
GMAT - READING COMPREHENSION

Questions

Please read the passages and answer all the questions pertaining to them. The right answer would reflect what the passage states or implies, Select the best answer choice from the five given.

PASSAGE 1

Public opinion towards bilingualism has been decidedly lopsided towards the acknowledgment of the many benefits that being bilingual can bestow on an individual. Journals and research papers accentuate the positives often quoting evidence that bilingual children have improved cognitive skills and impulse control. The imbalance is further exacerbated by the fact that journals depicting the negative results are bypassed entirely. This overwhelming attention to the advantages of bilingualism is not warranted, and is not founded on augmented results due to publication bias.

For all research that has proven benefits of bilingualism, there are certain others which disagree on the existence of universal bilingual advantage. Results show the advantages seen in bilingual children tend to be isolated to lab settings, and are primarily seen in children with the highest bilingual proficiencies.

Bilingualism presents in many shapes and sizes, and regardless of whether attention is paid to advantages or disadvantages, the uniqueness of each bilingual cannot be dismissed. Accurate understanding of the way bilingualism affects human mind is thus imperative before we can come to a certain conclusion about its effect on human mind

1. What is the central purpose of the passage?

- A. Bilinguals have a universal advantage over those who are monolingual
- B. Scholarly support for the benefits of bilingualism is tenuous
- C. Advantages shared by bilingual users can only be seen in lab settings
- D. Bilingualism can be of disadvantage to the user's cognitive skills
- E. Bilingualism has been treated with lot of optimism

2. Why does the author say that "Bilingualism presents in many shapes and sizes,"

- A. To dissociate all the bilinguals from each other
- B. To state that it is imperative to study all the aspects of languages
- C. To prove that a single rule cannot apply to all the bilinguals
- D. The expressions of the same speaker can differ when he uses different languages
- E. To prove that peculiarities attached to bilingualism necessitates a deeper understanding of its effect on human mind

3. Which of the following best describes author's attitude towards the journals and researches that "accentuate the positives"?

- A. Annoyed that it is far from truth
- B. Concerned of the sources that they are based on
- C. Amused that it only looks at positives of cognitive skills
- D. Skeptical as these look at partial information
- E. Vexed that they cannot be more practical

PASSAGE 2

'Women's literature' refers to literature written by women. This being so, it is easy to categorize members of this genre by gender, but that is not to say that the category really exists as an object of study. A zoologist could locate entries to the type, 'brown fauna': the doubt though is whether he could learn anything zoological by studying a family composed of brown bears and [brown] lizard. Are there literary qualities included in all works by women and precluded from all works by men? And the answer is no. Clearly, this demarcation of women's literature by literary institutions thus has been degrading, and the teaching of women's literature in English departments, a subversion of women's liberation.

Trying to classify literature by sex is a self-defeating task. There are thoughts in the writings of Atticus Finch that can sound feminine, and then there are those in Dorris Lessing's that can sound masculine. We may be prepared to admit rhetorically that no man could have written Jane Eyre and no woman James Bond, but truly, if we try to define what is specifically masculine or feminine about them, the task can only turn futile. Are women more interested in dress and domestic life? And are men more interested in war and public events? Perhaps, but then writers descend this level to a greater meaning in their writings. Infact, greater the writer, greater the capacity to transcend particularities.

The same can be true of literary characters. Looking at female characters separately has resulted in many false conclusions: "Do women have problems charting one's identity?" Well, so is the case with almost all the heroes of the "Bildungsroman". Do women end up choosing between personal life and career? So must the other sex....Are many women ruined by not being able to choose the man they love? So are many men forced to let go their chosen mates. Do the women get discouraged by double standards and stereotypes associated with them? Can we not see men suffering in the same manner?

A writer is a writer. You care about writing. You sit down, you write, you are not a woman, or an American. You are a writer." So, Focusing on the writer's gender is inherently confining and directed at a reading that is biased, a thing that proponents of women's literature fought to begin with.

4. Why does the author quote the example of Jane Eyre and James Bond?

- A. To state that the writings of men and women are different in style and subject
- B. To illustrate that his claim could have some exceptions
- C. To show that it is harmful to differentiate literature based on gender
- D. To highlight the differences that novels from two different eras may have
- E. To compare the fiction written by men and women

5. Why does the author raise many questions in the third paragraph?

- A. To show that there are many unresolved questions in the field of women's literature
- B. To point out the disputes in the Women's literature
- C. To highlight the mistake, we may make in trying to be gender specific in our studies
- D. To voice the doubts that writers may have to answer before they descend into greater meaning in their writing
- E. To point out that the issues faced by a female character may be very different to that of male character

6. The passage is primarily concerned with?

- A. Reevaluate the role played by women's literature in women's liberation
- B. Present different questions that can be faced by a student of women's literature
- C. Argue that it is unbecoming of academics to separate women's literature
- D. Examine how scholarly opinion towards feminism has changed over time
- E. Showcase problems that may arise due to classification of women's literature as a separate genre

7. The passage mentions each of the following as issues shared by male and female characters except?

- A. Being torn between the professional or personal life
- B. Not being able to pursue the person of their desire
- C. Finding it challenging to think like the opposite sex
- D. Dismayed by the way society pigeonholes them
- E. Striving to establish one's identity

8. How is the passage organized as a whole?

- A. The first paragraph raises issues inherent in an approach, the next three solve the problem
- B. A thesis is stated in the first paragraph and revised in the second paragraph, and the revised thesis is supported with argument in the third and fourth paragraph.
- C. A claim is made in the first paragraph, and the next paragraphs offer support for the claim
- D. The first two paragraphs discuss and criticize a thesis, and the third paragraph presents an alternative thesis
- E. The first paragraph expresses dismissal of an objection to the position it seeks to establish; the other paragraphs detail that position.

