



Verbal Reasoning Practice Test 11

Solution Booklet

Founded in 1954, the Bilderberg Group holds an annual conference of 120 of the world's most powerful and influential people. Participants, invited by a steering committee comprised of two people from 18 different countries, typically include financiers, industrialists, politicians, royalty and newspaper editors. Past delegates have included Tony Blair and Bill Clinton, shortly before becoming heads of state. Reporters, however, are not invited: the Bilderberg Group's meetings are conducted in privacy, with strict confidentiality rules to foster open discussion. The Group was established to promote understanding and cooperation between the United States and Europe and to create an informal network for the global elite. No votes are taken at the conference and no policies are agreed. However, the secrecy surrounding the conferences has given rise to numerous conspiracy theories. Right-wing critics believe that the Bilderberg Group is a shadowy global government, with some conspiracy theorists holding the Group responsible for organising events including the overthrow of Margaret Thatcher, the Bosnian War and the invasion of Iraq. Left-wing activists, who call for greater transparency, accuse the Group of being an unelected capitalist cabal controlling world finance. While opponents view the Group as undemocratic, supporters argue that modern democracies depend on cooperation between banking and politics, and that organisations such as the Bilderberg Group help ensure their success.

Q1 The Bilderberg Group has critics on both sides of the ideological spectrum.

True **False** **Cannot say**

True – summarises the 8th and 9th sentences. Right-wing critics being one side and left-wing activists being the other.

Q2 Representatives from the media are not allowed to attend the Bilderberg Group conference.

True **False** **Cannot say**

False – while the fourth sentence states that “reporters, however, are not invited” the second sentence states that conference participants include “newspaper editors”.

Q3 The Bilderberg Group was created as a private forum to set Europe and America's political and financial agenda.

True **False** **Cannot say**

False – while many conspiracy theories promote this idea, the fifth and sixth sentences state that the Group was established to promote understanding and does not set policy.

Q4 Topics discussed at Bilderberg Group conferences have included the invasion of Iraq.

True False **Cannot say**

Cannot say – as the conferences are private, there is no way of knowing what was discussed.

Q5 Because its delegates are not elected, the Bilderberg Group's activities are widely believed to be undemocratic.

True False **Cannot say**

Cannot say – both sides of the argument are argued in the last sentence. We are not told either way if this view is "widely believed".

Although today used to describe any movement to claim back territory for ethnic, linguistic, geographical or historical reasons, the term irredentism originally came from the Italian nationalist movement Italia irredenta. Meaning “unredeemed Italy”, Italian irredentism was an opinion movement rather than a formal organisation. It sought to unify ethnically Italian territories, such as Trieste, Trentina, and Istria, that were outside of Italian borders at the time of the unification of Italy in 1866. The annexation of these Italian territories from Austria provided Italy with its strongest motive for participating in World War I. The Treaty of Versailles in 1919 satisfied most of Italy’s irredentist claims, however new borders delineated by the treaty gave rise to new irredentist claims. Dividing the German Empire into separate nations created German minority populations in the new countries of Poland and Hungary. German irredentist claims to these territories, as well as to Austria, resulted in the Second World War. The Treaty of Versailles created Yugoslavia to be a Slavic homeland, but ethnic and religious differences between Bosnians, Serbs and Croats eventually led to war in the 1990s. The artificial political states created by the Treaty of Versailles in East Africa failed to take tribal boundaries into account, and thus remain subject to irredentist claims. Similarly, borders drawn up in the Near East are still contentious today.

Q6 Trieste, Trentina and Istria were reunified with Italy following the Treaty of Versailles.

True False **Cannot say**

Cannot say – while the third sentence lists these areas as Italian territories, and the fifth sentence states that the Treaty of Versailles “satisfied most of Italy’s irredentist claims” the passage does not expressly state that these territories became part of Italy.

Q7 Borders imposed in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles resulted in twentieth century conflicts.

True False Cannot say

True – both World War II and the Bosnian War were the result of irredentist claims over borders.

Q8 Irredentist movements advocate the annexation of territories only on the grounds of prior historical possession.

True **False** Cannot say

False – there are a variety of reasons given in the first sentence.

Q9 Yugoslavia was created following the Second World War to provide a homeland for Bosnians, Serbs and Croats.

True

False

Cannot say

False – Yugoslavia was created after the First World War. All the examples in the second half of the passage pertain to the Treaty of Versailles.

Q10 Although originally an Italian movement, irredentist claims are now being made in other countries.

True

False

Cannot say

True – the last two sentences mention irredentist claims in East Africa and the Near East.

