

GRE Verbal Reasoning

Sample Paper 07

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 veteran diplomat's latest memoir was unexpectedly _____; though renowned throughout her career for elaborate, multi-volume accounts, this final work amounted to a slim pamphlet devoid of any embellishment.

- A. Voluminous
- B. Succinct
- C. Verbose
- D. Ornate

Q2. Even after independent auditors confirmed that his financial model contained fundamental errors, the fund manager remained _____, publicly reaffirming his forecasts without acknowledging any shortcoming.

- A. Deferential
- B. Vacillating
- C. Pertinacious
- D. Magnanimous

Q3. The newly elected mayor was commended for her (i) _____ style of governance; rather than imposing directives unilaterally, she sought to (ii) _____ community leaders from opposing factions into a shared long-term vision.

- A. (i) Autocratic; (ii) Coerce
- B. (i) Collaborative; (ii) Unify
- C. (i) Collaborative; (ii) Alienate
- D. (i) Imperious; (ii) Unify

Q4. Although the professor's course on ancient philosophy was deeply (i) _____, providing students with frameworks they applied across every subsequent discipline, her method of assessment was so (ii) _____ that even the most diligent students found it nearly impossible to demonstrate the full extent of their understanding.

- A. (i) Formative; (ii) Capricious
- B. (i) Trivial; (ii) Transparent
- C. (i) Formative; (ii) Lucid
- D. (i) Superficial; (ii) Capricious

Passage for Questions 5–7

Cities across the globe are warming at a rate disproportionate to the surrounding countryside, a phenomenon known as the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect. The primary driver of this disparity is the replacement of natural, vegetated surfaces with impervious materials — concrete, asphalt, and glass — that absorb and re-emit solar radiation as heat rather than dissipating it through evapotranspiration. Compounding this, the geometry of urban canyons formed by tall buildings traps longwave radiation that would otherwise escape into the atmosphere. Research indicates that the nocturnal UHI effect is particularly pronounced, as cities retain heat absorbed during the day well into the night, elevating overnight temperatures by as much as ten degrees Celsius relative to rural areas. Public health authorities have linked this sustained warmth to increased mortality during heatwaves, disproportionately affecting the elderly and those without access to air conditioning. Urban planners are now exploring mitigation strategies such as green roofs, reflective pavements, and the expansion of urban tree canopies, each of which reintroduces biological cooling mechanisms that development had displaced.

Q5. The passage implies that the long-standing pattern of urban development was:

- A. Entirely without economic rationale.
- B. Inadvertently conducive to heat retention by eliminating natural cooling processes.
- C. Designed to maximize solar energy absorption for heating purposes.
- D. Applicable only to cities in tropical climates.

Q6. According to the passage, the nocturnal UHI effect is particularly significant because:

- A. Solar radiation is strongest during night hours in urban environments.
- B. Urban geometry prevents artificial lighting from escaping into the atmosphere.

- C. Cities retain daytime heat into the night, keeping overnight temperatures elevated.
- D. Rural areas experience greater temperature drops at night due to industrial activity.

Q7. The author mentions 'green roofs, reflective pavements, and urban tree canopies' primarily to:

- A. Argue that technology alone can reverse the effects of climate change globally.
- B. Illustrate examples of interventions that restore natural cooling mechanisms removed by urbanisation.
- C. Suggest that these measures are prohibitively expensive for most municipalities.
- D. Contrast the efficiency of biological cooling with that of mechanical air conditioning.

Q8. The parliamentary committee's investigation into the data breach was _____; having examined thousands of internal communications, it produced a report that left no procedural failure unaddressed.

- A. Perfunctory and Cursory
- B. Exhaustive and Thorough
- C. Selective
- D. Superficial

Q9. The philosopher's treatise on personal identity was considered _____ by mainstream academics, as its central claims overturned assumptions about consciousness that had been unchallenged for two centuries.

