



# Verbal Reasoning Answers



1. Select the **two** words, one from each group, that are the closest in meaning.

**elated, graceful, careful** | **flexible, elegant, stylish**

A elated

**B graceful**

C careful

D flexible

**E elegant**

F stylish



### Explanation

- The correct answers are **B** and **E**!
- 'Graceful' and 'elegant' are both **adjectives** that describe someone who moves in a smooth way.
- For example, we might describe a ballerina as 'graceful' or 'elegant'.
- **Did you know?** 'Elated' means 'very happy' and comes from the Latin word '*elatus*', meaning 'uplifted'.



2. Select **two** words, one from each set of brackets, that will complete the sentence in the most sensible way.

**General is to (broad, specific, army), as headteacher is to (school, master, educate).**

A broad

B specific

C army

D school

E master

F educate

### Explanation

- Our completed sentence is:

**General is to army, as headteacher is to school.**
- The connection between these words is based on **leadership**; generals lead armies and headteachers lead schools.
- Watch out!** 'Broad' and 'specific' are **red herrings**. 'Broad' is a synonym for 'general' and 'specific' is an antonym of 'general'.





3. The words in this sentence have been jumbled up, and one extra word has been added.  
Select the extra word from the options below.

**clothes the into bulging manic stuffed suitcase her Riona**

A

into

B

the

C

manic

D

suitcase

E

her



### Explanation

- The correct answer is **C**, 'manic'.
- Our unjumbled sentence is:

**Riona stuffed her clothes into the bulging suitcase.**

- 'Manic' is an **adjective**. This means it must describe a noun. The only nouns in our sentence are: 'Riona', 'clothes' and 'suitcase'.
- We cannot describe 'clothes' or a 'suitcase' as 'manic'. Although 'manic' probably describes Riona's emotions very well, it cannot describe Riona herself!





4. Below are two pairs of words. Which letter can end the first word and begin the second word in each pair?

oat\_ \_andy | bat\_ \_elix

A

s

B

y

C

c

D

r

E

h



### Explanation

- We can add the letter 'h' to each of these words. This gives us: 'oath', 'handy', 'bath' and 'helix'.
- An 'oath' is a promise, something or someone who is 'handy' is very helpful, a 'bath' is used for bathing and a 'helix' is a type of 3D shape that looks like a spiral.
- **Watch out!** You might have been tempted to go for 's' based on the first three words, however, 'selix' is not a word. Make sure you check all the answer options carefully!
- **Did you know?** Human DNA is in the shape of a 'helix'!





5. Select **two** words, one from each group, that can be joined together to form a new word.

par, miss, take | net, arm, rot

A par

B miss

C take

D net

E arm

F rot



### Explanation

- The correct answers are **A** and **F**. When we join together '**par**' and '**rot**', we get the word '**parrot**'!
- '**Par**' means 'equal to something'. For example, 'Adele's newest album is on **par** with her first album'. '**Rot**' means 'decay'.
- **Watch out!** You might have been tempted to select **A** and **C** to create the word 'partake'. However, the question asks you to choose one word *from each group*. This means we can only select **A OR C**. Make sure you read the question carefully!





6. Which letter can be removed from the first word and added to the second word to create two new words? The order of letters cannot be changed.

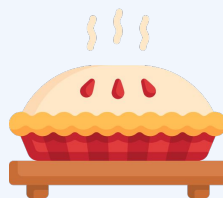
brake | sting

A	b	B	r	C	a	D	k	E	e
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### Explanation

- The correct answer is **B**!
- If we remove 'r' from 'brake', we are left with the word '**bake**'. We can then add 'r' to 'sting' to get the word '**string**'!
- Although we can make the word 'rake' by removing 'b' from 'brake', we cannot add 'b' into 'sting' and get a real word.
- Similarly, we can add 'a' to 'sting' to get the word 'sating'. However, this would leave us with 'brak' which is not a word!



bake



string

7. In each set of three words, the middle word is created from the outer two words. Following the same rule as the first set, choose the word that completes the second set.

