

GRE Verbal Reasoning

Sample Paper 04

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 committee's final report was surprisingly _____; although the members had spent months investigating the matter, the document they produced was barely three pages long and lacked any detailed analysis.

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

Q2. Despite the mounting evidence suggesting that the initial hypothesis was flawed, the lead researcher remained _____, refusing to acknowledge any data that contradicted his original findings.

- A. Irresolute
- B. Belligerent
- C. Apathetic
- D. Intransigent

Q3. The mediator was praised for her (i) _____ demeanor during the labor dispute; she possessed a rare talent for (ii) _____ the grievances of the workers while maintaining the trust of the management.

- A. (i) Placatory; (ii) Allay
- B. (i) Arbitrary; (ii) Aggravate
- C. (i) Opinionated; (ii) Allay
- D. (i) Placatory; (ii) Confound

Q4. While the documentary was undoubtedly (i) _____, offering deep insights into marine biology, its pacing was so (ii) _____ that even dedicated viewers found themselves nodding off during the second half.

- A. (i) Illuminating; (ii) Somniferous
- B. (i) Superficial; (ii) Riveting
- C. (i) Scanty; (ii) Somniferous
- D. (i) Illuminating; (ii) Cryptic

For generations, the long-held belief in agricultural history was that the collapse of ancient agrarian societies was caused primarily by external invasions. However, recent archaeological data suggests that internal resource mismanagement was the true culprit. Specifically, the over-reliance on single-crop varieties led to rapid soil depletion, as the land was never given the opportunity to recover its vital nutrients. While civilizations in the Fertile Crescent attempted early forms of crop rotation, these efforts were often insufficient to counteract the pressures of a growing population. In contrast, modern vertical farming represents a sustainable shift, utilizing technology to control nutrient cycles and maximize yield without depleting traditional soil resources.

Q5. The passage suggests that the "long-held belief" regarding agricultural history was:

- A. Entirely invalidated by the new archaeological data.
- B. Erroneously centered on the mechanics of irrigation.
- C. Overly narrow in its definition of sustainable farming.
- D. Only applicable to civilizations in the Fertile Crescent.

Q6. According to the passage, the primary cause of soil depletion in ancient civilizations was:

- A. Natural climate cycles.
- B. Over-reliance on a single crop variety.
- C. Chemical substrates originating from the Earth's crust.
- D. Nutrient-rich debris sinking from the surface.

Q7. The author mentions "modern vertical farming" primarily to:

- A. Highlight the contrast between ancient heat and modern technology.

- B. Provide a contemporary application of sustainable resource management.
- C. Detail how chemical energy might reach the surface of urban environments.
- D. Claim that technology is the only requirement for food security.

Q8. The board's decision to terminate the popular CEO was met with _____ from the employees, who had long viewed him as their strongest advocate.

- A. Umbrage and Pique
- B. Deference
- C. Indifference
- D. Jubilation

Q9. At the time of their publication, the scientist's theories were considered _____, as they flagrantly disregarded the established laws of thermodynamics.

- A. Radical and Unorthodox
- B. Orthodox
- C. Conventional
- D. Quotidian

Q10. A study found that employees using standing desks were 10% more productive. Consequently, the firm replaced all desks with standing versions. Which, if true, most weakens this decision?

- A. Standing desks are more expensive than traditional desks.
- B. The study did not account for the long-term physical fatigue that reduces focus.
- C. Some employees reported they enjoyed the new desks.
- D. The company's insurance premiums remained unchanged.

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

- A. The manager insisted that he was present at the meeting.
- B. The manager insisted that he be present at the meeting.
- C. The manager insisted that he is present at the meeting.
- D. The manager insisted like he was present at the meeting.

Q12. In the phrase "the mutability of human fortune," the word "mutability" most nearly means:

- A. Stability

- B. Opulence
- C. Changeability
- D. Depravity

SECTION II: VERBAL REASONING

Q1. The professor's chapters were often (i) _____, drifting from the main argument to lengthy philosophical asides without any (ii) _____ connection, leaving many readers (iii) _____ as to the book's central thesis.

- A. (i) Digressive; (ii) Apparent; (iii) Perplexed
- B. (i) Sequential; (ii) Discordant; (iii) Clarified
- C. (i) Pithy; (ii) Sudden; (iii) Reassured
- D. (i) Digressive; (ii) Discordant; (iii) Reassured

Q2. The contract was intended to be (i) _____, but the (ii) _____ language used in the indemnity clause led to a decade of litigation between the two companies.

