



## Instructions

This verbal reasoning test comprises 30 questions, and you will have 25 minutes in which to correctly answer as many as you can.

You will be presented with a passage to read, and a statement about that passage. You must select one of the following answers:

**True:** *The statement follows logically from the information or opinions contained in the passage.*

**False:** *The statement is logically false from the information or opinions contained in the passage.*

**Cannot Say:** *It is not possible to determine whether the statement is true or false without further information.*

You will have to work quickly and accurately to perform well in this test. If you don't know the answer to a question, leave it and come back to it if you have time.

Try to find a time and place where you will not be interrupted during the test. When you are ready, begin the test.

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The Wootton Report of 1968 concluded that cannabis smoking is basically harmless. A British Medical Association report of 2007 reported that cannabis can have a therapeutic value in the treatment of certain medical conditions. Another independent study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2002 concluded that relaxing the cannabis laws and reclassifying it as a Class C drug could save the police £38 million a year and improve relations between the police and the community. Yet today it is still classified as a Class B drug; it is illegal to grow, possess or supply the drug. If caught in possession, offenders can be jailed for 5 years; 14 years for trafficking. The number of adults using the drug has doubled in the last decade to around 4 million. They consume around 800 tonnes and spend £3.5 billion every year. The main argument against the use of cannabis is that it can lead on to the use of harder drugs.

**Q1** The Wootton report recommended reclassifying cannabis as a Class C drug.

True                                      False                                      Cannot say

**Q2** A British Medical Association report of 2007 suggested that there can be therapeutic value in using cannabis to treat some symptoms which could not be alleviated with normally prescribed medication.

True                                      False                                      Cannot say

**Q3** Offenders can be jailed for 5 years for being caught in possession of cannabis.

True                                      False                                      Cannot say

**Q4** A study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has concluded that reclassifying cannabis as a Class C drug could result in savings for the police but would compromise relations between the police and the public.

True                                      False                                      Cannot say

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It is believed that around 12% of absence from work in the UK is not genuine. If this figure is correct, this amounts to about 21 million lost days every year at an annual cost to the country of more than £1.5 billion. The main contributor to non-genuine absence is 'pulling sickies' i.e. employees calling in sick when they are not sick. To reduce this practice, the government is considering introducing lie detector technology to catch people out. The system, known as 'Voice Risk Analysis' (VRA), developed by the outsourcing firm Capita, can identify lies by picking up changes in a caller's voice on the telephone. The system has already been successfully trialled by some local authorities to detect false benefit claims. Of these, Harrow Borough Council claims to have saved £420,000 during the year-long trial. If the system is introduced by employers, then many employees would think twice about lying.

**Q5** Changes in people's voices can be used to detect lies.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q6** Voice Risk Analysis does not work when used over the telephone.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q7** Harrow Borough Council has already used this system and saved an estimated £420,000 from the reduction in the number of 'sickies'.

True

False

Cannot say

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With the Liberal Democrats averaging around 20% in recent polls, some are questioning again whether it's time for reform in the UK voting system. The 'first past the post' system (FPP) seems unfair since it does not give minor parties the number of MPs in proportion to the number of popular votes they receive. The Electoral Reform Society estimates that under FPP about 2/3 of seats are 'safe' and therefore not genuinely contestable at each election. So what are the alternatives? The Alternative Vote system (AV) allows voters to select candidates in order of preference. If no candidate has a clear majority (50% or more of the vote), then voters' second choices are taken into consideration. Another system, Mixed Member Proportionality (MMP), allows voters two votes - one for the constituency member and one for the party of their choice. This system elects two categories of MP - constituency members and list members. The number of list members is determined by the proportion of votes gained by each party.

**Q8** If an election were held today under the 'Alternative Vote' system, the Liberal Democrats would win about 20% of the seats in parliament.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q9** The Electoral Reform Society estimates that under FPP only about 1/3 of seats are truly contestable at each general election.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q10** Mixed Member Proportionality is a better system because it elects two MPs for each constituency.

True

False

Cannot say

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In 2005, Isabelle Dickson, a French woman who had been mauled by her dog was the first patient to receive a partial face transplant. She was given a new nose, chin and lips. Since then, five other partial face transplants have been carried out in France, the US and China. The Chinese patient has since died, but other patients have adapted well to their new faces. Now new ground has been broken once again in France with the world's first full face transplant. A French man who had been severely burned in an accident was given a new face that included every feature - even his scalp, forehead, nose, ears and eyelids. He was also given new hands at the same time. Approval for full face transplants in the UK was given nearly four years ago. As yet no such operations have been carried out in the UK because rigorous patient selection procedures have meant very slow progress on those going through the system.

**Q11** The most recent development in facial transplants occurred in France.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q12** The drawbacks of face transplants are the possibility of rejection of the donor's tissue and the fact that the patient has to endure the side effects of the immunosuppressant drugs.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q13** Face transplant operations have not been carried out in the UK because there are no patients requiring this kind of operation.

