

UKCAT Mini-Mock Exam 2

SECTION 1

VERBAL REASONING

10 Minutes

Instructions to Candidates

You have 1 minute to read these instructions

You will be presented with passages of text and a series of statements. Your task is to use critical reasoning skills to choose the best response available. This may require you to make inferences and draw conclusions from information.

For some of the test items, your task is to read each passage of text carefully and then decide whether the statement provided follows logically. There are three answer options you can choose from:

True: *On the basis of the information in the passage, the statement is true.*

False: *On the basis of the information in the passage, the statement is false.*

Can't tell: *You cannot tell from the information in the passage whether the statement is true or false.*

Candidates will only be able to select one response.

It is in your best interest to answer all items as there is no penalty for guessing. All unanswered items will be scored as incorrect.

This section consists of 5 passages, each with 4 questions

Passage 1

Self-service checkouts

Self-service checkouts have become an increasingly common sight since they were first introduced in supermarkets in 2008, and Britons have very strong feelings about whether or not this latest shopping technology is actually convenient. In a recent survey, 48% of people in the UK said that self-service tills are slow and inconvenient, with a range of complaints – most commonly, that they don't scan items properly and do not let you use your own bags. Some complaints are a bit inaccurate – all self-service checkouts let you use your own bags, though their weighing mechanisms may have trouble recognising these – and many complaints are a bit humorous, such as gripes that they often cannot recognise common fruits or take banknotes properly.

While some of these gripes are a bit funny, and certainly point up the popularity in whingeing about computerised innovations that can be rather frustrating, the fact remains that most people like having the option of scanning and paying for their shopping all on their own, rather than queuing for a manned till. Most supermarkets have replaced some of their manned tills with self-service checkouts (though none have replaced all their manned tills), and, as a result, supermarkets with both types of tills have recorded a slight increase in waiting times at manned tills. This is a sign of how strongly certain customers prefer face-to-face communication to checking out via computer, and of course there are fewer manned tills to accommodate this relatively increased demand.

Customers tend to prefer the self-service checkouts because the shopping experience seems to go more quickly when you do the work of scanning and bagging yourself, rather than waiting while it's done for you. However, the actual time spent queuing and checking out is roughly the same, whether at a self-service or manned till. Self-service checkouts don't help in reducing staff costs either, as supermarkets must provide checkout assistants to help with the many new problems that may occur in customer-completed checkouts. Perhaps the least controversial – and certainly the funniest – dimension of self-service checkouts is the range of innovative phrases they contribute to our everyday experience: most notably (but hardly exclusively) the endlessly beguiling and amusing warning, 'Unexpected item in bagging area'.

Answer the following questions:

- 1. Which of the following statements about self-service checkouts is best supported by the passage?**
 - A. Most self-service checkouts do not let you use your own bags.
 - B. Most people in the UK think they do not save time.
 - C. Nearly half the people in the UK find them inconvenient.
 - D. Some supermarkets have replaced all their manned tills with self-service checkouts.

- 2. According to the information in the passage, what is the most likely reason that self-service checkouts have led to increased waits at manned tills?**
 - A. There are fewer manned tills, and more customers wanting to use them.
 - B. There are more self-service checkouts, and more customers wanting to use them.
 - C. Customers who have scanning problems at a self-service checkout must then queue at a manned till.
 - D. More customers are shopping at supermarkets that do not offer self-service checkouts.

3. The writer of the passage would most likely agree with which of the following statements?

- A. Self-service checkouts do more harm than good.
- B. Self-service checkouts save money, as they require no staff.
- C. Some people like to complain about new technology that causes them difficulty.
- D. Most people prefer human interaction to working with a machine.

4. Based on the passage, what would be the most appropriate conclusion for the writer to reach?

- A. Self-service checkouts are an unwelcome addition to supermarket tills.
- B. There needs to be an appropriate balance between the number of manned tills and self-service checkouts in order to satisfy customers.
- C. Self-service checkouts should replace manned tills to reduce costs for supermarkets.
- D. British people do not like technological innovations interfering with common human interactions.

Passage 2

England's woodlands

According to the Forestry Commission, 40 million people visit England's publicly-owned woodlands each year. This figure surpasses the number of annual visitors to Britain's entire seaside. Forests are popular as an escape from the urban realities of everyday life, as 90% of us live in cities or towns. Four percent of the UK was forested land when the Forestry Commission was formed in 1919; today that proportion is three times greater. Woodlands have grown in popularity with a rise in such activities as recreational walking and cycling, and also due to a rise in environmental awareness, and an increasing longing to 'get back to nature'.

Some of the most popular forests are ancient woodlands, defined as areas covered by trees from 1600 to today (or from 1750, in the case of Scotland). The Domesday Book listed some of England's ancient woodlands, meaning that ancient woodlands have existed since 1086! The trees in ancient woodlands live for hundreds of years, and support a habitat with an extraordinary range of birds, insects, fungi and other plants. These ancient trees can also grow to remarkable heights: the tallest broad-leaf tree in England lives in ancient woodland in Dorset. This London Plane, with maple-like leaves, rises to a height of 51 metres – only a few centimetres shorter than Nelson's Column, and is a proud monument to our beloved forests.