- A. (i) Conclusive; (ii) Nebulous
- B. (i) Interim; (ii) Unambiguous
- C. (i) Provocative; (ii) Transparent
- D. (i) Conclusive; (ii) Unambiguous

Q3. To many, the athlete's sudden retirement seemed (i) _____, but those who monitored his recurring injuries viewed it as a (ii) _____ decision to prioritize his long-term health.

- A. (i) Capricious; (ii) Prudent
- B. (i) Commendable; (ii) Impetuous
- C. (i) Inevitable; (ii) Magnanimous
- D. (i) Capricious; (ii) Impetuous

Q4. The intern found the data entry task (i) _____, but the (ii) _____ stipend provided at the end of the summer made the repetitive work feel worthwhile.

- A. (i) Monotonous; (ii) Substantial
- B. (i) Facile; (ii) Paltry
- C. (i) Varied; (ii) Substantial

D. (i) Monotonous; (ii) Paltry

Q5. The company's reputation for _____ was well-earned; it had a history of providing honest and transparent data to all regulatory agencies.

A. Chicanery

B. Veracity

C. Guile

D. Profligacy

Q6. The legal document was so _____ that it was virtually impossible for a layperson to understand the requirements for the loan.

A. Intricate

B. Lucid

C. Concise

D. Evident

The sudden decline in urban air quality during the mid-20th century was a localized turning point for public health policy. Recent studies indicate that the primary cause was particulate waste from inefficient fuel combustion in the burgeoning industrial sectors. This industrial shift proved to be a "catastrophe" for populations with existing respiratory conditions, as the thick smog acted as a persistent irritant. This era highlights how human activity can radically transform the local physical environment, necessitating a shift from reactive medicine to proactive environmental regulation.

Q7. According to the passage, the primary cause of the sudden decline in urban air quality was:

A. The rise of complex industrial sectors.

B. Natural atmospheric shifts.

C. Particulate waste from inefficient fuel combustion.

D. The total eradication of green spaces.

Q8. The author describes the industrial shift as a "catastrophe" to emphasize that:

A. It permanently halted economic growth.

B. It was a destructive event for populations with existing respiratory conditions.

C. Factories were eventually wiped out by their own emissions.

D. The city's climate became permanently unstable.

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

- A. Industry must adapt to survive in any environment.
- B. Economic changes dictate the path of health policy.
- C. Human activity can radically transform the local physical environment.
- D. Rural life is superior to urban life.

Q10. A study shows cities with more bike lanes have lower obesity rates, but also higher taxes. Which weakens the argument that bike lanes cause lower obesity?

- A. People with higher taxes can afford better gyms and organic food.
- B. Bike lanes are often used for leisure.
- C. Many low-tax cities are currently building more bike lanes.
- D. Obesity rates are more common in colder climates.

Q11. The judge was known for being _____, always ensuring that he remained neutral and did not favor either side in a dispute.

- A. Objective and Unbiased
- B. Impetuous
- C. Prejudiced
- D. Forthright

Q12. The textbook was criticized for being _____, as it contained hundreds of pages of redundant explanations that distracted from the core concepts.

- A. Wordy and Pleonastic
- B. Succinct
- C. Engaging
- D. Enigmatic

Q13. The architect's plans were so _____ that even the novice builders were able to execute the design without a single error.

- A. Lucid and Perspicuous
- B. Murky
- C. Arcane
- D. Tangled

Q14. Despite the _____ weather conditions at the start of the voyage, the ship managed to arrive at its destination ahead of schedule.

- A. Inclement and Tempestuous
- B. Halcyon
- C. Auspicious
- D. Serene

Q15. The chef's menu was _____, incorporating ingredients and techniques sourced from nearly every continent and culinary tradition.