Many organisations predict that the global water crisis presents this century's biggest threat. Today 84% of people in developing countries have access to clean water, 2 billion more than in 1990. However, millions still lack clean water for drinking and sanitation, posing a major health threat. In the developed world, water consumption is unsustainably high, doubling every twenty years. Agriculture accounts for 70% of the world's fresh water use, and an increasing population to feed means this demand will only increase. Groundwater sources, used to irrigate crops, are running dry because of overuse. While limiting the use of groundwater is a possible solution, it would have a financial impact on farmers and result in lower yields. While climate change has resulted in increased precipitation in some areas, it is contributing to water shortages in other regions. Rising temperatures have caused the Himalayan glaciers, the source for all of Asia's major rivers, to retreat. A reservoir for nearly half of the world's fresh water, these glaciers are predicted to lose four-fifths of their area by 2030. Many experts believe the solution to the global water crisis lies in new technologies. Desalination plants, which convert seawater into fresh water, have been built in countries including Israel and Singapore. The process's high costs however limit its wide-spread adoption. Institutions and treaties are also needed to ensure that cross-border water sources are managed properly and do not become a source of conflict.

Q11 The global water crisis has resulted in less of the world's population having access to fresh water

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say – the second sentence tells us that more people in developing countries have access to clean water than before (2 billion more than in 1990), however we are not told if more or fewer people in developed countries have access to fresh water. So we are not given the whole picture and therefore we cannot say.

Q12 The irrigation of crops comprises the majority of groundwater usage.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot Say – the passage states that 70% of the world's freshwater use is for agriculture and that groundwater is used to irrigate crops. It does not follow that 70% of groundwater is used for farming.

Q13 Despite increasing rainfall in some areas, climate change is the main cause of the global water crisis.

True False **Cannot say**

Cannot say – the passage does not cite a primary cause for the crisis.
Q14 The main impediment to desalination is expense.

True False **Cannot say**

Cannot Say – the passage states that “The process’s high costs however limit its wide-spread adoption”. However it does not follow that this is the main impediment.

Q15 Both technological innovation and diplomacy are needed to tackle the world’s water crisis.

True False Cannot say

True – summarises the 11th and 14th sentences.

Esperanto is an artificial language constructed in 1887 by the eye specialist Dr Ludovic Zamenhof. Having experienced ethnic divisions and language barriers growing up in Poland, he aimed to create an easy-to-learn second language that could transcend cultural and political differences and further international peace. Although Zamenhof's goal of a universal auxiliary language was not realized, today there are 1.6 million Esperanto speakers in more than 90 different countries. Using an alphabet comprised of five vowels and 23 consonants, Esperanto is based on Indo-European languages. Its grammar has logical rules with no irregular verbs, and its spellings are phonetic, making Esperanto about five times easier for a native English speaker to learn than French or Spanish. While some Esperanto speakers still advocate the adoption of the language worldwide, other proponents see its value primarily as a language-teaching tool. Esperanto is on the curriculum in countries including China and Hungary, but it is not taught in British schools because it lacks an associated culture. Its lack of culture is a common criticism levied at Esperanto, yet its neutrality was intended to foster equality between speakers. Detractors also argue that Esperanto's linguistic roots give an unfair advantage to speakers of European languages. The newer constructed language Loglan is based on logic and uses the world's six most widely spoken languages - Arabic, Mandarin, English, Hindi, Russian and Spanish - as its vocabulary's source.

Q16 One of the advantages of Esperanto is that it is universally easy to learn.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say – because it is based on European languages it is indeed easier for speakers of European languages to learn Esperanto, however we are not told if others find it “easy” or not.

Q17 Dr Zamenhof's goal was to replace ethnic languages with the universal language of Esperanto.

True

False

Cannot say

False – the third sentence refers to Zamenhof's goal of an “international auxiliary language” – he did not aim to replace ethnic languages.

Q18 Esperanto's lack of an associated culture or homeland can be viewed as both an asset and a disadvantage.

True False Cannot say

True – as stated in the 8th sentence.

Q19 Contemporary Esperanto speakers do not share a common vision of the language's purpose.

True False Cannot say

True – the sixth sentence describes two different visions for Esperanto.

Q20 Loglan is a more logically constructed language than Esperanto.

True False **Cannot say**

Cannot say – while the last sentence states that Loglan is based on logic, the fifth sentence describes Esperanto's grammar as having "logical rules" and the two languages are not directly compared. We cannot say which of the two are the most logically constructed.

