

GRE Verbal Reasoning

Sample Paper 06

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 archaeological team's findings were notably _____; while they uncovered thousands of pottery shards, none of the artifacts provided enough evidence to definitively date the site.

- A. Inconclusive
- B. Profound
- C. Redundant
- D. Erudite

Q2. Despite his reputation for _____, the CEO's recent decision to donate half of his personal fortune to charity took even his closest advisors by surprise.

- A. Philanthropy
- B. Parsimony
- C. Magnanimity
- D. Altruism

Q3. The transition to renewable energy has been (i) _____ by the high cost of infrastructure; however, many economists argue that the long-term environmental benefits will eventually (ii) _____ the initial financial burden.

- A. (i) Facilitated; (ii) Exacerbate
- B. (i) Impeded; (ii) Outweigh
- C. (i) Impeded; (ii) Undermine
- D. (i) Precipitated; (ii) Outweigh

Q4. While the author's early essays were remarkably (i) _____, often tackling complex political issues with nuance, his later columns became increasingly (ii) _____, relying on simplistic slogans and partisan rhetoric.

- A. (i) Shallow; (ii) Dogmatic
- B. (i) Incisive; (ii) Sophisticated
- C. (i) Incisive; (ii) Dogmatic
- D. (i) Pedantic; (ii) Ambiguous

Questions 5–7: Reading Comprehension

The "Great Recession" of 2008 was a pivotal moment in global economics, highlighting the dangers of unregulated financial markets. While some analysts blame the collapse on individual greed, others point to systemic failures in risk assessment. This event demonstrated that financial stability is not a static state but a fragile equilibrium that requires constant oversight and intervention.

Q5. The author suggests that financial stability is:

- A. A natural outcome of free markets.
- B. A temporary state easily disrupted by a lack of regulation.
- C. Primarily maintained through individual ethical behavior.
- D. Impossible to achieve in a globalized economy.

Q6. According to the passage, the collapse of 2008 can be attributed to:

- A. Only the greed of individual bankers.
- B. A combination of human behavior and flaws in institutional evaluation.
- C. The natural end of a static economic cycle.
- D. Excessive government oversight.

Q7. The term "fragile equilibrium" is used to emphasize that:

- A. The economy is currently robust and unbreakable.
- B. Economic systems are delicate and need active management to survive.
- C. Global markets are increasingly predictable.

D. Greed is a minor factor in market fluctuations.

Q8. The witness's account was _____, characterized by vague details and shifting timelines that made it difficult for the prosecution to build a solid case.

- A. Compelling
- B. Ambiguous and Equivocal
- C. Lucid
- D. Candid

Q9. The ancient forest was a _____ of biodiversity, containing species of flora and fauna that had long since disappeared from the surrounding industrial plains.

- A. Sanctuary and Refuge
- B. Desert
- C. Anomaly
- D. Paradox

Q10. A study found that people who own pets have lower blood pressure. Therefore, getting a pet will reduce a person's stress. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens this?

- A. People with lower stress levels and healthier lifestyles are more likely to adopt pets.
- B. Pets require a significant financial and time commitment.
- C. Some pets are more aggressive than others.
- D. The study was conducted over a period of five years.

Q11. Choose the correct sentence:

- A. The group of graduates, each having received their diploma, was ready to celebrate.
- B. The group of graduates, each having received their diploma, were ready to celebrate.
- C. The group of graduates, each having received its diploma, was ready to celebrate.
- D. The group of graduates, each having received their diploma, have been ready to celebrate.

Q12. In a scientific context, the word "precipitate" most nearly means:

- A. To delay a reaction.
- B. To cause something to happen suddenly or unexpectedly.
- C. To measure with extreme accuracy.

D. To analyze the properties of a liquid.

Q1. The lecturer's style was (i) _____, often diverging from the main topic to share personal stories that, while (ii) _____, eventually left the students (iii) _____ regarding the actual curriculum requirements.

- A. (i) Discursive; (ii) Entertaining; (iii) Bewildered
- B. (i) Linear; (ii) Tedious; (iii) Enlightened
- C. (i) Discursive; (ii) Irrelevant; (iii) Assured
- D. (i) Pithy; (ii) Entertaining; (iii) Bewildered

Q2. The city's infrastructure plan was meant to be (i) _____, addressing all transit needs for the next decade; however, the (ii) _____ funding provided by the state government has rendered most of the projects unfeasible.

