
UKCAT Mini-Mock Exam 2 Answers

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

1. Correct answer is C (Nearly half the people in the UK find them inconvenient).

Let's take each option in turn. If we scan for 'let you use your own bags', it is mentioned in the first paragraph, where the writer states that all self-service checkouts let you use your own bags, thus 'A' is incorrect. If we scan for 'do not save time', we are also led to the first paragraph, which says that 48% of people in the UK think self-service checkouts are slow and inconvenient; this is not a majority, so we can eliminate 'B'. However, 48% is nearly a half, so 'C' is supported by the passage and is correct. For 'D', we scan for 'replaced manned tills', which directs us to the second paragraph, which says that no supermarkets have replaced all their manned tills, therefore contradicting 'D'.

2. Correct answer is A (There are fewer manned tills, and more customers wanting to use them).

If we look for 'increased waits at manned tills', we are led to the last two sentences of the middle paragraph. Some supermarkets have replaced some of their manned tills with self-service checkouts, and increased waits have resulted at the manned tills because some customers strongly dislike the self-service checkouts, of which there are fewer, even though more customers want to use them. This matches the answer in 'A'; 'B' does not match this information and 'C' and 'D' make assertions which have no basis in the text.

3. Correct answer is C (Some people like to complain about new technology that causes them difficulty).

If we take each option in turn again, we will arrive at the correct answer. 'A' cannot be supported on the basis of the passage, as the writer does not indicate he would agree that self-service checkouts do more harm than good, so we must eliminate 'A'. For 'B', if we look for 'staff' in the passage, we arrive at the final paragraph, which states that self-service checkouts do not save on staff costs, as they require checkout assistants; thus, we can rule out 'B'. 'C' is paraphrased, almost word-for-word, at the start of the second paragraph; therefore, 'C' must be correct. For 'D', the keywords 'prefer human interaction to machine' lead to the final sentence of the middle paragraph, where the writer states that certain customers prefer face-to-face interaction to checking out via computer. 'D' says most of this, but the passage does not match as much as it does with 'C', so we would pick 'C'.

4. Correct answer is B (There needs to be an appropriate balance between the number of manned tills and self-service checkouts in order to satisfy customers).

If we look at the options given, we can already rule some of them out. From the passage, we know the cost of self-service checkouts are around the same as manned tills, therefore 'C' cannot be true. 'D' is very generalised, and although the gist of the passage shows the preference to customers of manned tills, 'common human interactions' is too vague to be correct. We may conclude 'A' to be true, but at the start of the second paragraphs states people like having the convenience of self-service tills, meaning they are 'welcome' to at least some people. 'B' is correct as the writer acknowledges the benefits of both self-service checkouts and manned tills, and notes their downsides, and implies the need for a balance when talking about the increased queuing times at supermarkets with fewer manned tills.

Passage 2 – England’s Woodlands

5. Correct answer is C (Can’t Tell).

If we look for ‘Dorset’, we find it near the end of the second paragraph. The passage says the tallest broad-leaf tree in England is in Dorset. The statement, however, is more general and talks about the tallest tree in England. The broad-leaf tree could be the tallest tree in England overall, but the passage doesn’t mention any other tall tree types, so we cannot conclude whether the statement is true or not.

6. Correct answer is A (True).

The word ‘urban’ appears in the third sentence of the passage, stating that 90% of people live in cities and towns, and like to escape from these urban realities by visiting the nation’s woodlands. 90% is a majority, so the statement is true.

7. Correct answer is A (True).

In the third sentence of the first paragraph, it states that 4% of the UK was forested land when the Forestry Commission was formed in 1919. The figure today is three times higher, meaning that it must be 12%.

8. Correct answer is B (False).

Ancient woodland is defined at the start of the second paragraph as areas covered by trees from 1600 to today, with Scotland having a separate definition. The next sentence says that some of England’s woodlands were listed in the Domesday Book in 1086; the passage scrambles the two facts. Although some ancient woodlands are listed in the Domesday Book, being listed on it is not a condition that will define it as ‘ancient woodland’.

Passage 3 – Dutch Elm Disease

9. Correct answer is C (Can’t Tell).

The passage gives no information as to whether this is the case or not, although the survival of isolated pockets of elm trees suggests it may be possible.

10. Correct answer is A (True).

At the end of the first paragraph and the start of the second paragraph, it states that the second outbreak of Dutch Elm disease, which started in the late 1960s, caused the loss of 20 million out of 30 million (2/3rds) ‘within the decade’.

11. Correct answer is B (False).

The 1950s was the gap between the end of the first epidemic and the start of the second epidemic. At this time, Dr Peace had stated: ‘unless the trend of the disease completely changes, the disaster that once seemed inevitable will not come to pass’. This did not happen with the second outbreak.

12. Correct answer is A (True).

Genes have been introduced from these trees to give European trees resistance. It follows that the Himalayan elms are resistant and not killed by the fungus. Therefore the answer is true.

Passage 4 – Health Policy

13. Correct answer is A (True).

Richard Paterson is the Health Secretary, and therefore part of the Government. In response to Paterson's proposals, the unions have called the Government 'out of touch', from which we can infer that they believe Paterson to be out of touch.

14. Correct answer is A (True).

The proposals are to pay NHS staff less in poorer areas, and clinical staff, such as doctors, are included in this bracket. Therefore a doctor in London would be paid more than a doctor in a less well-off area.

15. Correct answer is C (Can't Tell).

There is no indication of the political party that Richard Paterson belongs to, nor is there a mention anywhere else in the passage about whether the Liberal Democrats are in a coalition government. The comment by the Liberal Democrat spokesman would suggest otherwise, but we cannot infer anything from this.

16. Correct answer is B (False).

The Liberal Democrat spokesman says: 'this is a classic example of Paterson's ability to alienate the people he needs to rely on the most - NHS staff', suggesting this is not the first time Paterson has caused controversy as Health Secretary.

Passage 5 – Snake Fangs

17. Correct answer is C (Can't Tell).

We know from the passage that Professor Vonk has looked at the embryology of fangs in snakes, but we can't tell for certain whether he is a leading herpetologist from the passage (although this seems likely); it is not explicitly stated or implied, therefore the answer is 'can't tell'.

18. Correct answer is A (True).

We are told that cobras and vipers have fangs at the front of their mouths, and also that they are the most venomous snakes. Tallying up this information, it is reasonable to conclude that fangs at the front are more venomous than fangs at the back.

19. Correct answer is C (Can't Tell).

The passage states that 'other types of snakes have fangs at the back of the mouth or even no fangs at all. We are not told, however, that all other types of snakes have fangs at the back or not at all, hence it is possible that there are other snakes other than cobras and vipers who have fangs at the front of the mouth.

20. Correct answer is A (True).

In the second paragraph, it says that both cobras and vipers 'use venom', so it is safe to assume that members of these families are venomous.