



Verbal Reasoning Practice Test 3

Solution Booklet

Work-related stress is one of the biggest causes of sick leave in the UK. If you've noticed you always seem to be rushing about, or miss meal breaks, take work home or don't have enough time for relaxation, for your family or for exercise, then you may well find yourself under stress, especially at work. There is often no single cause of work-related stress, but it can be caused by poor working conditions, long hours, relationship problems with colleagues, or lack of job security. Stress is often the result of a combination of these factors that builds up over time. Work-related stress can result in both physical problems, such as headaches, muscular tension, back or neck pain, tiredness, digestive problems and sweating; or emotional problems, such as a lower sex drive, feelings of inadequacy, irritability and lack of concentration. According to recent surveys, one in six of all working individuals in the UK said their job is very stressful, and thirty percent of men said that the demands of their job interferes with their private lives.

Q1 Stress at work is often caused by relationship problems with your partner.

True False **Cannot say**

This may well be true, but is not stated in the passage. The passage refers only to relationship problems with colleagues.

Q2 Work-related stress can result in tiredness and a lack of concentration.

True False Cannot say

Tiredness is listed under the physical problems caused by stress, and lack of concentration is listed under emotional problems.

Q3 One in six working men said their job is very stressful.

True False **Cannot say**

One in six individuals said their job is very stressful. The passage does not tell us the ratio for men only, which may be higher, equal, or lower.

Q4 If you spend more time with your family, you will not suffer from stress.

True False **Cannot say**

The passage states that stress can be caused by not spending enough time with your family. However, the opposite may equally be true.

For many years the hunt has been on to find an effective way to treat cancerous tumours using physical rather than chemical means. That hunt may now be over with the latest breakthrough made by Dr Jennifer West at Rice University in Houston, Texas. West has done tests on animals using a non-chemical procedure known as Photothermal Ablation. She injected millions of nanoparticles, which can absorb infrared light, into the animals' bloodstreams. These particles go straight to the tumours because, unlike healthy tissue, tumours have abnormal blood capillaries that will let them through. A few hours later an optical fibre is inserted into the tumour and a blast of infrared light is passed down the fibre, which heats the particles and effectively cooks the tumour.

Q5 Photothermal Ablation is the latest breakthrough in chemical treatment for cancer.

True **False** Cannot say

The passage tells us that Photothermal Ablation is a breakthrough in the treatment of cancerous tumours using physical, not chemical, means.

***Tip:** if the statement had been about physical treatment, even then we would have had to answer Cannot Say since the reader does not know when the passage was written so cannot tell if the 'latest breakthrough' is indeed the very latest at this moment in time.*

Q6 Nanoparticles are objects whose dimensions are measured in nanometres, or billionths of a metre.

True False **Cannot say**

This statement is in fact true, but is not stated anywhere in the passage.

Q7 Nanoparticles can absorb infrared light.

True False Cannot say

The passage states "nanoparticles, which can absorb infrared light".

U3b Networks (short for the “Underprivileged three billion” who lack internet access) is a new company in Jersey set up by Greg Wyler, former owner of Rwanda’s national telephone company. He intends to provide cheap, high-speed internet access to remote areas in developing countries, which up to now has been the reserve of developed countries. Mr Wyler plans to charge \$500 per megabit per month, compared with the \$4,000 charged by existing companies. Mr Wyler has so far raised €40m from investors, but this seems like a risky investment, especially as billions were lost on similar projects a decade ago. So why are they investing in the hope of finding customers in the world’s poorest regions? The reason is that previous projects were over-ambitious and set out to provide global coverage, whereas U3b’s project is far less ambitious and its services will only be available to a ribbon around the equator, covering most developing countries. It will initially use just five satellites circling 8,000km above the equator.

Q8 Mr Wyler had a background in telecoms before starting U3b Networks.

True False Cannot say

We are told that Greg Wyler is a former owner of Rwanda’s national telephone company, and has now set up U3b Networks.

Q9 The satellites for the project will cost €8m each.

True False **Cannot say**

There is no information in the passage to tell us the cost of each satellite. We know that the project will initially use five satellites and that the amount raised so far is €40m, but the the final cost may be much more and will not just include the cost of satellites.

Q10 Most developing countries lie close to the equator.

True False Cannot say

We are told that the “services will be only be available to a ribbon around the equator, covering most developing countries”.

