



Verbal Ability Practice Questions

Set 4: Paragraph Organization

Directions: Arrange the following set of sentences to form a comprehensible and well-organized paragraph.

1. a. However, Dr. William H. Fowler, Jr. of the UCLA medical school claims that studies show there is no increase in strength, motor performance, or vital capacities.

b. There is a growing controversy over the use of drugs in sports.

c. Denny McLain, pitcher for the Detroit

Tigers, claims that he needs pep pills or something to keep him going, especially when he is expected to be good 162 ball games a year.

Source: Theodore Irwin, "Doping Athletes," Parade, September 6, 1978.

A. abc

B. cba

C. bca

D. cab

E. acb

2. a. The BBC's current television version starring Benedict Cumberbatch is perhaps one of the most successful, not least as its scriptwriters combine a deep knowledge of the original with a flair for departing wittily from it: the show's strategy of allusion, transformation, and up-to-dateness gives it both freshness and familiarity.

b. Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes saga has enjoyed -- or in some cases suffered -- countless reinventions since its original publication from 1887 to 1927.

c. The new series begins with 'The Empty Hearse', its title alluding playfully to Conan Doyle's 1903 story 'The Empty House' in which Holmes returns from apparent death at the hands of Professor Moriarty in Switzerland.



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Source: Andrew Glazzard, "Inside the Empty House: Sherlock Holmes, For King and Country,"
January 8, 2014.

- A. abc
- B. cba
- C. bca
- D. cab
- E. bac

3. a. And finally, read the last paragraph, which will probably contain a summary of the material.
- b. First, before you attempt to read anything, look over the length of the material to see if you have time to read it: if not, mark a spot where you intend to stop.
- c. Here is a four-step method which can help you prevent your mind from wandering while reading.
- d. Second, read the title and the first paragraph, looking for the main idea of the article.
- e. By doing this, you condition your mind to 'accept the material you want to read, and thus reduce mind wandering.
- f. Next, read the boldface headings, if there are any, and the first sentence of each paragraph.

- A. abcdef
- B. febcad
- C. cbdfae
- D. dfcbae
- E. fedcba



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4. a. He greatly enjoyed the poems of Victorian writers such as Alfred, Lord Tennyson, and Christina Rossetti.

b. Probably his best known is called “Jabberwocky,” with its opening line of “’Twas brillig, and the slithy toves...”, and its many invented words, some that have now entered the English language, such as “chortle” and “galumph”.

c. Although best known as the author of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (1865) and Through the Looking-Glass (1871), Lewis Carroll - the pen-name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, a mathematical lecturer at Christ Church, Oxford - was also an avid reader and writer of poetry.

d. His own poems were varied – some just humorous nonsense, some filled with hidden meanings, and some serious poems about love and life.

Source: Edward Wakeling, "Lewis Carroll and The Hunting of the Snark," February 22, 2011.

- A. abcd
- B. dbca
- C. cabd
- D. cadb
- E. bcad

5. a. All the same, most people today are well aware unicorns don’t exist.

b. Unicorns seem to be everywhere these days.

c. They have become a fashionable cultural icon of fantasy, escapism, and (somewhat paradoxically) individuality — a fact exploited to the full by manufacturers and marketing experts.

d. It’s virtually impossible to walk down a high street or go into a gift shop without coming face to face with one of these rainbow-spangled creatures in some form or other.

Source: Natalie Lawrence, "Greenland Unicorns and the Magical Alicorn," September 19, 2019.

- A. abcd



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- B. dbca
- C. cabd
- D. bdca
- E. acbd

6. a. Now in its third year, the campaign sees, on the first week of February, archives, special collections, and libraries take to social media with individual images and even entire books compiled from their holdings for the public to color.

b. In February 2016, with the craze still going strong, New York Academy of Medicine Library gave birth to a new initiative called Color Our Collections Week, a scholarly take on the coloring trend.

c. Whatever the reasons, sales rocketed: Nielsen logged sales of 12 million for the category in 2015, up from a measly 1 million the year before.

d. What strange winds conspired to suddenly urge adults in their droves to take up colored pencils again?

Source: Melissa N. Morris and Zach Carmichael, "Filling in the Blanks A Prehistory of the Adult Coloring Craze," February 6, 2019.

- A. dcba
- B. abcd
- C. cdba
- D. badc
- E. dbac

7. a. Remove the object and you reduce him to inaction.

b. It seems that these thoughts have never entered the minds of those who cry out against the indolence of the Filipinos.



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c. Man works for an object.

d. The most active man in the world will fold his arms from the instant he understands that it is madness to bestir himself, that this work will be the cause of his trouble, that for him it will be the cause of vexations at home and of the pirate's greed abroad.

Source: Jose Rizal, "The Indolence of the Filipino," 1890

- A. abcd
- B. cadb
- C. bdac
- D. acdb
- E. cbad

8. a. I know that you have been wielding against the enemy two potent weapons: Filipino unity and faith.

b. My fellow countrymen, I am proud of you.

c. Stronger than any arm of destruction, your weapons are of untold and terrible power.

d. Stronger than a thousand sheets of steel, with them you are invincible.

(Excerpt from Manuel Quezon's Third Inaugural Address, 1943)

- A. bcda
- B. abcd
- C. cdba
- D. bacd
- E. dbca



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9. a. The bravery you have manifested since the start of this Revolution in fighting against the Spanish enemy is the clearest proof that you are not terrified by the noise of the preparations for the invasion here of the army of Polavieja.
- b. That army, in a short span of time, has demonstrated marked cowardice and base conduct by torturing and killing multitudes of our non-combatant people.
- c. Their burning of the towns here, their desecration of the purity of our women without regard to their weakness, the murder of the old and of helpless infants – these acts are not those of any man of honor and courage.
- d. They cry out for vengeance and justice.

(Excerpt from Andres Bonifacio's "To The Brave Sons Of The People" Speech, 1897)

- A. abcd
B. bdca
C. dcba
D. bcad
E. cabd

10. a. A person may be unable to cope with the fast pace and complex lifestyles that exist in our present society: as a result, even someone who is an unlikely "criminal type" might be forced into crime.
- b. Still another theory is based upon the growing evidence that pressures within our modern world have caused the rapid growth in the crime rate.
- c. For example, a child of very strict parents or from an extremely poor home may run a greater risk of being involved in crimes as he reaches adolescence.
- d. If a child is reared in a negative environment, he may be more likely to turn to crime than a child who has had more positive influences.



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e. There is no easy answer to this question: however, psychologists have suggested that clues may be found in the childhood of the criminal.

f. What circumstances lead a person to follow a life of crime?

A. abcdef

B. fedcba

C. dbcafe

D. febacd

E. abdcef



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