XAT 2023 Unofficial Answer Key PDF (Jan 08, 2023)

Q.	Ans	Q.	Ans	Q.	Ans	Q.	Ans	Q.	Ans
1	1	22	3	43	2	64	4	85	2
2	3	23	3	44	1	65	2	86	4
3	5	24	2	45	3	66	1	87	1
4	1	25	4	46	1	67	3	88	1
5	2	26	5	47	5	68	1	89	2
6	3	27	1	48	4	69	2	90	4
7	5	28	2	49	1	70	2	91	3
8	4	29	3	50	5	71	3	92	2
9	2	30	4	51	5	72	3	93	4
10	5	31	3	52	3	73	1	94	1
11	4	32	4	53	2	74	3	95	3
12	1	33	4	54	2	75	5	96	5
13	3	34	2	55	1	76	1	97	2
14	4	35	4	56	2	78	4	98	1
15	4	36	1	57	1	79	4	99	4
16	4	37	2	58	5	80	2	100	1
17	4	38	4	59	2	81	1	101	5
18	4	39	3	60	2	82	1	102	1
19	2	40	4	61	5	83	3	103	Essay
20	4	41	1	62	2	84	5	104	Essay
21	3	42	2	63	4			105	Essay

Argument I: Risk is the Essential Need of the Soul

The assertion that risk is essential to the human spirit highlights an important truth about personal growth and achievement. While fear often prevents individuals from pursuing opportunities, the complete absence of risk can be equally damaging by fostering complacency and stagnation. Human progress, whether personal or societal, has always depended on the willingness to venture into uncertainty.

Risk introduces challenge, excitement, and the possibility of growth. Individuals who constantly remain within their comfort zones may avoid failure, but they also miss opportunities for learning and self-discovery. Entrepreneurs, scientists, explorers, and artists have historically embraced uncertainty to create innovations that transformed society. Their achievements were possible because they accepted the possibility of failure.

Moreover, risk provides meaning to success. Accomplishments gained without effort or uncertainty often feel less rewarding than those earned through perseverance. The anticipation of outcomes, combined with the courage to act despite uncertainty, enriches human experience and builds resilience.

However, risk should not be confused with recklessness. Blindly pursuing danger without adequate judgment can lead to unnecessary harm. Productive risk-taking involves evaluating consequences, preparing for setbacks, and making informed decisions. The objective is not to eliminate fear but to manage it constructively.

Therefore, the argument is largely valid. Just as excessive fear can paralyze action, excessive security can suppress ambition and creativity. A meaningful life requires a balance between caution and courage. Risk serves as a catalyst for growth, innovation, and fulfillment, making it an indispensable aspect of human existence.

Argument II: Rapid Decarbonization to Fulfill India's Net Zero Commitment Will Have Business Consequences

India's commitment to achieving Net Zero emissions represents a significant step toward addressing climate change. However, rapid decarbonization will inevitably have substantial business consequences, creating both challenges and opportunities across industries.

On one hand, businesses dependent on fossil fuels may face increased costs due to stricter regulations, carbon pricing mechanisms, and investments in cleaner technologies. Industries such as steel, cement, aviation, and thermal power generation could experience short-term disruptions as they transition to low-carbon operations. Smaller firms may find it particularly difficult to bear the financial burden of technological upgrades and compliance requirements.

On the other hand, decarbonization can stimulate innovation and create new economic opportunities. The growing demand for renewable energy, electric vehicles, green hydrogen, sustainable infrastructure, and energy-efficient technologies is expected to generate investment and employment. Companies that adapt early may gain competitive advantages in global markets where environmental standards are becoming increasingly important.

Furthermore, climate-related risks themselves pose significant threats to businesses. Extreme weather events, resource scarcity, and environmental degradation can disrupt supply chains and increase operational costs. In this context, decarbonization should be viewed not merely as a regulatory obligation but also as a long-term risk management strategy.

The key challenge lies in balancing environmental goals with economic realities. Policymakers must ensure a just transition by supporting affected industries, encouraging innovation, and facilitating workforce reskilling.

Therefore, rapid decarbonization will undoubtedly have business consequences. While some sectors may face short-term difficulties, the transition also presents opportunities for sustainable growth, resilience, and long-term competitiveness.

Argument III: Someone with Half Your IQ is Making 10X as You Because They Aren't Smart Enough to Doubt Themselves

The statement suggests that excessive self-doubt can hinder success more than a lack of intelligence. Although provocative, it highlights an important distinction between intellectual ability and the confidence required to translate ideas into action.

High intelligence often enables individuals to identify risks, complexities, and potential obstacles. While this analytical capability is valuable, it can sometimes result in overthinking and indecision. Highly capable individuals may postpone decisions while seeking perfect information, causing them to miss opportunities. In contrast, less analytical but more confident individuals may act quickly, take calculated risks, and learn through experience. Their willingness to move forward can sometimes generate greater financial and professional rewards.

Entrepreneurship provides numerous examples of this phenomenon. Many successful business leaders are not necessarily the most intellectually gifted individuals in their fields. Instead, they possess confidence, persistence, communication skills, and the ability to execute ideas effectively. Success often depends as much on action and resilience as on intelligence.

However, the argument should not be interpreted as a dismissal of intelligence. Confidence without competence can lead to poor decisions, overconfidence, and costly failures. Sustainable success typically requires a combination of knowledge, judgment, and self-belief. The ideal balance lies between confidence and humility—having enough confidence to act while remaining aware of one's limitations.

Therefore, the statement captures an important insight about the dangers of excessive self-doubt. Intelligence is valuable, but it achieves little without action. Individuals who combine competence with confidence are often better positioned to achieve extraordinary success than those who possess ability alone.