



# Verbal Reasoning Practice Test 4

Solution Booklet

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A survey by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has shown that whilst employees use the internet mostly for work, they spend on average an equivalent of ten days a year using the internet for personal use during working hours. The survey of more than 500 member organisations found that this is costing the country over £10 billion a year in lost business. Extreme examples include one employee who spent all day playing a fantasy game on the internet and another who ran his own internet buying and selling business on his office computer. Both have been dismissed. A different survey of nearly 800 office workers conducted by Global Secure Systems revealed that on average staff spend half an hour a day on social networking sites during working hours. Some companies, however, condone the use of the internet for personal use, especially social networking sites. Indeed, the deputy director general of the CBI, John Cridland, believes that sensible use of the internet can improve productivity and morale.

**Q1** The CBI survey found that employees spend an average of ten days a year using the internet for work-related business.

True                      **False**                      Cannot say

*The CBI survey found that employees spend an average of ten days a year using the internet for personal use, not work-related business. The passage states that the survey found that employees use the internet mostly for work. It can be taken from the passage that 'mostly' is more than the 10 hours spent on personal use.*

**Q2** One employee was dismissed for playing Second Life during working hours.

True                      False                      **Cannot say**

*We are told that an employee was dismissed for playing a fantasy game, but the game is not named.*

**Q3** A survey found that staff sometimes visit social networking sites during working hours.

**True**                      False                      Cannot say

*The Global Secure Systems survey found that employees spend an average of half an hour a day on such sites.*

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**Q4** The CBI allows personal internet use as long as it is a social networking site.

True

False

**Cannot say**

*The text passage states that the deputy director general of the CBI “believes that sensible use of the internet can improve productivity and morale”. This is the personal view of an individual authority figure of the CBI and the passage does not say whether the CBI does or does not allow personal internet use by its own employees as long as it is a social networking site.*

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Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS), eye strain due to frequent viewing of computer monitors, has developed into a major health issue for office workers during the last few years. There are, however, a few simple things workers can do to reduce CVS. One obvious one is to get frequent eye tests. Practical considerations include making sure the light coming from outside or the office ceiling lights are not too bright, reducing glare, adjusting the brightness of the computer screen so that its brightness is similar to that of the office, and adjusting the screen text size and colour for maximum comfort. For your own comfort make sure you blink often, exercise your eyes by looking away from the screen every few minutes and take real breaks away from the computer screen at least once an hour.

**Q5** CVS has been a major health issue for over thirty years.

True                      False                      **Cannot say**

*There are actually two reasons for not being able to determine whether this is true or false. The most important is that the passage tells us CVS "has developed into a major health issue for office workers" whereas the question is asking about people generally. We are not told about CVS in non-office workers.*

*The other reason this would be difficult to determine as certainly true or certainly false is that we are not told when the passage was written. Depending on when it was written would make the statement either true or false.*

**Q6** Having the correct combination of lighting factors helps to reduce CVS.

**True**                      False                      Cannot say

*The passage describes practical considerations that "reduce CVS" as making sure that the light inside the office is not too bright, that glare is reduced and that the screen's brightness adjusted.*

**Q7** The regular use of eye drops can help relax the eyes and reduce the effects of CVS.

True                      False                      **Cannot say**

*This may be true, but it is not referred to in the passage.*

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Surgeons and researchers in three countries recently collaborated to perform the world's first transplant of a body part using stem cell technology. A 30 year old Colombian woman, Claudia Castillo, was left barely able to breathe following a tuberculosis infection that had damaged the branch of the trachea leading to her left lung. Doctors in Spain took a section of windpipe from a deceased person, and then researchers in Italy purged the donated windpipe of all its cells to leave an empty frame of tissue. A team of doctors in Bristol grew stem cells from Ms Castillo's own bone marrow which the Italian doctors then coated onto the frame of the section of donor windpipe. The section of windpipe was then transplanted into the patient's body. After five months, the patient is well and shows no signs of the rejection normally associated with transplants.

- Q8** Transplants using stem cell techniques are an established part of human transplant surgery.

True                      **False**                      Cannot say

*The passage says that the "world's first transplant of a body part using stem cell technology" was carried out "recently". If the first occurrence was recently, it would be false to say that it is an "established" practice.*

- Q9** In the future this kind of transplant will be possible without the need for a donor.

True                      False                      **Cannot say**

*This statement might be true, but it is neither confirmed nor denied by the passage.*

- Q10** The stem cells used in Ms Castillo's procedure belonged to her.

