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The screenshot shows a web browser window with the AssessmentDay logo in the top left. The main content area displays a question titled "Question 2" with a paragraph of text. Below the text are three radio button options: "True", "False", and "Cannot say". Navigation arrows are visible at the bottom of the question area.

Verbal Reasoning  
Practice Test 7

Solution Booklet

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Many people are aware that high cholesterol contributes to heart disease, but they may be surprised to learn that cholesterol performs essential functions in the human body. A lipid made in the liver and found in animal cell membranes, cholesterol is used to repair tissues and digest fat, as well as in the manufacture of hormones, bile salts, and Vitamin D. However, problems arise when an excess of cholesterol builds up on blood vessel walls, thus impeding blood flow. A person's blood cholesterol count is comprised of two different types of cholesterol: low-density lipoprotein (LDL), sometimes called "bad" cholesterol, and high-density lipoprotein (HDL), known as "good" cholesterol. Whereas HDL carries cholesterol away from the arteries to the liver, LDL carries cholesterol from the liver to the arteries where it accumulates. Although certain foods deriving from animals, such as meat, shellfish, cheese and eggs, are high in dietary cholesterol, it is actually the consumption of the saturated fats found in red meat, full-fat dairy products, cakes and biscuits that raises levels of "bad" cholesterol. Conversely, eating polyunsaturated fats and soluble fibre can lower LDL.

**Q1** Foods that are high in dietary cholesterol raise levels of LDL.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*False – the sixth sentence says that eating saturated fats raises levels of "bad" cholesterol – i.e. LDL.*

**Q2** A widely held misconception exists that cholesterol is harmful to one's health.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*True – the first sentence states that many people would be surprised to learn that cholesterol performs essential functions.*

**Q3** To ensure good health, HDL levels must be lowered and LDL levels boosted.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*False – the reverse is true according to sentences four and five.*

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**Q4** Making dietary changes is the only way to lower bad cholesterol levels.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*Cannot say – the passage does not specify that there is only one way to lower cholesterol. In fact, exercise can help lower blood cholesterol levels.*

**Q5** Vegetarians are likely to have lower levels of bad cholesterol, as they do not eat meat.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*Cannot say – while dietary cholesterol is only present in foods deriving from animals, the passage does not state that vegetarians have lower levels of LDL.*

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Existentialism is a philosophical and literary movement that gained prominence in the mid-twentieth century. Primarily associated with the work of Jean-Paul Sartre and Parisian café society, existentialism was influenced by the earlier work of the Danish theologian Soren Kierkegaard and the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. Although difficult to define, existentialism can be summarised by its emphasis on human existence over human essence, and the centrality of an individual's freedom of choice. It is an atheist philosophy that rejects moral rules, but not responsibility. Though each individual is free, he or she must co-exist with other individuals' freedom. According to existentialists, the only certainty in life is death, the recognition of which leads to despair. This existential anguish, however, can be transcended when an individual undertakes a project that will give his or her life meaning. Although not a political movement, existentialism's links to social and political causes, such as the opposition of fascism, led to its widespread popularity in the 1960s.

**Q6** The first existentialist ideas originated from Soren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*Cannot say – we are told that Kierkegaard and Nietzsche influenced the movement but we are not told if they were responsible for the first existentialist ideas. The passage leaves open to speculation whether other people had the same ideas before these two people.*

**Q7** Although existentialism eschews moral codes, it does not suggest that individuals act without regard for others.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*True – this summarizes the fourth and fifth sentences.*

**Q8** Followers of existential philosophy suffer from depression.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*Cannot say – the sixth and seventh sentences discuss existentialist despair and anguish, but it does not necessarily follow that existentialists are depressed.*

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**Q9** Existentialism views mortality as life's sole inevitability.

