

GRE Verbal Reasoning

Sample Paper 01

A) **Subject:** Verbal Reasoning

B) **Total Questions:** 27 Questions (Section I: 12 — Section II: 15)

C) **Marking Scheme & Rules:**

- **Correct Answer:** +1 Point
- **Incorrect/Unattempted:** 0 Points (No Negative Marking)
- **Partial Credit:** None. For multi-blank questions, all parts must be correct.
- **Equivalence Questions:** Both synonymous words must be selected.

SECTION I: VERBAL REASONING

Q1. The author's latest novel was surprisingly _____; though she is known for her verbose prose, this particular work was barely over one hundred pages.

- A. Prolix
- B. Laconic
- C. Ephemeral
- D. Pellucid

Q2. Despite the overwhelming evidence of the defendant's guilt, his lawyer remained _____, continuing to assert his client's innocence with unwavering conviction.

- A. Hesitant
- B. Pugnacious
- C. Indifferent
- D. Adamant

Q3. The diplomat was celebrated for her (i) _____ approach to negotiations; she possessed a rare ability to (ii) _____ even the most hostile adversaries through calm discourse.

- A. (i) Arbitrary; (ii) Exacerbate

- B. (i) Conciliatory; (ii) Mollify
- C. (i) Dogmatic; (ii) Mollify
- D. (i) Conciliatory; (ii) Bewilder

Q4. While the professor's lectures were undeniably (i) _____, providing a wealth of information, his delivery was so (ii) _____ that many students struggled to remain attentive.

- A. (i) Superficial; (ii) Soporific
- B. (i) Edifying; (ii) Exhilarating
- C. (i) Edifying; (ii) Soporific
- D. (i) Meager; (ii) Enigmatic

Q5. The passage suggests that the "long-held belief" mentioned in the first sentence regarding solar energy:

- A. Has been entirely discredited by the discovery.
- B. Was based on a misunderstanding of photosynthesis.
- C. Did not account for ecosystems powered by chemical energy.
- D. Is still applicable to deep-sea organisms that migrate.

Q6. According to the passage, the primary energy source for life at hydrothermal vents is:

- A. Solar radiation filtering through the deep ocean.
- B. The heat generated by giant tubeworms.
- C. Chemical compounds originating from within the Earth.
- D. Organic matter falling from the ocean's surface.

Q7. The author mentions "Jupiter's moon Europa" primarily to:

- A. Contrast its icy surface with the heat of hydrothermal vents.
- B. Provide an example of where chemosynthetic life might be found.
- C. Explain how solar energy reaches the outer solar system.
- D. Argue that volcanic activity is the only requirement for life.

Q8. The CEO's decision to cut employee benefits was met with _____ from the staff, who had already endured years of stagnant wages.

- A. Adulation

B. Resentment and Indignation

C. Apathy

D. Euphoria

Q9. The scientist's theories were considered _____ at the time, as they directly contradicted the established laws of physics.

A. Orthodox

B. Conventional

C. Heretical and Iconoclastic

D. Mundane

Q10. A tech company found remote employees were 15% more productive and closed its office. Which, if true, most weakens the company's decision?

A. Employees saved 10 hours a week by not commuting.

B. The study ignored the decline in creative collaboration.

C. Some employees reported feeling isolated.

D. Electricity costs decreased significantly.

Q11. Choose the correct sentence regarding the use of the subjunctive mood:

A. He acted as though he was the owner of the building.

B. He acted as though he were the owner of the building.

C. He acted as though he is the owner of the building.

D. He acted like he was the owner of the building.

Q12. In the phrase "the transience of earthly power," the word "transience" most nearly means:

A. Durability

B. Grandeur

C. Impermanence

D. Corruption

SECTION II: VERBAL REASONING

Q1. The professor's lectures were often (i) _____, moving from anecdotes to complex theories without any (ii) _____ transition, leaving many students (iii) _____.

- A. (i) Discursive; (ii) Perceptible; (iii) Bewildered
- B. (i) Linear; (ii) Jarring; (iii) Enlightened
- C. (i) Succinct; (ii) Abrupt; (iii) Encouraged
- D. (i) Discursive; (ii) Perceptible; (iii) Encouraged

Q2. The treaty was intended to be (i) _____, but the (ii) _____ language used in the final draft led to several different interpretations by nations.