- A. Derivative and Conventional
- B. Revolutionary and Groundbreaking
- C. Pedantic
- D. Redundant

Q10. A hospital administrator claims that introducing a mandatory hand-hygiene protocol reduced post-surgical infection rates by 35% over two years. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens this claim?

- A. Nurses initially resisted the new protocol due to increased workload.
- B. During the same period, the hospital upgraded to a new generation of antimicrobial surgical instruments and materials.
- C. Patients reported higher satisfaction scores following the introduction of the protocol.
- D. The protocol was recognised with a regional healthcare quality award.

Q11. Choose the sentence that is grammatically correct and free of a misplaced or dangling modifier:

- A. Having studied the manuscript for three years, the conclusions were finally published by the scholar.
- B. Having studied the manuscript for three years, the scholar finally published her conclusions.
- C. The scholar published her conclusions, having been studied for three years.
- D. Finally published, the scholar had studied the manuscript for three years.

Q12. In the phrase 'the turpitude of the official's conduct,' the word 'turpitude' most nearly means:

- A. Transparency
- B. Depravity or wickedness
- C. Bureaucratic inefficiency
- D. Exceptional diligence

SECTION II: VERBAL REASONING

Q1. The chancellor's keynote address was widely described as (i) _____, pivoting abruptly from budgetary statistics to personal anecdotes without any (ii) _____ thread connecting them, and leaving most delegates (iii) _____ about the institution's strategic direction.

- A. (i) Incoherent; (ii) Discernible; (iii) Uncertain
- B. (i) Focused; (ii) Logical; (iii) Reassured
- C. (i) Concise; (ii) Unifying; (iii) Encouraged
- D. (i) Incoherent; (ii) Logical; (iii) Reassured

Q2. The landmark ruling was intended to be (i) _____, settling the constitutional question once and for all; however, the (ii) _____ wording of its operative clause prompted decades of conflicting interpretations by lower courts.

- A. (i) Definitive; (ii) Ambiguous
- B. (i) Provisional; (ii) Precise
- C. (i) Inflammatory; (ii) Unambiguous

D. (i) Definitive; (ii) Lucid

Q3. To many in the press, the veteran senator's decision to abstain from the pivotal vote appeared (i) _____, but those familiar with the fragile coalition negotiations recognized it as a (ii) _____ manoeuvre to preserve the alliance.

A. (i) Inexplicable; (ii) Calculated

B. (i) Courageous; (ii) Reckless

C. (i) Principled; (ii) Impulsive

D. (i) Inexplicable; (ii) Rash

Q4. The conservation volunteer found the work of cataloguing specimens (i) _____, but the (ii) _____ sense of purpose that came with contributing to a permanent scientific record made the repetitive labour feel meaningful.

A. (i) Painstaking; (ii) Profound

B. (i) Stimulating; (ii) Negligible

C. (i) Varied; (ii) Profound

D. (i) Painstaking; (ii) Negligible

Q5. The forensic accountant's reputation for _____ was unrivalled; every discrepancy she identified was supported by a documented chain of evidence traceable to its original source.

A. Equivocation

B. Rigor

C. Indolence

D. Duplicity

Q6. The terms of the licensing agreement were so _____ that the start-up's founder spent several months consulting specialists before she could determine which provisions were legally binding.

A. Byzantine

B. Pellucid

C. Transparent

D. Concise

Passage for Questions 7–9

The invention of the movable-type printing press by Johannes Gutenberg around 1440 is widely regarded as one of the most transformative developments in the history of human communication. Before its emergence, the reproduction of texts was an arduous manual process confined largely to monastic scriptoria, rendering books prohibitively expensive and literacy the preserve of a small clerical and aristocratic elite. The press disrupted this information monopoly with dramatic speed: within fifty years of its introduction, an estimated fifteen to twenty million books had been printed across Europe — more than had been produced in the preceding millennium. This democratisation of knowledge accelerated the spread of Renaissance humanism, enabled the rapid dissemination of Reformation theology, and laid the intellectual groundwork for the Scientific Revolution. Scholars have noted, however, that the press was not an unconditional force for enlightenment; it also facilitated the mass reproduction of propaganda, superstition, and inflammatory political pamphlets, demonstrating that the power to amplify ideas is morally neutral, shaped entirely by the intentions of those who wield it.