**True**                      False                      Cannot say

*The passage states that a team of doctors in Bristol grew stem cells from Ms Castillo's own bone marrow.*

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What used to be called G7, the summit of the world's seven richest economies, has increased in members to now include the world's twenty richest economies. The new larger group, the G20, met in Washington DC in November 2008. These twenty economies between them represent 90% of global GDP. The main topic on the agenda, of course, was the global financial crisis. The results of the meeting were disappointing as the leaders did not reformulate global finance; neither did they agree on a co-ordinated fiscal boost to fight the economic recession. They did, however, agree to refrain from raising new trade barriers. This agreement did not last long as, within 48 hours, Russia had raised its tariffs on imported cars. Most agree the meeting was worthwhile and the twenty countries will meet again before the end of April. So it seems that G7 is now part of history.

**Q11** The leaders of the world's seven richest economies will no longer meet together in future.

True                      **False**                      Cannot say

*The original seven richest economies "will meet again before the end of April", but a further thirteen world leaders have now joined them to make the G20. So the passage tells us they will meet again, albeit with others too.*

**Q12** In November 2008, Russia was one of the world's twenty richest economies.

**True**                      False                      Cannot say

*The passage states that "Russia had raised its tariffs on imported cars" thus breaking the agreement. The agreement was made between those economies that formed the twenty richest in the world at the time. At the time of November 2008, when the G20 met, Russia must have been part of the G20 and therefore one of the twenty richest economies in the world.*

**Q13** Russia, China and India were all represented at the G20 summit.

True                      False                      **Cannot say**

*We are told that Russia took part, but there is no mention in the passage of India or China.*

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The new Apple iPhone, available in the UK from July 2008, is a combined mobile phone, iPod and web browser, using the 3G phone network for faster surfing of the internet. Initially O2, Apple's exclusive UK mobile phone provider, charged customers an up-front fee for the iPhone, but it could soon be offered for free for those who pay a tariff of £75 a month. It could also be available on a pay-as-you-go basis. The new phone has sold well in the United States, but sales in Europe have been slow owing to the high price. Also the price of the older 8GB version has been drastically reduced making it a more attractive option for some buyers.

**Q14** The Apple iPhone is available in the UK through O2, Vodafone and Virgin Mobile.

True                      **False**                      Cannot say

*The passage says that O2 is "Apple's exclusive UK mobile phone provider", meaning that no other network can sell it. Although it is now the case that other networks have rights to sell the iPhone, the answer must be based on only the information given in the passage.*

**Q15** The iPhone could soon be available free for some customers.

**True**                      False                      Cannot say

*The passage tells us that the iPhone could be offered free for those who pay a tariff of £75 a month.*

**Q16** The high price of the new iPhone has increased sales of the older version.

True                      False                      **Cannot say**

*We are told that the price of the older version has been reduced, but not that sales have increased. Based on what the passage tells us alone, it is not possible to say.*

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Originally estimated in 2005 to cost £3bn, the revised cost of the 2012 London Olympic Games had risen to £9bn by 2007, and must by now have risen still further. Can these amounts to host a sporting event over seventeen days be justified in the present economic environment? In its defence, the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has commented that London was "extremely fortunate" to be hosting the games in the current economic climate. Lord Coe, chairman of the 2012 organising committee, agrees and has suggested that the games could help London and the country to get through the recession. Billions of pounds worth of contracts are currently available, providing work to safeguard the jobs of more than 3,500 people now working on the games' building sites, 10% of whom had previously been unemployed.

**Q17** The estimated cost of the 2012 Olympic Games trebled between 2005 and 2007.

**True**                      False                      Cannot say

*The passage states that the estimated cost in 2005 was £3bn and in 2007 had risen to £9bn. Therefore, the estimate had trebled.*

**Q18** The Mayor of London doubts the wisdom of London hosting the games in the current economic climate.

True                      **False**                      Cannot say

*On the contrary, according to the passage the Mayor thinks London is "extremely fortunate" to be hosting the games.*

**Q19** Employment resulting from the games has provided jobs for at least 350 previously unemployed people.

**True**                      False                      Cannot say

*We are told that there are "more than 3,500 people now working on the games' building sites, 10% of whom had previously been unemployed". 10% of 3,500 is 350.*

**Q20** Sebastian Coe is a former Olympic runner, and the winner of the 1500 metres races in both Moscow and Los Angeles

True                      False                      **Cannot say**

*There is nothing in the passage to tell us this.*

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Can you imagine life vests for polar bears, or bulletproof vests for Bengali tigers? These are just two of the ideas proposed by the Swedish company ADDI Concepts to raise awareness of the plight of endangered species. Global warming has caused melting of the Arctic ice, which in turn has reduced the size and number of ice floes. Having to swim greater distances between ice floes to find food, more and more polar bears are drowning. ADDI Concepts has designed a life jacket to help polar bears stay afloat. Similarly, owing to illegal hunting, the world's population of Bengali tigers has declined by 95% over the last one hundred years. Maybe a bulletproof vest for tigers is the answer. The company does not offer these ideas as direct solutions for the problems, but rather to raise awareness and inspire action.