- A. (i) Comprehensive; (ii) Meager
- B. (i) Superficial; (ii) Abundant
- C. (i) Comprehensive; (ii) Substantial
- D. (i) Provisional; (ii) Meager

Q3. While the politician's critics characterized his policy shift as (i) _____, his supporters viewed it as a (ii) _____ adjustment to changing economic realities.

- A. (i) Opportunistic; (ii) Pragmatic
- B. (i) Principled; (ii) Reckless
- C. (i) Opportunistic; (ii) Altruistic
- D. (i) Inevitable; (ii) Pragmatic

Q4. The research assistant found the laboratory work (i) _____, but the (ii) _____ findings discovered at the end of the study made the tedious months of data collection worthwhile.

- A. (i) Exhilarating; (ii) Momentous
- B. (i) Grueling; (ii) Momentous
- C. (i) Grueling; (ii) Trivial
- D. (i) Effortless; (ii) Banal

Q5. The novelist's use of _____ was effective; by providing very few descriptions of the setting, he allowed the readers to use their own imagination to build the world.

- A. Prolixity

- B. Economy
- C. Ornamentation
- D. Grandiloquence

Q6. The technical manual was so _____ that even experienced engineers had to consult it multiple times to perform basic maintenance.

- A. Pellucid
- B. Recondite
- C. Accessible
- D. Transparent

Questions 7–9: Reading Comprehension

The Columbian Exchange led to a massive transfer of plants and animals between the Old and New Worlds. While this enriched global diets, it also introduced invasive species that devastated local ecosystems. This ecological "homogenization" suggests that globalization is not just a human economic phenomenon but a biological one that can permanently alter the natural world.

Q7. According to the passage, the primary result of the Columbian Exchange was:

- A. The isolation of New World species.
- B. A global standardization of biological life.
- C. The total eradication of invasive species.
- D. A decrease in the diversity of global diets.

Q8. The author mentions "invasive species" to emphasize that:

- A. The exchange was entirely beneficial to both worlds.
- B. Biological transfer can have destructive unintended consequences.
- C. New World ecosystems were superior to Old World ones.
- D. Modern globalization has stopped the spread of these species.

Q9. Which of the following best expresses the "homogenization" mentioned in the passage?

- A. The process of making different ecosystems more similar through the exchange of species.
- B. The economic benefits of trading agricultural goods.
- C. The resistance of local environments to foreign plants.
- D. The study of how humans adapt to new diets.

Q10. A school reported that students who play chess have higher math grades. The school board concluded that teaching chess improves math skills. Which weakens this?

- A. Students who are naturally gifted in logic and patterns are more likely to join the chess club and excel in math.
- B. Chess is a game that takes a long time to master.
- C. Some math teachers do not know how to play chess.
- D. The school also offers a successful music program.

Q11. The professor was known for being _____, rarely using one word when ten would do.

- A. Laconic
- B. Verbose and Garrulous
- C. Reticent
- D. Pithy

Q12. The lawyer's investigation was _____, ensuring that every possible lead was checked before the trial began.

- A. Perfunctory
- B. Exhaustive and Meticulous
- C. Cursory
- D. Haphazard

Q13. The instructions were so _____ that the team completed the assembly in half the allotted time.

- A. Obscure
- B. Lucid and Perspicuous
- C. Abstruse
- D. Arcane

Q14. Despite the _____ relationship between the two neighboring countries, they agreed to cooperate on the regional environmental treaty.

- A. Cordial
- B. Acrimonious and Hostile
- C. Harmonious
- D. Amicable

Q15. The artist's style was _____, blending classical techniques with modern digital tools.