A recent study estimated that 20% of Americans have used prescription drugs for nonmedical reasons, while the number of deaths from accidental drug poisoning has quintupled since 1990. Prescription drug abuse is the fastest-growing drug problem in the United States and most experts concur that the cause is the increased availability of powerful new opioid analgesics. When taken as prescribed, opioids are a safe, effective form of pain management with an addiction rate of only one percent. The rise of pain clinics and online pharmacies, however, has made it easy for nonmedical users to procure these potent painkillers. The family medicine cabinet is another common source of opioids, as well as sedatives and stimulants, which young people often combine with other drugs and alcohol. Despite many highly publicised deaths from prescription drug abuse, there persists a popular misconception that using prescription medicines without a prescription is legal, safe, and less addictive than taking recreational drugs. While education programmes for youths and healthcare providers are being introduced to raise awareness of prescription drug abuse, there are calls for increased government regulation over opioid dispensation. Measures such as patient tracking and urine testing could help doctors identify addicts. Some healthcare professionals have expressed concern that restricting opioids in such ways would have an adverse effect on chronic pain sufferers who rely on such medications. Until the pharmaceutical industry develops less lucrative but non-addictive painkillers, there are few alternatives to opioids for treating chronic pain.

Q21 Prescription drug abusers are typically young adults who have access to the drugs at home.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say – the passage does not state whether prescription drug abusers come from a specific demographic, though the fifth sentence does refer to young adults.

Q22 The pharmaceutical industry has made opioid painkillers highly addictive to enhance their profits.

True

False

Cannot say

False – while the last sentence refers to the fact that opioids are lucrative for pharmaceutical companies, the third sentence states that they are only addictive in one percent of patients when used properly. So it is not true to say they are “highly addictive”.

Q23 The United States' prescription drug abuse epidemic is generally attributed to easy access to potentially addictive opioids.

True False Cannot say

True – the second sentence states “most experts concur that the cause is the increased availability of powerful new opioid analgesics.”

Q24 The erroneous belief that there are fewer risks associated with taking prescription drugs recreationally is prevalent.

True False Cannot say

True – paraphrases the sixth sentence.

Q25 Medical professionals do not support proposed government restrictions on the prescription of opioids.

True False **Cannot say**

Cannot say – while the 9th sentence states that “some healthcare professionals have expressed concern that restricting opioids . . . would have an adverse effect” it is not possible to say what ALL medical professionals think or support.

Birds were long considered stupid, however laboratory research has shown that corvids -the group of birds including crows and jays - are actually highly intelligent. Their ability to make and use tools rivals that of chimpanzees. When hiding stores of food, corvids demonstrate their episodic memory and future planning ability - cognitive abilities previously thought unique to humans. Not only do corvids remember where they have cached food, they remember when they stored it. If seen caching food, corvids will return and re-hide it, unobserved by competitors. This anticipation of pilfering shows that corvids acknowledge the mental state of other individuals. The most social group of birds, corvids raise their young cooperatively and form long-term relationships. The social function of intellect theory, which hypothesised that social living was the impetus for the development of primate intelligence, is now applied to other species, such as corvids. Although capable of doing many of the same things as primates, corvids have smaller brains and lack the neocortex that is responsible for mammalian cognition. Instead, corvids have a nidopallium, which scientists believe fulfils a similar function more efficiently. Primate and corvid intelligence is sometimes used as an example of convergent evolution, whereby two unrelated species independently develop the same adaptations to similar environmental conditions. But animal intelligence is a controversial subject, with no consensus on its definition. Some scientists argue that corvid behaviour can be explained by adaptive specialization and is not equivalent to primate intelligence, and thus convergent evolution does not apply.

Q26 Corvids' food-caching strategies indicate that they have some awareness of what their competitors are thinking.

True False Cannot say

True – summarises the fifth and sixth sentences.

Q27 The social function of intellect theory states that corvid intelligence developed as a result of their complex social structure.

True **False** Cannot say

False – While the 7th sentence describes corvids as social birds, and the 8th sentence defines this theory as being applicable to other species, the same sentence tells us the theory originally pertained to primates.

Q28 Although they lack a common ancestor, primates and corvids acquired their intelligence under the same evolutionary processes.

True False **Cannot say**

Cannot say – while this is the definition of convergent evolution, the final sentence indicates that not all scientists believe that primates and corvids evolved convergently, so there is no consensus.

Q29 Corvids' cognitive abilities are the result of both brain structure and social structure.

True False **Cannot say**

Cannot say – the 8th sentence cites the social function of intellect theory but this is just “hypothesised” not stated as fact. Also the 10th sentence refers to the nidopallium within the birds' brains, but again this is said to be “believed” by scientists to fulfil a cognitive function.

Q30 A corvid's nidopallium is smaller, but more powerful, than a primate's neocortex.

True False **Cannot say**

Cannot say – while overall brain size is compared, the size of the nidopallium and neocortex are not compared. Furthermore, the 10th sentence states that scientists “believe” the nidopallium fulfils a similar function to the neocortex. This is not an established fact.