True                  False                  Cannot say

*True – "According to existentialists, the only certainty in life is death".*

**Q10** Existentialism became a popular political movement in the 1960s.

True                  False                  Cannot say

*False – the first sentence states that existentialism is a "philosophical and literary movement". One might be tempted to answer True based on a quick reading of the last sentence, however the last sentence also states that existentialism was "not a political movement..."*

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Kangaroo culling is a controversial issue in Australia, where the government has implemented culls to control populations. The issue is particularly emotive because of the kangaroo's status as a national icon, with some detractors viewing the culls as an attack on Australia's identity. Although indigenous to Australia, kangaroos are, in some areas, threatening the grassland ecosystem. Overgrazing causes soil erosion thus threatening the survival of certain rare species of lizard. Furthermore, in overpopulated areas, food scarcity is driving kangaroos to damage wheat crops. Protesters typically oppose the cull on grounds that it is inhumane. Instead, they favour the relocation of kangaroos to suitable new habitats, or sterilizing the animals in overpopulated areas. Sterilization, however, will not have an immediate effect on the problems of limited resources and land degradation through grazing. Not only is transporting large numbers of kangaroos an expensive undertaking, critics believe it would potentially traumatize the relocated kangaroos and ultimately threaten the new habitat.

**Q11** The majority of animal rights activists oppose the Australian government's policy of kangaroo culls.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*Cannot say – the passage does not specify whether most animal rights activists oppose the policy – merely that it is a controversial issue and that protesters oppose the culls as inhumane. In fact, many animal advocacy groups support the culls as being in the long-term interests of the kangaroo.*

**Q12** The foremost argument against culling kangaroos is that it threatens Australian national identity.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*False – while the second sentence states that some detractors oppose the culls on these grounds, the sixth sentence says that protestors "typically" oppose the culls on grounds that it is inhumane. The word "typically" suggests that this is the foremost argument.*

**Q13** Kangaroos present a threat to agriculture as well as to the ecosystem.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*True – the passage states that kangaroos damage wheat crops.*

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**Q14** In overpopulated areas where food is scarce, kangaroos are preying on rare lizards.

True                  False                  Cannot say

*False – rare species of lizard are threatened because kangaroos overgraze, thus destroying the lizards' habitat.*

**Q15** Sterilizing kangaroos will not immediately alleviate problems of their over-grazing.

True                  False                  Cannot say

*True – sterilized kangaroos will not be able to breed, but they will continue to graze. The eighth sentence of the passage tells us that "Sterilization, however, will not have an immediate effect on the problems of limited resources and land degradation through grazing".*

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Plastics represent the fastest-growing category of waste. Worldwide consumers use 500 billion plastic shopping bags and drink 154 billion litres of bottled water annually. The majority of these bags and bottles are made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET), a plastic derived from crude oil. Because PET takes over 1,000 years to degrade and leaks dangerous chemicals into the soil, many communities have instituted recycling programmes to reduce the amount of plastic destined for landfill. However, recycling plastic is not a perfect solution. Firstly, there are many different types of plastic, and sorting them makes recycling labour-intensive. Secondly, because the quality of plastic degrades with each reuse, recycled plastic has a low value. For economic reasons, most of Europe's plastic is shipped to China for recycling processing. The downside to this is that the transportation consumes large amounts of energy and working conditions in the Chinese processing factories are poor. While recycling plastic may salve the conscience of western consumers, reducing plastic proliferation is a better solution.

**Q16** It costs less money to recycle plastic in China than it does in European countries.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*True – the 8<sup>th</sup> sentence tells us that “for economic reasons” most of Europe’s plastic is shipped to China for recycling.*

**Q17** The passage suggests that finding alternatives to PET is a preferable solution to recycling.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*False – in the final sentence, the passage suggests that reducing the use of plastic is a preferable solution.*

**Q18** There are both environmental and economic drawbacks to recycling plastic.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*True – the environmental drawback is the energy required to transport the waste to China. The economic drawbacks are that recycled plastic has a low value.*



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**Q19** The proliferation of shopping bags and water bottles has made plastic the fastest-growing category of waste.