PASSAGE 3

Unprecedented growth in temporary employment in the United States has been linked to increased participation in the workforce by certain groups, such as first-time or reentering workers, who supposedly prefer such arrangements. However, the truth is that this kind of arrangement is more advantageous to the employers. First, temporary employment is favored by employers who are adapting to fluctuating demand for products while at the same time seeking to reduce overall labor costs. Secondly, this kind of arrangement brings down the bargaining strength of workforce which allows employers more control over the terms of employment. As it is clear that this kind of arrangement leads to labor exploitation, government should make it mandatory for the employers to issue benefit coverage for temporary employees, promoting pay equity between temporary and permanent workers, assisting labor unions in organizing temporary workers, and encouraging firms to assign temporary jobs primarily to employees who explicitly indicate that preference.

9. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. present the results of statistical analyses and propose further studies
- B. explain a recent development and predict its eventual consequences
- C. identify the reasons for a trend and recommend measures to address it
- D. outline several theories about a phenomenon and advocate one of them
- E. describe the potential consequences of implementing a new policy and argue in favor of that policy

10. The passage mentions each of the following as an appropriate kind of governmental action EXCEPT

- A. getting firms to offer temporary employment primarily to a certain group of people
- B. encouraging equitable pay for temporary and permanent employees
- C. facilitating the organization of temporary workers by labor unions
- D. establishing guidelines on the proportion of temporary workers that firms should employ
- E. ensuring that temporary workers obtain benefits from their employers

GMAT - READING COMPREHENSION

Solutions

| QUESTION NO | CONCEPT TESTED | HINT FOR THE ANSWER | REASONS FOR ELIMINATION | DIFFICULTY LEVEL |
|-------------|---|---|--|------------------|
| 1 | <p>As the question is asking you to understand the Main theme of the passage, It is a Big picture question.</p> | <p>Here the first and the last paragraph summaries match.</p> <p>Both the paragraphs deal with the idea that an overdose of attention is paid to positive effect that bilingualism has on human mind.</p> <p>As both the paragraphs are similar in their theme the main theme can be located in the first paragraph. Further, opening and closing lines of the first paragraph becomes the most important</p> | <p>Option A: This is opposite to the idea stated in the passage</p> <p>Option B: Correct. This is what the last sentence of the first paragraph states “This overwhelming attention to the advantages of bilingualism is not warranted, and is not founded on augmented results due to publication bias”</p> <p>Option C: This is stated in the second paragraph but it is used as supporting reason by the author. It is not the main theme.</p> <p>Option D: not mentioned</p> <p>Option E: mentioned. But this option misses on the aspect that author feels that such optimism is misplaced. So, the option only partially quotes the main theme.</p> <p>Answer: B</p> | Difficult |

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|-------------|---|---|--|------------------|
| 2 | It is a referential question as it is dependent on meaning contained in specific lines of the passage | <p>As the lines ask you why the author says “Bilingualism presents in many shapes and sizes,” We should locate the effect that he tries to establish with this statement. That brings us to the line:</p> <p>“Accurate understanding of the way bilingualism affects human mind is thus imperative before we can come to a certain conclusion about its effect on human mind”</p> | <p>Option A: This is the stated meaning in that line, not the reason behind it</p> <p>Option B: Out of scope</p> <p>Option C: Out of scope</p> <p>Option D: Can be the inferred meaning from the line but is not the reason behind it.</p> <p>Option E- This is the stated meaning of the given line. Correct Answer.</p> <p>Answer- E</p> | Medium |

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|-------------|---|---|--|------------------|
| 3 | It is a referential question as it is asking you to define the tone of author to certain element in the passage | <p>We should focus on the tone words that the author uses towards journals and researches that “accentuate the positives”</p> <p>These words are given in lines: The imbalance is further exacerbated</p> <p>and</p> <p>This overwhelming attention to the advantages of bilingualism is not warranted, and is not founded on augmented results due to publication bias.</p> | <p>Option A: “Annoyed” is too strong</p> <p>Option B: not stated</p> <p>Option C: positives of the cognitive skills are never mentioned</p> <p>Option D: correct. stated in the word “not warranted”</p> <p>Option E: “Vexed” is too strong</p> <p>Answer: D</p> | Medium |