- A. (i) Definitive; (ii) Precise
- B. (i) Temporary; (ii) Equivocal
- C. (i) Definitive; (ii) Equivocal
- D. (i) Inflammatory; (ii) Lucid

Q3. To many, the politician's sudden change of heart seemed (i) _____, but those who had followed his career closely saw it as a (ii) _____ move to appeal to new voters.

- A. (i) Whimsical; (ii) Calculated
- B. (i) Principled; (ii) Reckless
- C. (i) Inevitable; (ii) Altruistic
- D. (i) Whimsical; (ii) Altruistic

Q4. The hiker found the mountain trail (i) _____, but the (ii) _____ view from the summit made the arduous journey worthwhile.

- A. (i) Effortless; (ii) Panoramic
- B. (i) Grueling; (ii) Panoramic
- C. (i) Mundane; (ii) Obscured
- D. (i) Grueling; (ii) Uninspiring

Q5. The company's reputation for _____ was well-earned; it had a history of providing honest and transparent reports to its clients.

- A. Duplicity

- B. Probity
- C. Mendacity
- D. Extravagance

Q6. The new policy was so _____ that it was nearly impossible for the average employee to understand the requirements for promotion.

- A. Convoluted
- B. Straightforward
- C. Concise
- D. Manifest

Q7. According to the passage, the primary cause of the Great Oxidation Event was:

- A. The development of multicellular life.
- B. Volcanic activity releasing oxygen.
- C. Photosynthetic activity by cyanobacteria.
- D. The extinction of anaerobic organisms.

Q8. The author describes the Great Oxidation Event as a "catastrophe" to emphasize that:

- A. It delayed the evolution of complex life.
- B. It was a destructive event for oxygen-intolerant life forms.
- C. Cyanobacteria were eventually wiped out by their own byproduct.
- D. The Earth's atmosphere became unstable for billions of years.

Q9. Which of the following best expresses the "biological turning point" mentioned in the final sentence?

- A. Life adapts to survive in any environment.
- B. Environmental changes dictate the path of evolution.
- C. Biological processes can radically transform the physical environment.
- D. Anaerobic life is superior to aerobic life.

Q10. A study shows cities with more parks have lower respiratory illness, but also higher incomes. Which weakens the argument that parks cause lower illness rates?

- A. People with higher incomes can afford better healthcare.
- B. Public parks are often used for exercise.

C. Many low-income cities are currently building more parks.

D. Respiratory illnesses are more common in colder climates.

Q11. The diplomat was known for being _____, always choosing his words carefully to avoid offending his hosts.

A. Tactful and Diplomatic

B. Brash and Impulsive

C. Abrasive

D. Candid

Q12. The old man's stories were often _____, filled with unnecessary details that distracted from the main plot.

A. Laconic and Pithy

B. Verbose and Wordy

C. Compelling

D. Cryptic

Q13. The professor's explanation was so _____ that even the students who had struggled with the concept were able to understand it.

A. Pellucid and Limpid

B. Opaque and Obscure

C. Convoluted

D. Recondite

Q14. Despite the team's _____ start to the season, they managed to win the championship.

A. Auspicious and Propitious

B. Dismal and Wretched

C. Stellar

D. Vibrant

Q15. The artist's style was _____, incorporating elements from many different historical periods and cultures.