True                  False                  Cannot say

*Cannot say – while the passage cites high usage of shopping bags and water bottles, it does not specify this as the cause for the fast growth of plastic waste.*

**Q20** Plastic recycling does not extend the life of the material indefinitely.

True                  False                  Cannot say

*True – the passage states that “the quality of plastic degrades with each use” which means that it cannot be used forever.*

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Although commonly referred to as tidal waves, tsunamis are not caused by tides. A tsunami is a series of fast-moving waves created by a disturbance above or below sea level. Although earthquakes are the most common cause of tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and landslides can also trigger a tsunami. A tsunami can occur in any large body of water, however they typically occur in the Pacific Ocean. In open water, a tsunami travels at speeds of up to 800 km per hour, with wavelengths several hundred kilometres long but wave heights under one metre. When it approaches land, however, a tsunami slows, its wave length compressing and its height increasing. In 2004, a catastrophic tsunami resulting from an earthquake in the Indian Ocean claimed more than 200,000 lives with 20-metres-high waves. While scientists cannot predict when a tsunami will occur, seismologists monitoring submarine earthquakes can forecast a tsunami's arrival and impact using wave theory and measurement technology, thus enabling authorities to issue tsunami warnings.

**Q21** Tidal wave is a widely used misnomer for a tsunami.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*True – they are not caused by tides, and are a series of waves rather than one wave.*

**Q22** Earthquakes below the Indian Ocean represent the main cause of tsunamis.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*False – while earthquakes are the most common cause of tsunamis, the passage states that tsunamis “typically occur in the Pacific Ocean.”*

**Q23** The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami was the most devastating tsunami in recent history.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*Cannot say – the passage states that this tsunami killed 200,000 people, but no comparative figures are provided.*

**Q24** As a tsunami reaches the shore, its speed and its wave height increase.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*False – while a tsunami's waves do increase in height as it approaches land, its speed slows.*

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**Q25** Using wave measurement methodology, scientists can predict when a tsunami will occur.

True

False

Cannot say

*False – wave measurement methodology allows scientists to predict where it will hit, and to what degree – as per the final sentence.*

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The United Nations was established in 1945 and today includes nearly every recognized state, each of which has one vote in the General Assembly. The United Nations' Security Council, charged with maintaining international peace and security, is comprised of five permanent members (the P5) - the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China and Russia - as well as ten non-permanent members, elected for two-year terms. The Security Council approves decisions based on an affirmative vote from at least nine of its fifteen members, however each of the five permanent members has ultimate veto power. The P5's veto power is widely criticized as unfair and anachronistic. In the Cold War era, the P5 were the world's only nuclear powers, and the veto both recognized their might and provided incentive for them to support the Security Council's goals. Nuclear proliferation, however, means that the P5 no longer reflects today's geopolitical realities. Opponents of the veto believe it is used to promote national agendas at the expense of international security. Alternatively, rather than abolish the veto, some commentators suggest that the veto should be extended to more countries - for example, Germany.

**Q26** The P5 were granted veto power in recognition of their disproportionate contribution to global security.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*False – the passage cites their nuclear capacity and incentive to participate as reasons for veto power.*

**Q27** Some critics argue that veto power is subject to individual interests.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*True – this summarizes the 7<sup>th</sup> sentence.*

**Q28** The passage asserts that some people believe that the veto should be granted to all countries with nuclear arsenals.

True                      False                      Cannot say

*False – the last sentence of the passage states that some believe the veto should be extended, but does not specify that it should be to all countries with nuclear capacity.*

**Tip:** *if the question did not have the words "The passage asserts that" the answer would be 'cannot say' because we are not told either way if the statement is true or false. In this question we are actually being asked if the passage states something.*

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**Q29** The United Nations' Security Council was set up in 1945, with the objective of avoiding another world war.

True                  False                  Cannot say

*Cannot say – although the passage states that the UN was established in 1945, it does not specify that the Security Council was also set up in that year.*

**Q30** The P5 cannot wield their veto if a resolution is backed by at least nine members of the Security Council.

True                  False                  Cannot say

*False – The third sentence tells us that each one of the P5 members has “ultimate veto power”. The implication of “ultimate” power is that it can overrule everything else.*