey your argument has a hole in it because it's only based on six intersections, which is not the same as the entire downtown area. The correct answer, (C), replies: Well, most of the pedestrian deaths happen at these six intersections. Question 9 The Green Peas Merchant in the remotely affluent enclave of Luxville charges more than the Green Peas Grocery Store in Oak City for the same items. Clearly, at one point, The Green Peas grocery franchise is taking advantage of its location in Luxville to reap higher profits on that record. When assessing the argument, it would be most useful to compare select the answer. A) selection of specialty elements in Oak City location with the selection of specialty items in Luxville location. B) the cost of transporting goods to the Oak City location with the comparable cost of the Luxville location. C) the average price of the same or comparable goods in Oak City with the average price in other stores in Luxville. D) the percentage of average household income spent on groceries in Oak City with the comparable percentage in Luxville. E) the cost of these items in Oak City and in Luxville with the cost of other Green Peas stores throughout the state. Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: B Explanation: What we want to explain is the higher prices, for the same goods, in Luxville. The argument takes a firm stand: The Luxville store is just taking advantage of its location. Implicitly the author says: The Luxville store has no valid reason to charge high prices. If there was a valid reason, it would call into question this whole argument. (B) is the credited answer. If luxville remote control, transportation to this place could be a problem, and if the additional transportation needs add an additional cost, this would be a valid reason to charge more in the Luxville store. That would call the argument into question. (Why isn't D the right answer? Click here to view and answer this question with video explanation.) Question 10 Linguist: Each language has a word a concept or emotional state in a way that no other language does. To capture such a breadth of expression, an artificial language should be created that contains words that correspond to all the different concepts and emotional states captured by the world's language. This does not mean that such a language would contain as many words as there are in all the languages of the world. Rather, only for the words that have no equivalent word in another language. Although such a plan is hugely ambitious, the resulting language would be more thorough than any existing language. The conclusion drawn above depends on which of the following assumptions? Select the answer. A) Extinct language does not offer up words that capture concepts and emotional states in ways that fundamentally differ from existing languages. B) Many languages have words that almost overlap in the sense they convey. C) Every year hundreds of the world's languages die when there are no longer any natives left. D) It is possible for one person to learn all the world's existing languages. E) The range of concepts and emotional states is the only indication of the thoroughness of a language. Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: E Explanation: The conclusion assumes that thoroughness, as it relates to a language, can be defined as encompassing the range of concepts and emotional states ... In other words, nothing else accounts for the thoroughness of a language. This leads us to (E). (A) contrasts with existing and extinct languages. Not relevant. (B) does not relate to the discussion. On the surface, it looks like it may weaken the point, but it doesn't. Even if it did, we're dealing with an assumption. (C) is a general circumstance which is irrelevant. (D) sounds like it weakens the argument, if anything. (View and answer this question with video legend.) Question 11 In a particular state, over 80% of the land consists of agriculture, but historically large agricultural machinery has not sold well in this state. The proportion of land allocated to holdings is not expected to increase. In fact, the number of farms in the state has been slowly declining over the past decade. A new manufacturer of large agricultural equipment is building a factory in the middle of this state, and the manufacturer's plans for success depend on strong in-state sales of its product. Both the manufacturer and industry analysts expect this manufacturer to be quite successful over the next few years. Which of the following, if true, most helps provide a justification for the manufacturer's and industry analysts' optimistic expectations? Select the answer. A) Land formerly owned by small independent farmers has been bought up and consolidated into large industrial holdings which are in much greater need of large agricultural equipment. B) The manufacturer's new factory will be on or close to five different railway lines and is expected to have a beneficial impact on the struggling industry in the state. C) The percentage of food imported into the state, from other states and from other countries has increased significantly over the last 20 years. (D) The number of models of large agricultural machinery that this manufacturer will offer is greater than the number of models offered by most other comparable producers of large agricultural machinery. E) Some crops grown in this state, like maize, enjoy significant government subsidies and find a robust market in the food processing industry. Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: An explanation: The argument is presented in such a way that it looks like a really bad idea to buy large agricultural machinery. (a) provide a justification. Note that it says that the percentage of land left to farms will not increase. However, if all small farms are assembled in large farms, then large machinery will be needed. (B) is wrong because the focus of the argument is on big machines, not the rail industry. (C) does not work, as food imports do not concern large agricultural machinery or, for that matter, the argument itself. (D) does not answer the basic question: how can investors expect to benefit from large agricultural machinery? (E) is irrelevant. The type of crops grown is not a problem. (View and answer this question with video legend.) About GRE Sentence Completion Question Final question about GRE involves reading a prompt that is usually a sentence long but can be 2-3 sentences long. Each prompt will have either 1, 2 or 3 topics to be filled in with the words or phrases of the answer selection. Instructions for completing individual sentences have 5 response choices per blank. SC prompts with 2 or 3 blanks have three answer choices for each blank. You will often deal with shift phrases in SC issues. In change sentences, a specific word will signal that the ideas in the first part of the prompt and a later part of the prompt will be contrasted. (Think of this in the form of contrast words as though, however, etc...) When a shift is in play in GRE verbal SC, a word in at least one of the blanks will have a meaning or connotation that is the opposite of keywords in another part of the sentence. If my brief description of the shift above still seems a little confusing, then don't worry- switching can be a difficult task in the first place, but this concept can be mastered. For extra help, check out Magoosh's blog post Shift words and phrases at GRE. You can give this blog post at least a quick scan before continuing, as some of the sentence closing questions below contain shift phrases. One last piece of advice before you jump in: the complexity of sentence-ending sentences varies greatly, depending on the severity. So the practice issues below cover each of the major difficulty levels needed for good GRE verbal practice: light, medium, hard and very hard. Single blank text Final Question Question 12 Travel writer's _____ against others he met on his cross-country trip probably endeared him only to the readers with a misanthropic bent. Select the answer. A) diffidence B) humility C) cynicism D) garrulity E) obsequiousness Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: C cynicism Explanation: Keywords are endeared ... misanthropic bent. Misanthropic readers are those who have a general evil will towards humanity. Therefore, the travel writer must express a certain negative opinion. (C), cynicism, means interpreting the behavior of others as motivated solely by self-interest. A misanthropic person tends to look cynically at the actions of others. A) diffidence, which means modesty or shyness due to lack of self-confidence, does not fit the context. (B) humility would not love the author of misanthropes. D) garrulity; numeracy. E) obsequiousness: excessively sleet. (Click here see this answer and video explanation.) Question 13 Unlike performances of her youth, in which she seamlessly inhabited a role, performances of her later years were _____ as if she were calling out to the audience, seeing how convincingly I can portray my character. Select the answer. A) deceptively B) comical C) volatilized D) mechanical E) constructed Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: E contrived Explanation: The contrast is between the seamlessly inhabited and the empty. The quote further underscores the point that the actress's performance was not natural at all. In this sense (E), designed, works best. (Why doesn't D work? Click here to see this response with video explanation.) Question 14 With characteristic _____, H.L. Mencken skewered the sacred cows of his time, criticizing social trends and public institutions with equal asperity. Select the answer. A) hauteur B) playful C) vitriol D) courtesy E) dash Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: C vitriol Explanation: The answer is C, vitriol, and clue here is criticize. Sure, it helps to know what sacred cows (they are cherished beliefs) and asperity (bitterness) are, but you should still be able to come up with your own word based on criticism. My word is to criticize-ness. I