(GOAT, TANK, KING) (CHIN, \_\_\_\_\_, EONS)

A

NOSE

B

NICE

C

NINE

D

CONE

E

SHIN

### Explanation

- The correct answer is **C**, 'NINE'.
- The middle word is created by
  1. taking the **last letter** of the **first word**
  2. taking the **third letter** of the **first word**
  3. taking the **third letter** of the **second word**
  4. taking the **first letter** of the **second word**
- This is represented in the image below:

12**3**4, 1234, 12**3**4  
CHIN, **NINE**, EONS







8. Work out the letter code and use it to solve the question.

If the code for **ATOM** is **DXTS**, what is the code for **GOOD**?

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

JSTJ

B

IRSI

C

JSSI

D

JSTK

E

JSTI



### Explanation

- The correct answer is **A**, 'JSTJ'.
- This letter code uses a **progressive rule**. The **first letter** of the word moves forward **3 places** in the alphabet, the next letter moves forward **4 places**, the next letter moves **5 places** and so on.
- The alphabet below shows what happens when we apply this **progressive rule** to 'ATOM':

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Diagram illustrating the progressive rule for 'ATOM':

- A → D (+3)
- M → O (+6)
- O → P (+5)
- P → R (+5)
- R → S (+4)
- S → T (+4)
- T → X (+4)

- Here's how it looks for 'GOOD':

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Diagram illustrating the progressive rule for 'GOOD':

- G → J (+3)
- J → O (+6)
- O → R (+4)
- R → S (+5)
- S → T (+4)



9. Select the two letter pairs that will correctly complete the letter sequence below.

aJ gK \_ \_ yN eO

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

mN

B

mL

C

sL

D

mM

E

sM

F

nL



### Explanation

- In this sequence, the first letters in the pairs follow one rule, and the second letters follow another! To find the two rules, let's split the sequence into the **first** and **second** letters in each pair:
- First letters:** a g \_ \_ y e
  - a → g = +6      y → e = +6
  - First letter rule: The letter moves **forwards 6 places** in lower case.
  - Note that when we reach the end of the alphabet, we loop back round to the beginning: 'A' follows 'Z'!
- Second letters:** J K \_ \_ N O
  - J → K = +1      N → O = +1
  - Second letter rule: The letter moves **forwards 1 place** in UPPER CASE.
- 'mL' and 'sM' complete the sequence!



10. Using the statements below, select the statement which must be **true**.

- Esther has two children: Blessing, who is 9 years old, and Musa, who is 13 years old.
- Johannes loves his daughters, Fatima and Esther, dearly. He wishes he had more grandchildren.
- Fatima and Esther were born 3 years apart.

☐ A Fatima has two children.

☐ B Esther has two siblings.

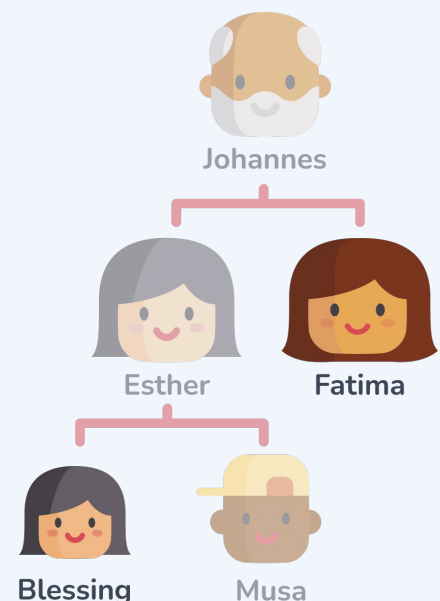
☒ C Fatima is Blessing's aunt.

☐ D Blessing is Musa's older sister.

☐ E Fatima is Esther's younger sister.

### Explanation

- The correct answer is **C**.
- The **first statement** tells us that Blessing is Esther's daughter. The **second statement** tells us that Esther and Fatima are sisters. From this, we can deduce that **Fatima is Blessing's aunt!**
- Remember, we must only select the statement which is **definitely true** based on the information provided.
- We do not know if Fatima has children (**A**) or if she is Esther's younger sister (**E**).





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