We have all heard about bullying in schools, but bullying in the workplace is a huge problem in the UK which results in nearly 19 million days of lost output per year and costs the country 6 billion pounds annually. Workplace bullying is the abuse of a position of power by one individual over another. Otherwise known as harassment, intimidation, aggression, coercive management and by other euphemisms, bullying in the workplace can take many forms involving gender, race or age. In a nutshell, workplace bullying means behaviour that is humiliating or offensive towards some individual. This kind of bullying ranges from violence to less obvious actions like deliberately ignoring a fellow worker.

Q11 Bullying in the workplace costs the UK an average of 6 billion pounds each year.

True False Cannot say

The passage states that "bullying...costs the country 6 billion pounds annually".

Q12 Another name for workplace bullying is coercive management.

True False Cannot say

The passage states that coercive management is a euphemism for bullying, i.e., a less direct expression to make it sound less severe.

Q13 Bullying in the workplace is sometimes the result of religious intolerance.

True False **Cannot say**

The passage identifies only gender, race or age as reasons for bullying. Although it may be true that bullying occurs as a result of religious intolerance, there is no mention of this in the passage.

Q14 Deliberately ignoring a fellow worker is a kind of bullying.

True False Cannot say

The last sentence in the passage states that ignoring a fellow worker is a less obvious kind of workplace bullying.

Nobody knows what life forms may exist outside our own planet. The search for extra-terrestrial life in the universe took a step nearer to fruition with the discovery in June of what are believed to be traces of water on the surface of Mars. Life on our planet requires water and its presence on Mars may point towards the existence of past life on the planet. The Phoenix Mars Lander landed on the plains of Mars on May 25th 2008, searching for signs that the Martian environment might once have been habitable to life. When it dug a ditch in the planet's surface, photos revealed small patches of bright material. Four days later those patches had disappeared, causing scientists to speculate that they were water ice that had previously been buried and which vaporised when exposed to the air. Scientists insisted that if the patches had been salt, they wouldn't have disappeared and if they had been solid carbon dioxide, then they wouldn't have vaporised.

Q15 The Phoenix Mars Lander has provided proof that life once existed on Mars.

True False **Cannot say**

The passage states that scientists can only speculate that the patches discovered by the Phoenix Mars Lander were ice. Moreover, although the passage states that life requires water, it also states that the presence of water merely "may point towards" the existence of past life, i.e., the presence of water would not prove that life once existed. So the passage neither proves this statement nor falsifies it.

Q16 All life in the universe requires water in order to survive.

True False **Cannot say**

The passage states that "Life on our planet requires water". The passage also says that we do not know about every single life form: "Nobody knows what life forms may exist outside our own planet". Given that we are not told whether all life in the universe does or does not require water, we cannot say whether or not this statement is true.

Q17 The patches could have been a different substance from water.

True False Cannot say

The passage states that the scientists have "insisted" that the patches cannot be salt or solid carbon dioxide. However, even if these theories are correct, until the patches are proven to be water, a different explanation cannot be ruled out.

Most workers in the UK over the age of 16 are legally entitled to a minimum rate of pay, called the minimum wage. An independent body called the Low Pay Commission (LPC) each year reviews the rate and recommends to the government what it should be. With few exceptions, the minimum wage is the same for all types of work and all kinds of business. The current amount for people over 22 years of age is £5.73 an hour. The rates for younger workers are less. However, the following groups are not entitled to receive the minimum wage: workers under school leaving age, the genuinely self-employed, some apprentices, au pairs, armed service personnel and voluntary workers. Also agricultural workers have separate rates of pay set by the Agricultural Wages Board.

Q18 The Low Pay Commission sets the rate of the minimum wage each year.

True **False** Cannot say

According to the passage, the Low Pay Commission recommends the rate of the minimum wage. The government sets the rate based on their recommendation.

Q19 The Agricultural Wages Board sets the rates for agricultural workers.

True False Cannot say

The passage states that agricultural workers have separate rates of pay set by the Agricultural Wages Board.

Q20 The minimum wage for all workers of 16 years old is 5.73 pounds an hour.

True **False** Cannot say

The passage states that this is the rate for people over 22 years of age, and that “the rates for younger workers are less”.

Q21 All au pairs receive less than the minimum wage.