know - it's not an actual word. But that's the whole point - you only have to get the meaning of the empty - and the importance of criticizing-ness is clear. Let's go over the answer choices. Hauteur may be unknown to you, but you should notice it comes from the word haughty, which means arrogant (this is a very common GRE word, and is in fact used to define more difficult GRE words, such as supercilious). Arrogance is not quite the cringe-ness. Next we have (B) but playfulness obviously doesn't work. Then we have (C) vitriol, the hardest word of the bunch, and the GRE knows this. In fact, they offer answer choices that kind of fit clues, like but not really. (D) politeness is not one of those words, but (E) hyphen is. If you do something with dash, you do it with flair. Couldn't you criticize something with flair? Safe. The only problem is, there is no clue - it's word or phrase - that supports hyphen. Of course, it helps to know asperity. Asperity, which means bitterness, matches perfectly with vitriol, which means bitter criticism. Even had you known this, successfully removing three of the five answers gives you a 50-50 chance of guessing correctly. Connecting the answer selections to the blanks, on the other hand, does not increase your odds. Question 15 An element of _____ on the part of the audience is intertwined in the multi-time saga, for two actors depicting the same character at different stages of life can be distinguished enough to allow the audience to distinguish differences that the mere vintage cannot account for. Select the answer. A) surprise B) foreboding C) disbelief D) confusion E) predictability Click here for answers and explanation Answer: C disbelief Explanation: The key to unraveling this hard question is to break up the phrase into digestible parts, simplify along the way. An element of _____ on the part of the audience ... saga = It is an inherent quality of multi-era saga Two actors ... difference - the audience can tell how two actors who play the same character differ physically passing years ... account = these differences are greater than those that naturally happen when a person ages Therefore an inherent part of watching multi-era saga is an element of disbelief, since the audience knows that the same character is actually played by two different people. (Why doesn't a job work? Click here to see this response with video explanation.) Double Blank Text Completion Question Question 16 The gossip columnist's _____ was _____ the number of her published columns—the more articles she wrote, the more untruths she spread. Select the answer for BLANK in. A) downplay B) iver C) flattery Select the answer for BLANK ii. D) is proportionate to E) reversed to F) unrelated to Click here for answers and explanation Answer: i: A) calumny ii: D) proportionate to explanation: 'The more untruths...' matches up with (A) slander, or slander. (D) similarly describes the relationship between two things where when one increases the other increases or when one falls the other falls. In comparison is another way of saying is proportionate. (View and answer this question with video legend.) Question 17 Was scientific progress merely a matter of the mere accumulation of facts, then we have made (1) _____ progress over the last two centuries; But it is not sheer data alone, but rather a scientist's ability to interpret this information that accounts for (2) _____ breakthroughs in the last few hundred years. Select the answer for BLANK in. A) incomparable B) rings C) obvious Select answer for BLANK ii. D) diligent E) significant F) limited Click here for answers and explanation Answer: i: C) obvious ii: E) significant explanation: For the first inch, you probably know the definition of (B) rings and (C) obvious. Do not throw out (A) incomparable. For now discount it. Only if neither (B) nor (C) works should you return to (A). Let us assume that science has made little progress (little progress). If so, which word would fit into the second blank? You may be tempted to say 'great' because of the word 'dog', which reverses the direction of the sentence. But the keywords, it's not sheer data alone, show that accumulated facts and scientist ability together create a certain kind of breakthrough. Thus, the two topics are the same. But does it make sense to assume that we have made little progress and small breakthroughs? Note keywords such as scientist's ability to interpret. It is clear that there is a positive connotation. It's scientists have helped science progress through their ability to interpret, not just collecting facts. Plugging in (C) obvious and (E) significant we can see the sentence makes sense: if facts are counted solely for progress, then we have made obvious progress. But significant breakthroughs require not only facts, but the ability of scientists to interpret information. It is important to note that you should not automatically assume that the second inch is significant. True, this is a reasonable assumption, since most agree that science has