

# BUSINESS *Select*

---

---

## Sample Questions

*Critical Thinking*

analysis and evaluation of view points and

---

## UNIT 1

### Questions 1 – 3

Consider the following account adapted from an article in a science magazine.

‘Rupert Sheldrake crystallised his ideas on telepathy\* in dogs thanks in no small measure to Jaytee, a 10-year-old terrier owned by Pamela Smart, who lives next door to her retired parents in Manchester.

The family had noticed that the dog tended to anticipate Smart’s return whenever she left the house. Jaytee would do this by sitting and apparently waiting by a window 10 or more minutes before Smart walked into the house. This was later confirmed in more than 100 experiments with the dog.

To Sheldrake, there is no better explanation for Jaytee’s behaviour than telepathy between dog and owner. Many psychologists and experts in animal behaviour agree that Sheldrake’s observations of Jaytee merit further study. But for them, telepathy is a claim too far.

Sheldrake invited Richard Wiseman; a psychologist at the University of Hertfordshire, to replicate experiments with Jaytee. During the experiments, Smart left home and returned when instructed to do so at a random time set by the experimenter.

But Sheldrake and Wiseman disagreed on which of Jaytee’s many visits to the window they should use as the signal that the dog was preparing to greet his owner. Was it the first trip he made to the window or the period when he spent the most time at the window? And should the dog have responded at the precise time when Smart was told to go home, when she started off, or when she simply found herself thinking about going home?

Wiseman published his findings in the *British Journal of Psychology*, and went to the press claiming to have found no evidence of telepathy. Using the same data, Sheldrake tried to publish the opposite conclusion in the same journal, but failed.’

\* *telepathy* is the transmission of thoughts between minds without speech or physical signalling

- 1 Which one of the following is the most credible evidence supporting Sheldrake's view that Jaytee exhibited telepathy?
- A During experiments, Smart left home and returned at random times.
  - B Pamela Smart's family said that the dog anticipated her return whenever she left the house.
  - C Sheldrake said that there is no better explanation for Jaytee's behaviour than telepathy between dog and owner.
  - D Many psychologists and experts in animal behaviour agree that Sheldrake's observations of Jaytee merit further study.
  - E In one hundred experiments, the dog was observed to sit by a window 10 or more minutes before Smart walked back into the house.
- 2 Of the following, it is likely that Wiseman could most justifiably argue that Sheldrake's original observations of Jaytee
- A would occur with no other dog.
  - B were completely made up by Sheldrake.
  - C could only be the result of a trick by Smart.
  - D were correct, but the dog behaved quite differently when Wiseman made observations.
  - E were based on selective reporting and interpretation because the dog often went to the window.
- 3 At the conclusion of all the experiments, which one of the following is **least** likely to be a source of disagreement between Sheldrake and Wiseman?
- A difference in views about
- A the existence of telepathy.
  - B what the dog's behaviour meant.
  - C whether telepathy should have been investigated.
  - D the standards of the *British Journal of Psychology*.
  - E the significance of the dog's behaviour with respect to Smart's behaviour.

## UNIT 2

4 Consider the statement:

*‘For the sake of our society, we ought to send as high a proportion of our population to university as is humanly possible.’*

Which one of the following could **not** be used to support this statement?

Evidence that

- A learning can take place outside university.
- B university education enhances academic ability.
- C university learning has widespread applications.
- D university education is more useful than other kinds of learning.
- E learning that takes place outside university is not very effective in enhancing academic ability.

## UNIT 3

5 Which pair of observations most strongly supports the claim that drug use will be reduced if drugs are legalised?

**A**

| <b>Initially</b>              | <b>Subsequently</b>                     |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Drugs illegal<br>Drug use low | Drugs legalised<br>Drug use remains low |

**B**

| <b>Initially</b>               | <b>Subsequently</b>                           |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Drugs illegal<br>Drug use high | Drugs legalised<br>Drug use increases further |

**C**

| <b>Initially</b>               | <b>Subsequently</b>                      |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Drugs illegal<br>Drug use high | Drug use becomes legal<br>Drug use drops |

**D**

| <b>Initially</b>                    | <b>Subsequently</b>                              |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Drugs already legal<br>Drug use low | Drug use becomes illegal<br>Drug use remains low |

**E**

| <b>Initially</b>                     | <b>Subsequently</b>                        |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Drugs already legal<br>Drug use high | Drug use becomes illegal<br>Drug use drops |

## UNIT 4

### Questions 6 – 8

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

In our rush to ensure that our children are computer literate, we have forgotten to ask what we are trying to accomplish in the schools. After all, the computer is simply a machine. Is it any different from an automobile or television set? We didn't change the entire curriculum of schools to accommodate those technologies when they were new. Nor would we think of training our youngsters to drive a car using a Model A Ford\*, yet in terms of what today's youngsters will use when they grow up, present-day computers will seem pretty crude indeed. Back in the 1960s, I struggled to learn Fortran, the computer language of the time, and I can tell you that the ease with which we now use computers staggers me. Computers will continue to get easier and easier to use.

5

\* **Note:** The Model A Ford car was introduced in 1928.

6 The main point of the passage is that

- A computers are not as useful as people think.
- B most children will need to use computers in their future jobs.
- C the emphasis given to children's computer literacy is misplaced.
- D very few children will need to use computers in their future jobs.
- E community hostility to the presence of computers in schools is ill founded.

7 If the reader accepts the statement

*'Computers will continue to get easier and easier to use'* (line 9)

then the writer's argument is strengthened for the reader since it is implied that

- A more people will enjoy using computers.
- B fewer people will develop work-related illnesses.
- C there is little need for formal teaching of computer skills.
- D there is every reason to teach specific skills which will be needed.
- E there is good reason to teach skills which will form the basis of further skills.

8 Which one of the following statements (A to E) would, if true, most damage the value of the following quote to the author's argument?

*'We didn't change the entire curriculum of schools to accommodate those technologies when they were new'* (lines 3 – 4).

- A Curriculum tends to reflect the needs and values of society.
- B No one has suggested that we make television-watching a school subject.
- C No one is proposing to change the entire curriculum of schools to accommodate computer technology.
- D The computer industry is urging us to change the entire curriculum of schools to accommodate computer technology.
- E Some educationists are proposing that aspects of the curriculum of schools be changed to accommodate computer technology.

## Answers

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | E |
| 2 | E |
| 3 | C |
| 4 | A |
| 5 | C |
| 6 | C |
| 7 | C |
| 8 | C |

## Acknowledgments

*New Scientist* for the extract from Opinion Interview, 28 August, 1999; S. Renaud for the extract from 'The French Paradox', *Proceedings from the Wolf Blass Foundation International Wine and Health Conference*, Ed. C.S. Stockley, The Wolf Blass Foundation Inc., 1996; D. Suzuki for the extract from *Inventing the Future*, Allen & Unwin Pty Ltd, 1990.