- A. Diverse and Multifaceted
- B. Uniform
- C. Dogmatic
- D. Insular

Solutions - Section I

1. **(B)** The sentence uses the word "although" to indicate a contrast. Despite spending months on the investigation, the final document was extremely short (three pages) and lacked detail. "Laconic" means using very few words or being concise to the point of lacking detail, which perfectly fits the context.
2. **(D)** The context describes a researcher who is stubborn and refuses to adjust his position even when presented with "mounting evidence" that he is wrong. "Intransigent" means refusing to agree or change one's mind, which accurately describes this refusal to acknowledge contradictory data.
3. **(B)** For blank (i), "Placatory" is the correct choice because it describes a demeanor intended to soothe or pacify a dispute. For blank (ii), "Allay" means to diminish or put at rest a concern or grievance. Together, they describe the mediator's success in calming the workers.
4. **(A)** For blank (i), "Illuminating" matches the "deep insights" mentioned in the sentence. For blank (ii), "Somniferous" means tending to induce sleep, which explains why viewers were "nodding off" despite the educational value of the documentary.
5. **(A)** The passage states that the "long-held belief" was that external invasions caused the collapse, but "archaeological data suggests that internal resource mismanagement was the true culprit." This indicates the previous belief regarding the cause of collapse was entirely invalidated.
6. **(B)** The text explicitly attributes soil depletion to "the over-reliance on single-crop varieties," which prevented the land from recovering vital nutrients.

7. **(B)** The author introduces "modern vertical farming" as a contrast to ancient failures, serving as a "contemporary application" of how technology can manage resources sustainably.
 8. **(B)** In Sentence Equivalence, synonyms are required. "Umbrage" and "Pique" both refer to a feeling of resentment or offense. Since the CEO was the employees' "strongest advocate," his firing would naturally cause resentment.
 9. **(C)** "Radical" and "Unorthodox" are synonyms describing ideas that break away from established norms. Because the theories "flagrantly disregarded the established laws," they are best described by these two terms.
 10. **(B)** The decision to switch to standing desks is based on a 10
 11. **(B)** In formal English, the mandative subjunctive is used after verbs like "insisted." This requires the base form of the verb (be), making "insisted that he be present" the only correct choice.
 12. **(C)** "Mutability" refers to the quality of being liable to change. In the phrase "the mutability of human fortune," it describes the fact that luck or status is not permanent. "Changeability" is the direct synonym.
-

Solutions - Section II

1. **(A)** Chapters that "drift" from the main argument to unrelated asides are "digressive" (i). The lack of an "apparent" (ii) connection between these asides and the main point would naturally leave readers "perplexed" (iii) as to the book's actual thesis.
2. **(A)** The word "but" indicates a contrast. While the intent was for the contract to be "conclusive" (i) (final and settling), the "nebulous" (ii) (vague or cloudy) language led to continued disagreement and litigation.
3. **(A)** To an outside observer, a "sudden" retirement without obvious cause looks "capricious" (i) (impulsive/unpredictable). However, for those aware of the injuries, it was a "prudent" (ii) (wise/careful) decision for his future health.
4. **(A)** The word "but" suggests the pay compensated for the nature of the work. Data entry is "monotonous" (i) (dull and repetitive), while a "substantial" (ii) (large) stipend makes the effort feel "worthwhile."
5. **(B)** A history of providing "honest and transparent data" is the definition of "veracity" (habitual truthfulness or accuracy).
6. **(A)** If a document is "virtually impossible for a layperson to understand," it is "intricate" (very complicated or detailed).
7. **(C)** The passage explicitly states the decline was caused by "particulate waste from inefficient fuel combustion" in industrial sectors.

8. **(B)** The author uses the word "catastrophe" specifically in relation to "populations with existing respiratory conditions," for whom the smog acted as a destructive "persistent irritant."
 9. **(C)** The final sentence summarizes the "turning point" by stating that "human activity can radically transform the local physical environment."
 10. **(A)** The argument claims bike lanes cause lower obesity. Option (A) introduces an alternative cause: wealth/taxes. If cities with bike lanes have higher taxes, residents might use that wealth for "gyms and organic food," which could be the real reason obesity is lower.
 11. **(A)** A judge who remains "neutral" and does not "favor either side" is "objective" and "unbiased." These are the two synonyms required for Sentence Equivalence.
 12. **(B)** "Wordy" and "Pleonastic" are synonyms meaning the use of more words than necessary. "Hundreds of pages of redundant explanations" fits this description exactly.
 13. **(A)** If "novice builders" could execute the design "without a single error," the plans must have been exceptionally clear. "Lucid" and "Perspicuous" are synonyms for clearly expressed and easy to understand.
 14. **(B)** The word "Despite" creates a contrast between the start of the voyage and the successful arrival. "Inclement" and "Tempestuous" are synonyms describing harsh, stormy, or severe weather.
 15. **(A)** A menu featuring techniques from "nearly every continent" is "diverse" and "multifaceted." These two words describe a variety of different cultural and global elements.
-