come a long way since Darwin set sail on the Beagle. For text completion, however, base your response solely on the text end information. Often your reasonable assumption can backfire. It is there will be specific words in the sentence that go against your assumption. So remember – the answer to any blank will always be in the sentence. Question 18 In (i) _____ what they see as a culture so dominated by technology that they are unable to sustained introspection, the authors cast generalizations so wide that all but the most hardy Luddites will remain (ii) _____. Select the answer for BLANK in. A) mourn b) glorify C) with a view Choose the answer for BLANK ii. D) committed E) not convinced F) discouraged Click here for answers and explanation Answer: i: A) mourns ii: E) convinced explanation: Cast generalizations ... indicates that the book is not convincing. Luddites are the ones who will be convinced by the authors' over generalizations. All except means except. Therefore, all but luddites will remain (E) not convinced. For the first inch, it would be strange to use (B) glorifying to describe how authors would feel about a society incapable of sustained introspection. (A) mourning means speaking out against. (View and answer this question with video legend.) Question 19 The term rocket scientist, which is used to denote any of the erudition is (i) _____ since the last few decades have seen a flowering of calls just as worthy of (ii) _____ and much more current. Select the answer for BLANK in. A) inaccurate B) appropriate C) anachronistic Select the answer for BLANK ii. D) this exalted term E) identification with such persons F) interstellar ambitions Click here for answers and explanation Answer: i: C) anachronistic ii: E) identification with such persons Explanation: Much more current indicates that we are dealing with the element of time/relevance. The last few decades also bring the contrast between the old-term rocket scientist-and vocation today. Answer: (C), anachronistic. The second blank is a little more difficult because this lofty term is a strong distractor. But these are highly intelligent individuals, not the very calls described as rocket scientists. The point of the sentence is that other, more current professions should be used to describe highly intelligent individuals. (E), identification with... works best. (View and answer this question with video legend.) Triple Blank Text Completion Question Question 20 that we can, from a work of art, (i) _____ the unconscious invites the artist-calls to remain hidden even from the artist himself-will remain a (n) (ii) _____ as it is an (iii) _____ empirical analysis: we may never definitively know what is immersed deep inside the artist's psyche, let alone reconcile such revelations with the artist's work. Select the answer for BLANK in. A) infer B) appreciate C) subvert select the answer for BLANK ii. D) practical E) unmanageable F) unambiguous Select the answer for BLANK iii. G) easily exposed to H) not immediately susceptible to I) likely to be resolved by Click here for answers and explanation Responses: i: A) infer ii: E) unwieldy iii: H) not easily receptive explanation: The very first part of the sentence tells us that we can't figure out an artist's unconscious urges by analyzing his or her art. Therefore, (A) strains work best. When you get something, you find out. (B) appreciate not really capturing the feeling of finding out/discovering, which binds back to the clue never finally know. The problem is that we have this clue: calls to remain hidden even from the artist himself. The word appreciating means paying attention/recognition the quality of. It's not really apt to say that someone could appreciate a work of art that the artist himself didn't know about. Rather, we want a word that means extract. The phrase talks about people finding something hidden in a work of art. Appreciate does not have this connotation of extraction the hidden meaning. At this point we can find that inferring unconscious urges is a thorny problem. (E) difficult, which means difficult to handle, matches this meaning nicely. Final empirical analysis observed, measurable phenomenon. The phrase tells us that we never finally know what is immersed deep in the artist's psyche. How can we empirically analyze something we don't know? In order to carry out an empirical analysis, we need quantifiable data. If we can't know anything, we can't have any data on it. Thus, the question (H) is not immediately susceptible to empirical analysis, which means that it cannot be easily tested. We cannot choose (G) easily exposed, which would mean the opposite: that we can actually study and even solve the issue by empirical analysis. And if we put (I) probably going to be solved by in the blank, we would say the opposite of what we want – we would say that this problem can be solved by empirical analysis, which is the opposite of what the correct answer choice says (not easily susceptible to). (View and answer this question with video legend.) Question 