**Q21** The world's population of polar bears is decreasing owing to illegal hunting.

True                      False                      **Cannot say**

*We are told that polar bears are starving and drowning as they find it increasingly difficult to hunt for food, but we are not told whether polar bears are or are not being hunted illegally.*

**Q22** Global warming has increased the distances between ice floes.

**True**                      False                      Cannot say

*Global warming has caused the Arctic ice to melt, so there is less ice and greater distances between the floes. The passage says "Global warming has caused melting of the Arctic ice, which in turn has reduced the size and number of ice floes." It also states that polar bears have to swim greater distances between ice floes to find food.*

**Q23** ADDI Concepts' main reason for developing life jackets for polar bears and bulletproof vests for tigers is to raise awareness of endangered species.

**True**                      False                      Cannot say

*The passage says that the ideas are "to raise awareness of the plight of endangered species". It then goes on to say "The company does not offer these ideas as direct solutions for the problems, but rather to raise awareness..."*

**Q24** Changing the law on the hunting of Bengali tigers would have no effect on the number that are hunted.

True                      False                      **Cannot say**

*Without knowing what the law change would be, it is not possible to tell. Even if we were told what the law would be, the passage does not say that this would or would not have any effect on the actual hunting of Bengali tigers.*

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Studies conducted at the University of Otago, New Zealand, have shown that children who watch television for more than two hours a day face increased health problems later in life, including obesity, high blood cholesterol and heart problems. It is a well-researched fact that obesity can be caused by poor diet or by a lack of physical exercise, but watching television seems to have a more significant link to obesity than other sedentary activities such as reading, writing or driving. Researchers at Harvard have discovered that watching television slows the metabolism and causes fewer calories to be burned than these other activities, and there seems to be a negative correlation between the metabolic rate and the number of hours of TV watched. Many families eat their evening meal in front of the television and watching television also encourages unnecessary eating of snacks.

**Q25** Watching television as a child causes obesity and other health problems later in life.

True                      False                      **Cannot say**

*According to the passage, studies have shown that children who watch television for more than two hours per day face increased health problems later in life, including obesity. The passage therefore identifies a link, but it does not say explicitly that watching television is or is not a cause of obesity. For example, the children in the study could be watching more television because they are obese.*

**Q26** Research has shown that watching television burns fewer calories than reading.

**True**                      False                      Cannot say

*The passage tells us that research at Harvard has shown that “watching television...causes fewer calories to be burned than these other activities [reading, writing or driving].”*

**Q27** Food advertisements on the television tempt viewers to eat more.

True                      False                      **Cannot say**

*There is no reference made in the passage to whether food advertisements do or do not tempt viewers to eat more.*

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With the world's finite resources of oil rapidly being depleted, solutions are being sought to extend the lifetime of available oil. One idea being proposed is the use of carbon credits. The Environmental Audit Committee considers such a scheme to be more effective than imposing taxes for excessive carbon emission. Taxes, such as a petrol tax, would relatively affect poor people more since everybody (both rich and poor) would pay the same amount. The carbon credit system, on the other hand, is fairer and would engage the population in the fight against climate change. Under the scheme, companies would be given an annual limit for the amount of fuel and energy they use. If they exceeded that limit, then they could purchase credits from other companies who have used less than their quota. This scheme, also called 'carbon trading' is likely to be unpopular with the public and the government has decided not to go ahead with it for the moment.

**Q28** A tax on petrol would be felt by poorer people more keenly than wealthy people.

**True**                      False                      Cannot say

*The 4<sup>th</sup> sentence in the passage identifies that a petrol tax would relatively affect poor people more than wealthy since everybody would pay the same amount.*

**Q29** A carbon credit system would ensure that the world's resources of oil would never be depleted.

True                      **False**                      Cannot say

*The carbon credit scheme is aimed at extending the lifetime of oil, but cannot make it last forever. We are told that the world's resources of oil are "finite" and therefore they cannot last forever.*

**Q30** A company that uses less than its quota of carbon credits can sell some to another company that has exceeded its quota.

True                      False                      **Cannot say**

*Whilst it is true that under the carbon trading system described companies can buy and sell some of their carbon quota, the last sentence tells us that this trading system is not yet in place. Since we are not told when the article was written, we cannot say for sure whether the carbon trading system described is or is not in place.*