

REVIEW YOUR CRITICAL VERBAL REASONING PRACTICE TEST 1 ANSWERS

QUESTION (1)

Which of the following is the most accurate summary of the second paragraph?

This is an example of an Interpretation type of verbal critical reasoning question. It is asking you to précis the second paragraph into a single, concise sentence. The précis being a more concise - but still representative - summary of the paragraph. The second paragraph starts with an upbeat quote from Britain's Energy Minister, then describes the drilling rights sales process: both what has happened so far and what is expected in the near future. The last two sentences details some of the downside to the issue of fracking expansion which has led to a French ban for environmental reasons. It's an effective strategy for this type of critical thinking question to consider each of the answer options on its own merits. Whilst this might seem to be an inefficient approach, the question does ask you to find *the most accurate summary*.

(a) Drilling rights across the UK are expected to lead to a rapid expansion of fracking.

This statement is false. The passage states that *The British Government only expects a minority of these exploration rights to be claimed.*

(b) Environmental activists recently lost their fight to stop fracking coming to the UK.

This is a statement of fact. However, it only covers one of the key points made by the passage and so cannot be the *most accurate summary*.

(c) The British Government is broadly supportive of more fracking across the UK.

This statement summarizes a couple of the key points from the passage. Although since it omits other key points it is not broadly representative. It is therefore unlikely to be *the most accurate summary*.

(d) There are economic and environmental benefits from increasing our use of fracking.

This statement is false; no environmental benefits are mentioned in the passage - quite the opposite in fact.

(e) Fracking has recently begun in the UK and there is economic support for its future expansion. This is the best answer since it is a more accurate summary than (b).

QUESTION (2)

Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage? This is an example of an Inference type of critical thinking question. Such an inference is derived from logical conclusions. It is based on facts presented in the passage. Even though the inferred statement itself will *not* appear in the passage. OK, let's go through each of the answer options one at a time as we did with the first question to see which is an inference from the passage.

a) America is one of the world's key manufacturers of solar power equipment.

This is only mention of solar power in the passage; *China, has further cemented its reputation for exporting solar power technologies.* It is China and not America that's *one of the world's key manufacturers of solar power equipment.* So answer option (a) is incorrect..

b) The British fracking industry is nascent.

The word "nascent" means being born and then starting to grow. It's clear from the passage that the British fracking industry has recently started and will expand to as yet unknown extent. Hence this statement can be inferred from the passage, which makes answer option (b) the correct answer.

c) *Fracking is an increasingly contentious means of extracting gas across the global.* This statement is inferring that there is an increasing amount of resistance to fracking. Whilst there is resistance in Britain it cannot be inferred that globally it is becoming *increasingly contentious*.

d) *Social unrest is caused by high levels of unemployment.*

Quite early on, the passage does refer to the issues of *rapidly rising unemployment and social unrest*. However, answer option (d) is a statement of cause and effect; which cannot be inferred from the passage.

e) *The latest global recession is now over.*

Ever since the global recession began in 2008 is the first phrase in the passage. No mention is made of the global recession finishing, hence answer option (e) is incorrect.

QUESTION (3)

What does the passage's author intend to show by putting the word "revolt" in inverted commas?

This is an example of an Interpretation type of critical thinking question. The most efficient means of answering this question is to quickly review the answer options and eliminate those, such as (b) *To show that this is a quote* and (d) *The revolt may not have happened* which are clearly not the case. Of the remaining answer options: (a) *That he disagrees* just doesn't make sense in the context of the passage. Also, (c) *The revolt was unplanned* seems irrelevant, hence unlikely to be the author's point.

Answer option (e) is a possibility but unlikely given that using comedy here would be somewhat pointless. So does answer option (e) ***It was an unusual revolt*** make sense in that part of the passage where the term "revolt" is used. Earlier in the passage a US revolution due to fracking is mentioned, then later the passages considers the hopes of the UK for a *US-style "revolt" in the price of domestic energy*. Both uses are a weaker form of the words revolution and revolt which typically refer to a significant socio-political shift. In this sense the revolt was indeed an *unusual* one. Thus answer option (e) is correct.

QUESTION (4)

The passage includes which one or more of the following facts about fracking in the US?

This is a more traditional type of question found in many different type of verbal reasoning test. Similar to the True/False/Cannot Say question format described in earlier chapters; here you need to find which one of the five statements is True. It's worth reviewing each option quickly and if you can't recall specific mention of this potential fact in the passage then that's all that you need to know (since it can't therefore be true).

a) *There has been rapidly rising US unemployment due to the global recession.* There is no specific information in the passage. This part of the passage has a different emphasis; *American desire for cheaper energy is driving an onshoring process that is shifting manufacturing bases back home from the Far East.*

b) *The first British fracking sites were established in West Sussex in 2013.*



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This is tricky and highlights the importance of reading each question very carefully, as well as rereading the relevant part of the passage. Certainly *fracking has already started in West Sussex*. It is easy to assume from this statement's context - the onset of fracking in the UK - that the first British fracking sites must be in West Sussex. This is not necessarily true though.

c) *The US imports most of its manufactured goods from the Far East.*

This part of the passage has a different emphasis; American desire for cheaper energy is driving an onshoring process that is shifting manufacturing bases back home from the Far East. Based on all the passage's information, the statement is not true.

d) **Fracking has caused a shift in US energy prices.** Thus answer option (d) is correct.

e) *Exploration rights have been sold for over 40,000 square miles of land.*

The relevant part of the passage refers to *almost* 40,000 British square miles - not *over* 40,000 square miles of land. The statement is false.

QUESTION (5)

What is the meaning of the onshoring term used in the context of the final paragraph?

This is an example of a Comprehension type of verbal critical reasoning question. It is asking you what the term means and hints that the context of the first paragraph will help you (if you don't already know the word's meaning). Here are the last two lines of the passage; *The American desire for cheaper energy is driving an onshoring process that is shifting manufacturing bases back home from the Far East. This reindustrialisation has helped to underpin a rapidly improving US recovery.* Of the available answer options, which meaning for the term "fracking" best fits within the context of these final sentences.

a) *The trade deficit between America and the Far East has reduced.*

Possibly.

b) *Many Americans prefer to use cheaper, energy.*

This is not mentioned specifically in the passage.

c) *The pumping of a mixture of sand, water and special chemicals into the ground.*

Not mentioned in these two sentences.

d) **Bringing goods manufacturing back to America.**

This meaning works since there *is shifting manufacturing bases back home from the Far East*. Hence answer option (D) is the correct answer.

e) *The rapid improvement in American industry.*

This is not mentioned specifically in the passage.

QUESTION (6)

Which of the following best summarises the passage's main idea?

The statements (a), (c) and (d) are not summaries of the passage. although statement (b) is a summary of parts of the passage, it is not as effective a summary as (e) **The politically charged economic benefits of fracking have environmental costs.**

QUESTION (7)

The passage describes two of the five reasons listed (for resisting fracking expansion in the UK). In fact, answer options (a) Energy security, (d) *Economic benefits* and (e) *Cheaper gas* are potential *benefits*. The correct answer is (c) **Environmental concerns** and the (b) **Extreme weather** mentioned in the passage's opening sentence.