True

False

Cannot say

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Modbury, a town of just 1,500 residents, lies on the A379, the main route east to Plymouth and the beaches of South Devon. On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007 Modbury became the first plastic bag-free town in Britain. The owners of the supermarket and the 40 or so small shops have all agreed that they will no longer pack goods in plastic bags. Plastic bags, which can take up to 1,000 years to break down, are an environmental hazard in our countryside and on our beaches. Every year around 200 million plastic bags are found littering the streets and beaches of the UK. Marine animals can mistake plastic bags for food and often die when they swallow them. The town of Modbury has made this decision as a commitment towards preserving the local environment. Modbury shoppers are encouraged to bring their own shopping bags, use the reusable cotton, environmentally friendly bags donated by the supermarket, or use disposable cornstarch or paper bags.

**Q14** From 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007 you will no longer find a plastic bag in Modbury.

True                                      False                                      Cannot say

**Q15** The lifetime of a plastic bag is 1,000 years.

True                                      False                                      Cannot say

**Q16** The UK produces around 200 million plastic bags every year.

True                                      False                                      Cannot say

**Q17** The local supermarket in Modbury donates reusable cotton bags to customers.

True                                      False                                      Cannot say

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It was reported in January 2009 that 4,600 civil servants are employed without posts. Some of them still draw full salaries even though their areas of responsibility no longer exist. This includes over 2,800 in Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, over 800 in the Ministry of Defence and more than 200 in the Foreign Office. Most amazing is the figure in the Department for Work and Pensions, where a reported 368 staff are paid for doing no work when they should be helping others to find work. The total annual bill to the taxpayer to pay these civil servants is estimated as £130 million. This situation has been described as 'a scandal' by the Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude. However, the Cabinet Office Minister Tom Watson has defended the figures, claiming that they include mothers returning from maternity leave who are waiting to be assigned to a new job and employees on short-term projects.

**Q18** In January 2009, 4,600 civil servants were employed but without formal roles.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q19** There are a reported 368 staff in the Department for Work and Pensions who are claiming unemployment benefit.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q20** Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude, is quoted as saying, "If there's no work for them, they should be given their marching orders."

True

False

Cannot say

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A fossilised skeleton of a lemur-like animal recently found in Germany could be a missing link in the evolutionary chain of human ancestry. Jorn Hurum, a palaeontologist from Oslo, Norway, and his team have studied the 47 million year old fossil and say it provides a link between lemurs and the higher primates that include apes, monkeys and humans. The lemur-like creature, named 'Ida' has characteristics similar to those of higher primates including short limbs, nails instead of claws, hands that can grasp things, and opposable thumbs. The most remarkable thing about the fossil is that it is so well preserved, showing evidence of fur and soft tissue as well as the remains of a meal. However, a biological anthropologist at George Washington University, Brian Richmond, says it provides only one branching point in the evolutionary tree and there's still a big gap in the fossil record. Ida's discovery probably provides more questions than answers.

**Q21** Ida is a fossilised skeleton of a lemur-like creature recently found in Norway.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q22** Ida had short limbs, nails instead of claws, and opposable thumbs.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q23** Ida's European origins show that the European continent was an important area for primate evolution.

True

False

Cannot say

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The price of a barrel of oil, which fell from around \$147 in July 2008 to just \$36 in December 2008, has shown an increase in recent months to around \$60 a barrel in May 2009. The oil ministers of Saudi Arabia and Iran believe that, as the world recovers from the global recession, the price of oil will increase further and there may be another price shock ahead similar to that of last year. To prevent this happening experts agree that now is the time to invest in exploration and the development of new fields. However, the opposite is happening. The number of drilling rigs in use around the world fell by 32% in the year to April, and big companies such as Shell and BP have delayed expansion plans and cut staff. Oil-rich states, such as Saudi Arabia (whose king thinks \$75 a barrel is a fair price), are happy to see the price rise again to increase their revenue.

**Q24** The price of a barrel of oil more than halved between July 2008 and May 2009.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q25** To prevent oil prices spiralling again to new heights, experts agree that oil companies need to reduce investment in exploration and the development of new fields.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q26** A fair price for a barrel of oil is \$75.

True

False

Cannot say

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Acupuncture originated in China at least 2,000 years ago but is widely used in other East Asian countries. Before the early part of the twentieth century, acupuncture needles were large and inserted deeply at the site of the problem. Today they use smaller, fine needles which are inserted at strategic points in the body. These points give access to 14 channels that connect the bodily organs, called meridians. It is believed by some that a natural energy called Qi flows freely through the meridians of a healthy person. Qi consists of two opposite forces, Yin and Yang. When a person is ill, the Yin and Yang are out of balance, or the Qi is blocked. The aim of acupuncture is to restore this balance and thus harmony and health in the patient. Acupuncture is an invasive technique, so there are risks in its use - of harm to bodily organs from incorrect positioning of needles, or from infection. Although there is evidence that acupuncture can give some pain relief, its treatment of other diseases is not proven and you would be better off visiting a conventional doctor.

**Q27** Acupuncture has been used in Europe since the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q28** Today acupuncturists use large needles inserted at the site of the problem.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q29** Acupuncturists believe that a natural energy called Qi flows through channels in our bodies called meridians.

True

False

Cannot say

**Q30** The only risk associated with acupuncture is infection from needles.

True

False

Cannot say