Decide whether the following statements are 'True', 'False' or 'Can't Tell'.

5. The tallest tree in England is in Dorset.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

6. Most people in Britain live in urban areas.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

7. 12% of the land in the UK is forested.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

8. An ancient woodland is a forest listed in the Domesday Book.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

Passage 3

Dutch Elm Disease

In 1910, Dutch Elm Disease was discovered in north-west Europe. It was identified in Holland and found to be caused by a fungus, spread by the elm bark beetle. Dr Tom Peace began monitoring its rapid spread into Britain in the late 1920s and monitored the first epidemic which finished in the 1940s. By this time 10-40% of elms in different European countries had been lost. However, with the disease waning, Peace felt able to state that 'unless the trend of the disease completely changes, the disaster that once seemed inevitable will not come to pass'. Unfortunately, there was a change and in the late 1960s a second more destructive period of loss began.

The second outbreak of Dutch Elm Disease was caused by a different, more aggressive fungus and imported to Britain on infested elm logs from North America. Within the decade, an estimated 20 million of a total of 30 million UK elms were dead. The number continues to decline and the disease is gradually spreading northwards. Inverness was reached in 2006.

Elms used to be a familiar sight in the UK. Now, mature elms are only found in isolated pockets. The largest concentration is in Brighton, where in 2005 there were 15,000 elms surviving. Around the country, elms survive in low-cut hedges. Their roots are not killed and still send up shoots, although these usually succumb to the disease by the time they reach 5m.

Amsterdam has 75,000 elms lining its canals. Many of these were bred to be resistant to the fungus by introducing genes from the Himalayan elm.

Decide whether the following statements are 'True', 'False' or 'Can't Tell'.

9. None of the elms found in the UK are resistant to Dutch Elm Disease.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

10. 2/3 of UK elms were lost by the end of the 1970s.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

11. In 1950 Dr Peace felt that the loss of most elms was inevitable in the UK.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

12. Himalayan elms are not killed by the fungus that causes Dutch Elm disease.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

Passage 4

Health Policy

Richard Paterson, the health secretary, has decided that NHS staff in poorer parts of the country should be paid less than their counterparts in richer areas. The changes would mean that cleaners, cooks, porters and clinical staff including nurses and midwives would earn less in the North of England than the South. There would be only one group exempted: the highest-paid managers who are in the process of delivering the controversial NHS reforms would not be included in the new regional pay-scale.

A Liberal Democrat spokesman said: 'Not satisfied with increasing the divisions between the north and the south, these proposals will also increase the divisions between the well-paid and the rest. This is a classic example of Paterson's ability to alienate the people he needs to rely on the most - NHS staff'.

The proposal may well become reality, as Paterson needs to push through measures to reduce the overall cost of running the NHS. The chancellor has decreed that the public sector should mimic the private sector and be more reflective of local economic conditions. He has given his backing to Paterson. Unions have responded angrily, saying that women will be particularly hit and that the government is 'out of touch with the public'. With opposition mounting it looks as though Paterson's in for a long fight, but with powerful backing he may well win.

Decide whether the following statements are 'True', 'False' or 'Can't Tell'.

13. The unions think that Richard Paterson is 'out of touch'.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

14. Under the new proposal, doctors in London would earn more than doctors in less well-off areas.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

15. The Liberal Democrats are part of a coalition government.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

16. This is the first time Paterson has caused controversy as Health Secretary.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

Passage 5

Snake Fangs

Snake fangs are one of nature's most complex bioweapons and the question of how they evolved has perplexed scientists for many years. It now seems that the puzzle of the origin of snake fangs and their associated venom glands has been solved - they may have evolved as a result of a simple embryological change.

Both cobras and vipers have large, hollow fangs at the front of their mouths and use venom, a modified form of saliva, to immobilise or kill their prey. Other types of snakes have fangs at the back of the mouth or even no fangs at all. Vipers and cobras, the most venomous types of snakes, are only very distantly related. This would suggest that their fangs have evolved independently, which seems counter-intuitive. Why would such a sophisticated apparatus have evolved twice? Professor Alberto Vonk has been looking at whether snakes with front fangs and snakes with front and rear fangs share the same evolutionary origin.

Vonk and his colleagues analysed the fang development in 96 embryos from eight living species and have shown that both front and rear fangs develop from separate teeth-forming tissue at the back of the upper jaw. For all front-fanged venomous snake species, the front fangs are displaced by rapid growth of embryonic upper jaws during development. In snakes with rear fangs, they stay where they are formed.

The separate development of the rear part of the tissue says Vonk, may have played an important role in snake's ability to diverge into the 3,000 species found in the world today.

"It sheds light on one of those nagging questions in herpetology - how did a diversity of fang types among snakes evolve?" said David Kizirian, a herpetologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Decide whether the following statements are 'True', 'False' or 'Can't Tell'.

17. Professor Alberto Vonk is a leading herpetologist.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

18. Fangs at the front of the mouth tend to be more venomous than fangs at the back.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

19. Cobras and vipers are the only types of snake with fangs at the front of their mouths.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell

20. All types of viper are venomous.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Can't Tell