Q7. According to the passage, which of the following directly resulted from the widespread adoption of the printing press?

- A. A decline in monastic institutions across Europe.
- B. The rapid production of far more books than had existed in the preceding thousand years.
- C. The immediate eradication of illiteracy across the European continent.
- D. A reduction in the influence of Renaissance humanism.

Q8. The author describes the press as 'not an unconditional force for enlightenment' primarily to highlight that:

- A. Gutenberg's invention was initially opposed by religious authorities.
- B. The same technology that spread knowledge also enabled the mass circulation of harmful content, illustrating the moral neutrality of communication tools.
- C. The Scientific Revolution would have occurred regardless of the printing press.
- D. Propaganda was a greater product of the press than scholarly literature.

Q9. Which of the following best captures the central argument of the passage?

- A. The printing press was an unambiguously positive development whose benefits far outweighed any negative consequences.
- B. The printing press transformed the accessibility of information and accelerated major intellectual movements, though its impact was shaped by the values of its users.
- C. Gutenberg's primary intention in developing the press was to challenge the authority of the monastic elite.

D. The spread of propaganda through the printing press ultimately undermined the gains of the Renaissance and Reformation.

Q10. A technology company reports that employees who participated in a ten-week mindfulness programme took 40% fewer sick days in the following year. The company concludes that mindfulness training improves physical health. Which of the following, if true, most effectively weakens this conclusion?

A. The programme was conducted during a period when the company also introduced flexible working hours and ergonomic office furniture.

B. Participants in the programme reported feeling less stressed at the end of the ten weeks.

C. The programme was designed by a team of certified mindfulness practitioners.

D. The company offered the programme voluntarily, and most participants attended every session.

Q11. The soprano's performance on opening night was so _____ that critics who had attended hundreds of operatic premieres described it as unlike anything they had previously witnessed.

A. Transcendent and Sublime

B. Mediocre and Pedestrian

C. Competent

D. Derivative

Q12. The ombudsman's report on the planning department's conduct was regarded as _____ by senior officials, who felt it exposed institutional failings in a manner that would permanently damage public confidence.

A. Exculpatory and Vindicating

B. Damaging and Incriminating

C. Inconsequential

D. Laudatory

Q13. The researcher's bibliography was _____, drawing upon primary sources, archival documents, and peer-reviewed studies spanning five decades and twelve countries.

A. Narrow and Parochial

B. Expansive and Wide-ranging

C. Selective

D. Cursory

Q14. Despite the _____ response the proposal initially received from the board, the project director persisted and eventually secured unanimous approval at the following quarter's meeting.

- A. Enthusiastic and Receptive
- B. Lukewarm and Tepid
- C. Decisive
- D. Overwhelming

Q15. The documentary was praised for its _____ treatment of a genuinely complex geopolitical conflict, presenting the perspectives of all parties without simplifying the underlying tensions.

- A. Nuanced and Balanced
- B. Polemical and Partisan
- C. Superficial
- D. Reductive

Solutions - Section I

1. **(B)** The sentence uses a contrast between the diplomat's past "elaborate, multi-volume" works and this final work, which is a "slim pamphlet devoid of embellishment." "Succinct" (brief and to the point) is the correct fit.
2. **(C)** The fund manager refused to acknowledge "fundamental errors" even after an audit and continued to publicly reaffirm his forecasts. "Pertinacious" means holding firmly to an opinion or a course of action, often stubbornly.
3. **(B)** For blank (i), "Collaborative" is the opposite of "unilaterally" and "imposing directives." For blank (ii), "Unify" describes the act of bringing opposing factions together into a "shared long-term vision."
4. **(A)** For blank (i), "Formative" fits as the course provided "frameworks applied across every subsequent discipline." For blank (ii), "Capricious" (unpredictable/erratic) explains why even diligent students couldn't demonstrate their understanding due to the assessment method.
5. **(B)** The passage discusses how urban development replaced natural cooling surfaces (vegetation) with materials that absorb heat, implying development was "inadvertently conducive to heat retention."
6. **(C)** The text states that the nocturnal effect is pronounced because "cities retain heat absorbed during the day well into the night," keeping temperatures higher than in rural areas.

