



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.

The merits of single-sex education have long been debated in the United States, where demand for single-sex schools is on the rise. Title IV, a 1972 law prohibiting sex discrimination in education, was amended in 2006, allowing for the establishment of single-sex state schools so long as a co-educational alternative is available. While critics view single-sex schools as discriminatory and inadequate preparation for adult life, advocates claim that children, and particularly girls, benefit from a single-sex education. American research shows that girls attending single-sex schools have higher self-esteem, participate more in class, and score higher on aptitude tests than their counterparts in co-educational schools. A 2005 study revealed that both girls and boys attending single-sex schools spent more time on homework and had less disciplinary problems. Single-sex schools subvert stereotypical course-taking patterns and results. Advocates of single-sex schooling argue that educators can teach more effectively by tailoring their tuition to reflect current research about gender-based brain development. Many experts, however, believe that research into single-sex education is inconclusive, and that so long as the education provided is gender-fair, both girls and boys can thrive in a co-educational environment.

Q1 Girls who attend single-sex schools perform better in maths and sciences than their counterparts in co-educational schools.

True

False

Cannot Say

Q2 The trend towards American single-sex state education is a relatively recent phenomenon.

True

False

Cannot Say

Q3 Proponents of single-sex education believe there are different learning styles between the two genders.

True

False

Cannot Say

Q4 Whereas girls benefit academically from single-sex education, the only advantage for boys is improved discipline.

True

False

Cannot Say

Q5 Critics of single-sex education believe that such schools reinforce pre-existing gender stereotypes.

True

False

Cannot Say

The United States' space programme is at a critical juncture. Over the past four decades, spending on space has declined from 5% of the federal budget to 0.5%. The US government recently announced it has cancelled its Constellation human spaceflight programme, which was intended to provide transportation to the International Space Station (ISS). Instead, NASA will shift its emphasis to developing new technologies and commercializing space flight. NASA will outsource its transportation to the ISS - a move designed to dramatically reduce launch costs. Five private companies - nearly all of which are headed by internet entrepreneurs - are sharing \$50 million of federal funds to develop cargo spacecraft. NASA's new vision has not been met by enthusiasm from all quarters, with critics calling it the death knell of America's formerly glorious space programme. Politicians whose states are losing out on jobs as a result of NASA's cancelled programmes have been among the most vocal critics. With entrepreneurs racing to achieve human spaceflight, the next American to land on the moon could be a commercial passenger rather than a NASA astronaut.

Q6 NASA hopes that outsourcing transport to the International Space Station will save it money.

True

False

Cannot Say

Q7 Under NASA's new plans, travel to the International Space Station will be privatised.

True

False

Cannot Say

Q8 The five companies sharing the federal funds are using internet technology to develop cargo spacecraft.

True

False

Cannot Say

Q9 Some critics believe that NASA's new direction marks the end of American leadership in human space exploration.

True

False

Cannot Say

Q10 The United States government recently announced plans to reduce its space programme budget.

True

False

Cannot Say

Although according to the EU-funded Psychonaut Research Project it has only been available since 2008, mephedrone is now the fourth most popular recreational drug in the United Kingdom. Also known as “meow meow” and “drone”, mephedrone is a synthetic stimulant that is derived from cathinone compounds found in the khat plant of Eastern Africa. Chemically similar to amphetamines, mephedrone has the effect of euphoria and increased stimulation. Because it is sold as plant fertilizer and thus not subject to medical regulations, mephedrone is currently legal in the United Kingdom, although it has been banned in many other countries, including Sweden, Germany and Israel. Manufactured in China and sold cheaply, the drug’s legality and availability have led to its meteoric rise. While it is not illegal, it does not follow that mephedrone is safe to use - an international lack of scientific research means that its effects on health are not fully known. Following reports of addiction and the drug’s suspected involvement in several deaths; there are calls in the UK to have mephedrone classified as an illegal substance immediately. This legal decision, however, cannot be taken until a government advisory council has fully investigated any scientific evidence.

Q11 Mephedrone is a naturally occurring substance.

True False Cannot Say

Q12 Sweden and Germany have scientifically proven the health dangers of mephedrone.

True False Cannot Say

Q13 Mephedrone’s low cost makes it especially attractive to teenage users.

True False Cannot Say

Q14 Despite being a legal substance, mephedrone is not safe to use.

True False Cannot Say

Q15 The UK government has been criticised for failing to act quickly to criminalise mephedrone.

True False Cannot Say

Ecotourism can be defined as responsible travel to natural areas that aims to both conserve the environment and bring economic opportunities to local people. Ecotourism provides an alternative to environmentally damaging industries such as logging and mining, while also stimulating the local economy. However, its dependency on foreign investment leads to one of the main criticisms of the industry: that the profits generated from ecotourism do not benefit the local economy and work force. Furthermore, while the ideals behind ecotourism are unobjectionable, the industry is highly susceptible to “greenwashing” - whereby a false impression of environmental friendliness is given. More radical opposition comes from those critics who believe that ecotourism is inherently flawed because travel that uses fossil fuels is damaging to the environment. Despite these voices of dissent, ecotourism has become the fastest-growing sector of the tourism industry, growing at an annual rate of twenty to thirty percent. Ironically, ecotourism’s very success may counteract its environmental goals, as high levels of visitors - even careful ones - inevitably damage the ecosystem.

Q16 Ecotourism strives to profit from a nation’s natural resources.

True False Cannot Say

Q17 Ecotourism’s critics believe that air travel contributes to global warming.

True False Cannot Say

Q18 The passage dismisses the ecotourism industry as an example of greenwashing.

True False Cannot Say

Q19 The long-term environmental credentials of ecotourism are debatable.

True False Cannot Say

Q20 While ecotourism’s environmental benefits are disputed, there is consensus that it benefits local people economically.

True False Cannot Say

The debate over the British Museum's Parthenon sculptures, also called the Elgin Marbles, has run for nearly two centuries. These marble statues were removed - with official permission - from the ruins of the Parthenon in 1801 by Lord Elgin, the British Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire. He sold these ancient Greek treasures to the British Museum in 1816, where they have been housed ever since. Today, five million visitors from around the world visit the sculptures, free of charge, at the British Museum. Since gaining independence in 1830, however, the Greek government has argued for their return to Athens. Historically, the Hellenic position centred on ownership, claiming that Lord Elgin bribed authorities to acquire the marbles illegally. The counterargument is that Lord Elgin saved these classical treasures from neglect. Greece no longer disputes the British Museum's ownership, but states that the sculptures should be loaned to the New Acropolis Museum in Athens, where they would be reunited with other surviving sculptures and displayed in their proper geographic and cultural context. Despite public sympathy for the return of the Elgin marbles, the British Museum believes that the Parthenon marbles are part of shared world heritage and thus should be widely accessible. Furthermore, returning the Parthenon statues would set a precedent for returning other artefacts to their land of origin.

Q26 The British Museum takes the view that the Parthenon sculptures transcend national boundaries.

True False Cannot Say

Q27 Prior to 1830, Greece was part of the Ottoman Empire.

True False Cannot Say

Q28 The public cannot understand why the Greek government want the Parthenon marbles returned.

True False Cannot Say

Q29 The only surviving Parthenon marbles are divided between the British Museum and the New Acropolis Museum.

True False Cannot Say

Q30 Greeks believe that the Elgin Marbles technically do not belong to the British Museum.

True

False

Cannot Say