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|-------------|---|---|--|------------------|
| 4 | It is a referential question as it asks you to refer to a certain idea in the passage | <p>The reason behind these examples are given in the lines:</p> <p>“There are thoughts in the writings of Atticus Finch that can sound feminine, and then there are those in Dorris Lessing’s that can sound masculine. We may be prepared to admit rhetorically that no man could have written Jane Eyre and no woman James Bond”</p> | <p>Option A: This is opposite to the idea stated in the passage</p> <p>Option B: Correct. This is what the last reasons through the examples</p> <p>Option C: Not stated</p> <p>Option D: Not stated</p> <p>Option E: Not mentioned</p> <p>Answer: B</p> | Difficult |

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|-------------|---|--|---|------------------|
| 5 | It is a referential question as it asks you to refer to a certain idea in the passage | <p>The reason behind these questions is given in the lines:</p> <p>“The same can be true of literary characters. Looking at female characters separately has resulted in many false conclusions”</p> | <p>Option A: Not stated</p> <p>Option B: Not stated</p> <p>Option C: restatement of the lines pointed out by the question</p> <p>Option D: A thought from the previous paragraph but not related to the question</p> <p>Option E: opposite of what is stated</p> <p>Answer: C</p> | Easy |

| QUESTION NO | CONCEPT TESTED | HINT FOR THE ANSWER | REASONS FOR ELIMINATION | DIFFICULTY LEVEL |
|-------------|--|--|---|------------------|
| 6 | It is a Big picture question as the question is asking you to understand the Main theme of the passage | <p>Here the first and the last paragraph summaries match.</p> <p>Both the paragraphs deal with the idea that demarcation of women's literature by literary institutions has been degrading, and the teaching of women's literature in English departments, a subversion of women's liberation.</p> <p>As both the paragraphs are similar in their theme the main theme can be located in the first paragraph. Further, opening and closing lines of the first paragraph becomes the most important</p> | <p>Option A: Not stated in the passage</p> <p>Option B: Not stated in the passage</p> <p>Option C: This is stated in the last line of the first paragraph</p> <p>Option D: not Mentioned</p> <p>Option E: these "problem" are never pointed out in the passage</p> <p>Answer: C</p> | Difficult |

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|-------------|---|---|---|------------------|
| 7 | It is a referential question as it asks you to refer to a certain idea in the passage. The question here though wants the examinee to mark an answer that is not mentioned in lines | <p>The reason behind these questions is given in the lines:</p> <p>“Have women problems charting one’s identity?” well so is the case with almost all the heroes of the “Bildungsroman”. Do women end up choosing between personal life and a career? So must the other sex....Are many women ruined by not being able to choose the man they love? So are many men forced to let go their chosen mates. Do the women get discouraged by double standards and stereotypes associated with them? Can we not see men suffering in the same manner?”</p> | <p>Option A: stated</p> <p>Option B: stated</p> <p>Option C: Correct as it is not stated</p> <p>Option D: stated</p> <p>Option E: stated</p> <p>Answer: C</p> | Medium |

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| 8 | It is a big idea question as it asks you to locate how the ideas are linked or structured in the passage | <p>The answer to these questions are contained in the sentences that have linking words as these words are the flag points in a passage</p> <p>“Clearly, this demarcation of women’s literature by literary institutions thus has been degrading, and the teaching of women’s literature in English departments, a subversion of women’s liberation.”</p> <p>“but truly, if we try to define what is specifically masculine or feminine about them, the task can only turn futile.”</p> <p>“So, Focusing on the writer’s gender is inherently confining and directed at a reading that is biased, a thing that proponents of women’s literature fought to begin with”</p> | <p>Option A: out of scope</p> <p>Option B: the claim is never revised</p> <p>Option C: Correct as this is what the lines containing linking words point</p> <p>Option D: out of scope</p> <p>Option E: out of scope</p> <p>Answer: C</p> | Difficult |

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|-------------|--|--|---|------------------|
| 9 | It is a Big picture question as the question is asking you to understand the Main theme of the passage | <p>The opening and the closing lines as well as the lines that contain the linking words should give us the picture.</p> <p>These lines go on to say that the recent trend of growth in temporary employment is due to advantages that it offers to the employers and that these rules tend to be exploitative thus government should intervene to safeguard the interest of the employees</p> | <p>Option A: out of scope</p> <p>Option B: out of scope</p> <p>Option C: meaning stated in the important lines</p> <p>Option D: out of scope</p> <p>Option E: out of scope</p> <p>Answer: C</p> | Medium |

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|-------------|---|--|---|------------------|
| 10 | It is a referential question as it asks you to refer to a certain idea in the passage. The question here though wants the examinee to mark an answer that is not mentioned in lines | <p>The reason behind these questions is given in the lines:</p> <p>“government should make it mandatory for the employers to issue benefit coverage for temporary employees, promoting pay equity between temporary and permanent workers, assisting labor unions in organizing temporary workers, and encouraging firms to assign temporary jobs primarily to employees who explicitly indicate that preference.”</p> | <p>Option A: stated</p> <p>Option B: stated</p> <p>Option C: Stated</p> <p>Option D: Correct as it is not stated</p> <p>Option E: stated</p> <p>Answer: D</p> | Easy |