7. **(B)** These specific strategies are described as ways to "reintroduce biological cooling mechanisms" that had been removed by the process of "urbanisation."
 8. **(B)** The committee examined "thousands of internal communications" and left "no procedural failure unaddressed." "Exhaustive" and "Thorough" are the synonymous terms describing this complete level of detail.
 9. **(B)** A work that "overturned assumptions" that were "unchallenged for two centuries" is described as "Revolutionary" and "Groundbreaking."
 10. **(B)** The administrator claims hand-hygiene caused the reduction. Choice B provides an "alternative cause" (upgraded antimicrobial instruments) that could explain the 35
 11. **(B)** This sentence avoids a "dangling modifier." The introductory phrase "Having studied..." logically modifies the subject "the scholar." In other options, the phrase incorrectly modifies "conclusions" or creates a logical error.
 12. **(B)** "Turpitude" refers to vile, shameful, or base character; "depravity or wickedness" is the most accurate synonym in the context of an official's misconduct.
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Solutions - Section II

1. **(A)** An address that "pivots abruptly" without a "(ii) Discernible" (visible/clear) thread is "(i) Incoherent." This lack of clarity would leave delegates "(iii) Uncertain" about the strategic direction.
2. **(A)** The ruling was meant to be "(i) Definitive" (final and conclusive), but the "(ii) Ambiguous" (unclear/open to multiple interpretations) wording led to "conflicting interpretations."
3. **(A)** To the press, the decision seemed "(i) Inexplicable" (cannot be explained). However, those with "fragile coalition" knowledge recognized it as a "(ii) Calculated" (planned/deliberate) strategy.
4. **(A)** Cataloguing specimens is a "(i) Painstaking" (requiring great care/effort) task. However, the "(ii) Profound" (intense/significant) sense of purpose makes the repetitive labor meaningful.
5. **(B)** A reputation for "Rigor" is supported by the description of a "documented chain of evidence" where every discrepancy is traced to its original source.
6. **(A)** If a founder needs "several months" and "specialists" to understand an agreement, the terms are "Byzantine," meaning excessively complicated or convoluted.
7. **(B)** The passage states that within 50 years, fifteen to twenty million books were printed, which was "more than had been produced in the preceding millennium."
8. **(B)** The author uses this phrase to show that the press was "morally neutral" and could amplify both "enlightenment" and "propaganda/superstition."

9. **(B)** This choice best captures the dual nature of the press mentioned in the text: it transformed access to information but its actual impact was "shaped by the intentions/values of those who wield it."
 10. **(A)** To weaken the link between mindfulness and health, choice A provides "confounding variables" (flexible hours and ergonomic furniture) that were introduced at the same time.
 11. **(A)** A performance described as "unlike anything previously witnessed" is best characterized by the synonyms "Transcendent" and "Sublime."
 12. **(B)** A report that "exposed institutional failings" and "damaged public confidence" is seen as "Damaging" and "Incriminating" by the officials involved.
 13. **(B)** A bibliography spanning "five decades and twelve countries" with primary and archival sources is "(B) Expansive and Wide-ranging."
 14. **(B)** The word "Despite" indicates a contrast to the later "unanimous approval." "Lukewarm" and "Tepid" both describe a lack of initial enthusiasm or interest.
 15. **(A)** A treatment that presents "the perspectives of all parties without simplifying" is described by the synonyms "Nuanced" and "Balanced."
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