21 That the comedian was so (i) _____ to be unable to (ii) _____ the effect she had on others was not lost on her audience, who quickly stood up to leave, hoping their action would at least (iii) _____. Select the answer for BLANK in. A) coarse B) ignorant C) overbearing Select the answer for BLANK ii. D) distinguish E) mitigate F) ignore Select the answer for BLANK iii. G) serve as an uncommon retort H) send an cryptic counterpoint Click here for reply and explanation Responses: i: B) ignorant ii: D) distinguish iii: H) send an unequivocal message Explanation: To take out this text completion , you should try to put in your own words what is happening. The audience has gone out on the comedian, who was unable to notice the effect she had. Message is my own word for the second blank. The word that is the closest is (D) distinguish. The first inch should be the opposite because she was so _____ to be able to feel the effect. Ignorant (B) is a good opposite. As for the third blank, the audience is aware that the comedian is very ignorant, and so they hope that they can finally do something so that she will take notice (they choose in this case to go out). They hope their efforts will send a clear message. The answer that best matches up for the third inch is (H), send an unambiguous message. To make sure all the pieces fall into place', try plugging in these answers to see if they make sense. This last step will help you ensure that the sentence has consistent meaning. In this case (B), (D) and (H) the answers make sense. If you choose a different answer, say (A), (E) and (G), try putting them in and reading the statement. Does that make sense? If you saw kind of, which is often the case with wrong answers (the kind of work), try to see if there is another interpretation. In the present case, that interpretation is the one above. Question 22 James Maxwell once noted that the best researchers are (i)

(S), try putting them in and reading the statement. Does that make sense? If you say kind of, which is often the case with wrong answers (the kind of work), try to see if there is another interpretation. In the present case, that interpretation is the one above. Question 22 James Maxwell once noted that the best researchers are (i) _____ them, Not (ii) (iii) of their respective fields, they are able to approach problems with a (n) (iii)

A) flexible B) revolutionary C) ignorant Select the answer for BLANK ii. D) myopia E) preconceived opinions F) inertia Choose the answer for BLANK iii. G) fertile H) rational I) blank Click here for answers and explanation Answer: i: C) ignorant ii: E) preconceived opinions iii: I) empty Explanation: Here it may be tempting to read the phrase and plug in (A), flexible, or (B), revolutionary. Both answers make sense. In fact, you can construct a legitimate phrase using (A) and (D) myopia/ (E) preconceived opinions or (B) and (D)/(E). But how would you create a coherent sentence with the third blank? Neither fertile nor rational is really backed by clues in the passage. Not being limited by their field way of thinking doesn't quite involve a fertile mind. More likely to have a mind that is not stuck in a certain way of thinking would be one that is empty. You can argue that empty minds are too negative, but notice the words so to speak. This is a sentence that translates to metaphorical. Completing the third blank with 'blank' allows us to work back through the first two topics. We want researchers with an empty mind, so (C) ignorant works best in the first blank. From there we can see that E is good for the second blank, since prejudice is ideas, and if a mind is not hemmed in by preconceived opinions, it means that it contains no limiting ideas... and a mind that does not have ideas could also be described as empty. To be unaware of what is going on in a particular area is not to be scratched by preconceived opinions. Researchers are free to approach a problem on their own terms, learning as they go. Question 23 Heinrich Feyermahn, by insisting that Galileo does not fully maintain the basic astrophysics of scientific rationalism, not _____ the Italian astronomer, but rather the edifice of Western thought itself. For if Galileo is the purported example of rational thinking, and yet is _____ then the history of science cannot be understood as an endless series of scientists doing their work free of overly human prejudices. Thus Feyermahn admonishes, in the faithful chronicling sweep of science in the last 300 years, historiographers would be _____ not to include the human foibles that were part of even the most supposedly Apollonian endeavors. Select the answer for BLANK in. A) only implicate B) partially reject C) fully goes in Select the answer for BLANK ii. D) found wishes E) considered enlightened F) rejected as indifferent Select answer for BLANK iii. G) caution H) I leave) outliers Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: i: A) exclusively implicate ii: D) found wishes iii: H) leaves Explanation: Feyermahn finds fault with