- A. Eclectic and Heterogeneous
- B. Uniform
- C. Dogmatic
- D. Specialized

Solutions - Section I

1. **(A)** The sentence states that despite thousands of pottery shards, there was not enough evidence to "definitively date the site." This implies the findings were "Inconclusive," as they did not lead to a firm result or conclusion.
2. **(B)** The word "Despite" indicates a contrast between the CEO's reputation and his generous act. If donating half a fortune was a surprise, his reputation must have been for being stingy. "Parsimony" refers to extreme unwillingness to spend money.
3. **(B)** For blank (i), high infrastructure costs would naturally "Impede" (hinder) the transition. For blank (ii), the word "however" suggests that while there is an initial burden, the long-term benefits will "Outweigh" or be greater than that burden.
4. **(C)** For blank (i), "Incisive" fits because the essays are described as tackling complex issues with "nuance." For blank (ii), "Dogmatic" fits because it describes the shift toward "simplistic slogans" and a narrow, partisan way of thinking that ignores nuance.
5. **(B)** The passage describes stability as a "fragile equilibrium" and not a "static state," suggesting it is a delicate condition easily disrupted by factors like unregulated markets.
6. **(B)** The author notes that some analysts point to "individual greed" while others point to "systemic failures in risk assessment," thereby attributing the collapse to both human behavior and institutional flaws.
7. **(B)** The author uses the phrase "fragile equilibrium" to convey that economic stability is delicate and necessitates "constant oversight and intervention" to maintain.
8. **(B)** In Sentence Equivalence, "vague details and shifting timelines" describe an account that is not clear. "Ambiguous" and "Equivocal" both refer to something that is open to multiple interpretations or is intentionally unclear.
9. **(A)** The forest is described as containing species that have disappeared elsewhere, acting as a safe haven. "Sanctuary" and "Refuge" are synonyms for a place providing protection or shelter.

10. (A) This weakens the argument by suggesting reverse causality: perhaps it is not that pets reduce stress, but that people who already have lower stress and healthier lives are more likely to be in a position to adopt a pet.
 11. (A) The subject "The group" is a collective noun that takes a singular verb ("was"). While "each" refers to individual graduates, it acts as an appositive modifier and does not change the singular nature of the main subject "group."
 12. (B) In a scientific or procedural context, to "precipitate" an event means to cause it to happen suddenly, unexpectedly, or prematurely.
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Solutions - Section II

1. (A) A style that "diverges" from the main topic is "(i) Discursive." While students might find the stories "(ii) Entertaining," the lack of focus on the curriculum would leave them "(iii) Bewildered" (confused) about requirements.
2. (A) A plan meant to address "all transit needs" is "(i) Comprehensive." However, the projects became unfeasible because the state provided "(ii) Meager" (inadequate or thin) funding.
3. (A) Critics would use a negative term like "(i) Opportunistic" (exploiting chances without regard for principle). In contrast, supporters would use a positive term like "(ii) Pragmatic" (dealing with things sensibly and realistically).
4. (B) The word "but" indicates a contrast between the process and the result. "(i) Grueling" (extremely tiring) describes the difficult work, while "(ii) Momentous" (of great importance) explains why the result made that work worthwhile.
5. (B) "Economy" in writing refers to the sparse or frugal use of words. By providing "very few descriptions," the novelist uses economy of style to engage the reader's imagination.
6. (B) If experienced engineers had to consult the manual multiple times for "basic maintenance," the text must be "Recondite," meaning it is obscure or very difficult to understand.
7. (B) The passage mentions "ecological homogenization," which implies that biological life is becoming standardized or similar across the globe due to the exchange of species.
8. (B) The author uses "invasive species" to illustrate that biological transfers can have "devastating" and destructive unintended consequences on local ecosystems.
9. (A) "Homogenization" refers to the process of making things uniform or similar. In this context, it refers to making different ecosystems more similar by exchanging species between them.

10. (A) This weakens the argument by suggesting a "selection bias": students who are already gifted in logic (which helps in math) are the ones drawn to chess, meaning chess is not necessarily the cause of the high grades.
 11. (B) "Verbose" and "Garrulous" are synonyms meaning excessively wordy, directly matching the description of "rarely using one word when ten would do."
 12. (B) An investigation that checks "every possible lead" is thorough. "Exhaustive" and "Meticulous" are the synonyms that describe this level of complete and careful detail.
 13. (B) If the assembly was completed in "half the allotted time," the instructions must have been very clear. "Lucid" and "Perspicuous" are synonyms for clear and easy to understand.
 14. (B) The word "Despite" indicates a contrast between the relationship and the cooperation. "Acrimonious" and "Hostile" both describe a relationship marked by bitterness and ill will.
 15. (A) A style that "blends classical techniques with modern digital tools" is composed of diverse sources. "Eclectic" and "Heterogeneous" are synonyms for something originating from various sources or styles.
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