True False **Cannot say**

The passage states that au pairs are not entitled to the minimum wage. However, it does not tell us anything about the actual payments received by au pairs..

The 2008 A Level results show that 97.2% of students passed compared with 96.6% in 2007. 25.9% gained A grades, a rise of 0.6%. The number of students sitting A Levels, 827 737, was also a record. This high success rate is causing concerns in some quarters that the exams are getting easier. However, the government insists that the results reflect increased spending and improvements in teaching. Meanwhile the general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, Dr Mary Bousted, has berated teaching methods in schools as spoon-feeding students to pass exams without developing the desire to continue learning and the skills necessary to learn independently. In reply the general secretary of the University and College Union, Sally Hunt, suggested it is unfair to downplay the students' results and the hard work of their teachers.

- Q22** The improvement in A Level results is a reflection of an increase in the number of students sitting the exams.

True False **Cannot say**

The improvement is given in the passage as a percentage, and it is true to say that the numbers of test-takers has increased (indeed, to record levels). However the passage does not tell us explicitly why the results have improved.

- Q23** A level exams are getting easier.

True False **Cannot say**

Some people have expressed concerns that the exams are getting easier, but no evidence of this notion is given in the passage.

- Q24** The general secretary of the University and College Union said that students are being spoon-fed to pass examinations.

True False **Cannot say**

This suggestion was made by the general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers. Although the secretary of the University and College Union (Sally Hunt) defended the results, the passage does not explicitly tell us that Sally Hunt did or did not state students are being spoon-fed to pass examinations (it might be implied she did not say this but it is not stated). For example she could have said this at another time but we do not know for sure given just the information in the passage.

International Development Secretary, Douglas Alexander, has compared sanitary conditions in developing countries today with the situation in London 150 years ago when Parliament had to be closed owing to sewage running through the streets of the capital and a stench from the River Thames - an event that has been called 'The Great Stink'. Today more than 1 billion people in developing countries have no toilets and 900 million have no access to clean water. Mr. Alexander's response has been an announcement that the Department of International Development plans to build more than 50 million toilets and provide clean drinking water to more than 25 million people in developing countries over the next five years. This plan is part of the department's broader strategy to help poor countries in Africa and Asia to better manage their water resources and fight the effects of climate change.

Q25 'The Great Stink' occurred in London.

True False Cannot say

We are told that this event occurred 150 years ago in London.

Q26 When the project to build toilets is completed, on average twenty people are going to have to share one toilet.

True False **Cannot say**

First of all the project referred to in the passage relates to developing countries, whereas the statement is broad, about all people in general. So immediately we cannot say. But also we are told about developing countries that there are 1 billion people who have no toilet and that "more than 50 million" toilets will be built – that is a ratio of above 20 to 1.

Q27 The Department of International Development intends to do more than just provide clean drinking water and toilets to Africa and Asia.

True False Cannot say.

The last sentence in the passage states that "This plan is part of the department's broader strategy to help poor countries in Africa and Asia...". So if they have a strategy for a broader action, we can infer they intend to do more.

On 1st July 2007 the smoke-free law was introduced in England with the aim of protecting employees in their places of work, and the general public in enclosed public places, from the effects of secondhand smoking. These law changes mean that all public transport and work vehicles used by more than one person must now be smoke-free, no-smoking signs must be displayed in all smoke-free premises and vehicles, and staff smoking rooms are no longer allowed; staff who want to smoke must go outside. Local councils in England have the responsibility of enforcing the law but it is the legal responsibility of the managers of smoke-free premises and vehicles to make sure people don't smoke. Individuals can be fined or prosecuted for breaking the law and employers can be fined if they do not display the no-smoking signs or if they allow smoking to continue on their premises.

Q28 Secondhand smoking can cause lung cancer, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases.

True False **Cannot say**

There is nothing in the passage to substantiate this claim.

Q29 Truck drivers working alone are not allowed to smoke under the new law.

True False **Cannot say**

The passage states that as a result of the new law, work vehicles used by more than one person must be smoke-free, however the passage does not tell us explicitly that the law extends to lone truck drivers (it just fails to mention either way), so we cannot say without further information.

Q30 It is no longer legal for internal smoking rooms to be provided for employees.

True False Cannot say

The passage states that "staff smoking rooms are no longer allowed; staff who want to smoke must go outside". Employees are the same as "staff" so we are in effect told this statement is true.