Galileo in order not to be rational, but he does not place all the blame only on Galileo. On the contrary, his claim is that all scientific thinking is built on human endeavor, which is susceptible to prejudice and therefore not entirely rational. Firstly, we want words to show that Feyermahn is not just criticising Galileo. A), 'Only implicate' works best. The second sentence implies that Galileo is not entirely rational, and thus D), found to be flawed, which means shortcomings, works best. F, 'dismissed as indifferent' is too extreme. The third sentence goes to modern chroniclers of science, which Feyermahn urges to pay attention to the human weaknesses of scientists. The science writers who choose not to want to be left behind, or negligent. I, 'deviant' implies a deliberate obduracy that is not supported by context. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION: Why is partially rejecting wrong? A: Rejecting means roughly going against or denying the truth or validity of something. So rejecting does kind of fit, but the word that throws everything out is the word in part. Feyermahn's critique of Galileo's scientific rationalism calls into question the whole foundation and history of Western scientific thought: not _____ the Italian astronomer, but rather the very edifice of Western thinking. It's a pretty big thing, it's basically everything! In part, only a part, not the whole thing, means. For example, if you only write the introduction to your GRE essays, but not the body or conclusion, you only did part of the work. Thus you partially did the essay. To say that Feyermahn partially rejected Galileo would be to say that he only questioned or denied part of Galileo. But we know from the rest of the passage that he questioned both Galileo's entire scientific work and the whole historical conception of Western science. So partially rejected just doesn't fit the blank. (What does Apollonian supposedly mean? Click here to view and answer this question with video explanation.) On Sentence Equivalence Issues At last, we arrive at the GRE Sentence Equivalence Question, our third important category of GRE verbal practice. Like Text Completion issues, GRE Statement Equivalency issues sometimes include changing word-words that indicate a shift in meaning or connotation so that the words in one half of a sentence are somehow opposite the words of the other half of the sentence. Again, as I mentioned in the instructions for TC, read Chris Lele's tutorial on changing words and phrases, and look for shifts in the questions below. But before you get started, let's talk a little bit about the things that make Sentence Equivalency different from text completion. For one thing, sentence equivalency issues are always short, single-blank prompts. In addition, when you fill in the tone, you select two different words, both of which can be empty. These two different words will be chosen from 6 answer choices. But you don't just choose no two words that could complete the sentence. Instead, be sure to select the two words that will complete the sentence and give the sentence the same meaning, regardless of which word you use. Often, this means choosing the two words that have the same definition. But sometimes two words can have slightly different meanings, but still fill in the blank to create two sentences of the same meaning. To give a simple example of this (simpler than you would actually see on GRE), you can say the mouse ran away and the cat followed it or the mouse ran away and the cat chased it. Followed and hunted do not have exactly the same meaning, and they may even have completely different meanings in other sentences. But in the Mouse ran away, and the cat _____ it, these two slightly different words can fill in the blank to make corresponding sentences. Finally, I'll give you a more inside GRE verbal practice tip that isn't directly mentioned in the official GRE guide: every sentence Equivalency question in the GRE verbal has the same pattern of answer choices. In the 6 choices, there will always be two words that are corresponding, but wrong, two words that have different meanings forming each other and the other words and are thus wrong, and two correct corresponding words. Often it can be useful to try to remove non-parable pairs and incorrect parables first. Question 24 Water experts predict that unless the coming year's rainfall will be significantly above average, city dwellers, regardless of any protests, will have to _____ their water use. Select exactly two answer choices that best complete the sentence and bring forward sentences that are the same in meaning. A) limit B) intensify C) manage D) denotes E) convey F) limit Click here for answers and explanation Answer: A (limit), F (limit) Explanation: The phrase makes clear that rain is not likely. Denizens, or residents, therefore need to reduce or limit their water consumption. Since limitation means limiting, both the (A) limit and (F) limit are correct. (B) intensify is the opposite (C) administer does not