A. Eclectic and Heterogeneous

B. Uniform

C. Dogmatic

D. Parochial

Solutions - Section I

1. **(B)** The sentence establishes a contrast using the word "though." While the author is known for "verbose" (wordy) prose, this specific work is very short. "Laconic" means using very few words, which perfectly fits the context of a book being barely one hundred pages.
2. **(D)** The context describes a lawyer who continues to assert innocence despite "overwhelming evidence" and with "unwavering conviction." "Adamant" means refusing to be persuaded or to change one's mind, which accurately describes the lawyer's persistent stance.
3. **(B)** For blank (i), "conciliatory" fits because it describes an approach intended to pacify or gain goodwill. For blank (ii), "mollify" means to appease the anger or anxiety of someone. Together, they describe the diplomat's ability to use calm discourse to soothe hostile adversaries.
4. **(C)** For blank (i), "edifying" means providing moral or intellectual instruction, which matches the "wealth of information" mentioned. For blank (ii), "soporific" means tending to induce drowsiness or sleep, explaining why students struggled to remain attentive despite the quality of the content.
5. **(C)** The passage states that the discovery of hydrothermal vents challenged the belief that "all life on Earth is ultimately dependent on solar energy." This implies the previous belief was incomplete because it did not account for chemosynthetic ecosystems powered by chemical energy from the Earth's interior.
6. **(C)** The text explicitly mentions that in these deep-sea ecosystems, bacteria perform chemosynthesis by "converting chemicals from the Earth's interior into organic matter." This identifies chemical compounds, not solar radiation or falling organic matter, as the primary source.
7. **(B)** The author uses Europa as an analogy. After describing the chemical energy at Earth's vents, the author suggests life could exist on Europa because "similar volcanic activity... might provide the necessary chemical energy," serving as an extraterrestrial example of this phenomenon.
8. **(B)** In Sentence Equivalence, the two words must create sentences with the same meaning. "Resentment" and "indignation" both describe a feeling of righteous anger or displeasure caused by unfair treatment (stagnant wages and benefit cuts), making them the only synonymous pair that fits.
9. **(C)** "Heretical" and "iconoclastic" both refer to ideas that challenge established beliefs or "orthodox" laws. Since the scientist's theories "directly contradicted the established laws of physics," these two synonyms correctly describe the nature of her work.
10. **(B)** The company's decision is based on a short-term productivity gain (15
11. **(B)** The subjunctive mood is used for hypothetical or "contrary to fact" situations. When using "as though" to describe something that is not actually true (he is not

really the owner), the correct form is "were" regardless of the subject's number, making "he acted as though he were" the correct choice.

12. (C) "Transience" comes from the root "transient," meaning lasting only for a short time. In the context of "earthly power," it refers to the fact that such power is not eternal. "Impermanence" is the direct synonym for this state of being temporary.
-

Solutions - Section II

1. (A) The sentence describes lectures that move between unrelated topics ("anecdotes to complex theories"), making them "discursive" (rambling). The lack of a "perceptible" (noticeable) transition explains why the result was "bewildered" (confused) students.
2. (C) The contrast word "but" indicates that while the intent was for the treaty to be "definitive" (final and clear), the actual language used was "equivocal" (vague or open to multiple interpretations), leading to confusion among nations.
3. (A) To an outside observer, the change seemed "whimsical" (random or impulsive), but the contrast "but" reveals that those who knew him better recognized it as a "calculated" (strategically planned) move.
4. (B) The word "arduous" (difficult) in the second half of the sentence implies that the trail was "grueling" (exhausting). The fact that the journey was "worthwhile" suggests the view was "panoramic" (wide and impressive).
5. (B) A reputation for being "honest and transparent" is a direct definition of "probity" (the quality of having strong moral principles; integrity).
6. (A) If a policy is "nearly impossible for the average employee to understand," it is "convoluted" (extremely complex and difficult to follow).
7. (C) The passage explicitly states that the Great Oxidation Event was "driven primarily by cyanobacteria, which produced oxygen as a byproduct of photosynthesis."
8. (B) The author uses the term "catastrophe" specifically in reference to "anaerobic organisms, for whom oxygen was toxic," indicating that the event was destructive to life forms that could not tolerate oxygen.
9. (C) The final sentence argues that life is not just a "response" to the environment but a "primary driver" of change. This means biological processes (like photosynthesis) can radically transform the physical environment (the atmosphere).
10. (A) The original argument claims parks cause health. If cities with parks also have higher incomes, and people with higher incomes can afford better healthcare, then healthcare—not parks—might be the true cause of the lower illness rates. This "third factor" weakens the causal link.
11. (A) "Tactful" and "diplomatic" are synonyms that describe someone who is careful and sensitive in dealing with others and who avoids giving offense.

12. **(B)** Stories filled with "unnecessary details" are described as "verbose" and "wordy." Both words are synonyms for using more words than are needed.
 13. **(A)** Since the explanation allowed even struggling students to understand, it must have been very clear. "Pellucid" and "limpid" are synonyms meaning translucent or extremely clear in style and meaning.
 14. **(B)** The word "Despite" indicates a contrast between the start of the season and winning the championship. "Dismal" and "wretched" are synonyms that describe a poor or miserable start.
 15. **(A)** A style that incorporates elements from "many different historical periods and cultures" is "eclectic" and "heterogeneous" (diverse in character or content).
-