make sense (D) denotes means of making or indicating (E) disseminate funds to spread or spread (View and answer this question with video explanation.) Question 25 As the job fair drew to a close, the recent college graduate became increasingly _____, desperately trying to make friends with potential employers he had previously not even descended into giving so much as a cursory glance. Select exactly two answer choices that best complete the sentence and bring forward sentences that are the same in meaning. A) ingratiating B) sleet C) withdrawn D) volatile E) loud F) directly Click here for answers and explanation Answer: A (ingratiating), B (fawning) Explanation: ...'trying to become friends...', 'not even deigned' shows a shift from a buttoned-down patronage to a desperate need to make friends/come across as sympathetic (A) ingratiating works here because it means trying desperately to win the affection of others. fawning, while slightly different from ingratiating, captures the college candidate's attempt to win the affection of others through excessive flattery. (C) retracting is the opposite of the empty (D) fleeting means the inclined to change one's mood suddenly and unpredictably (E) loudly means outspokenness (F) directly does not capture the college candidate's sense of desperation to seem sympathetic (View and answer this question with video explanation.) Question 26 The heckler, hiding among the amorphous audience, is the epitome of _____. ---as soon as he's been identified, he goes scuttling off, head down, humming to himself. Select exactly two answer choices that best complete the sentence and bring forward sentences that are the same in meaning. A) stealthiness B) outspokenness C) shyness D) disgust E) cravenness F) spine Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: E (cravenness), F (spine) Explanation: ... among the amorphous...' shows that when heckler cannot be identified he throws aggressive, inflammatory comments. As soon as he is identified, he sneaks away, 'heads down...' These clues indicate a cowardliness about heckler. (E) cravenness is cowardice and (F) backbone denotes the same lack of courage as cravenness (A) stealthiness is an attractive response choice, especially with the first half of the sentence. However, it does not capture the overall meaning of the sentence. There's no such thing as a word, either. (B) outspokenness, another attractive answer choice, ignores the contrast between before the heckler is identified and after he is identified. (C) shyness does not fit the context. (D) scarcity: to disassemble. A heckler embroils himself in a possible conflict and is not outside. (View and answer this question with video legend.) Question 27 The travel writer should invite _____ few, if any travel descriptions, have ever been inspired by a murmuring afternoon by the pool. Select exactly two answer choices that best complete the sentence and bring forward sentences that are the same in meaning. A) travail B) hardship C) excitement D) scandal E) calm F) serenity Click here for the answer and explanation Answer: A (travail), B (afflictions) Explanation: The second part of the sentence states that travelogues are not due to relaxing travel. Therefore, the first inch indicates a word that is opposite relaxing. (A) and (B) present both difficulties and challenges. (Why doesn't C or D work? Click here to view and answer this question with video explanation.) GRE Verbal Practice: The Takeaway The questions in this post are a great cross-section of the formats, types and subtypes of GRE verbal prompts you can see on the day of the test. Keep in mind, of course, that cross-section mix above does not lineup perfectly with the proportion of each question type on the real GRE. To get a feel for the real mix of questions, see Magoosh's GRE verbal section question type breakdown. Be sure to get acquainted with types of questions you have been practicing. Again, Magoosh can help. We have a detailed description of the reading comprehension subtypes. In our complete guide to GRE Reading Comprehension we tell you all about the different readable passage issues, as well as the different types of readable section arguments. And we have similar complete guides to GRE Text Completion and GRE Sentence Equivalency. And of course, it's also good to know exactly how the GRE verbal fits into the test as a whole. For that, check out our All You Need to Know guide to GRE and take an official ETS practice test. If you would like further guidance in your GRE prep, we recommend reviewing our GRE curriculum and guides. These curricula can be used in two ways: you can use them as examples of another personalized curriculum you're doing for yourself, or you can follow our curriculum accurately. To follow our curriculum to the letter, of course, you will need a Magoosh GRE Premium subscription. To see if Magoosh can be a good GRE Prep study buddy for you, you can always try the Magoosh GRE 1-week free trial. Trial.

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