

UCAT Verbal Reasoning Practice Paper 1

Verbal Reasoning

44 questions · 22 minutes

How to use this booklet

- There are 11 passages, each followed by four questions. Read each passage carefully and answer the questions using only the information it contains.
- Some questions give a statement: choose True, False or Can't tell. True means the passage supports the statement; False means the passage contradicts it; Can't tell means the passage does not give enough information. Other questions are multiple choice with four options.
- You have 22 minutes. There is no penalty for incorrect answers, so answer every question.

VERBAL REASONING — 44 QUESTIONS

11 passages · 22 minutes

Do not spend too long on any one passage. Base every answer on the passage alone, not on what you already know.

Passage 1: Hedgerows

Hedgerows are among the oldest man-made features of the British landscape. Some were planted as long ago as the Bronze Age, though most of those still standing were created between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, when landowners enclosed open fields. They marked boundaries, kept livestock in, and provided timber, fruit and fuel. In the decades after the Second World War, however, farmers were encouraged to grow larger crops on larger fields, and an estimated half of all hedgerows were removed in some regions. Ecologists now regard this as a serious loss: a single mature hedgerow can shelter hundreds of species of plants, insects, birds and mammals, and it acts as a corridor along which animals can travel between fragments of woodland. More recently, government schemes have paid farmers to plant and maintain hedgerows. Critics argue that payments are too small to persuade owners of the largest arable farms, where the benefits of removing hedgerows are greatest. Supporters reply that even a modest increase in hedgerow length would help wildlife, and that farmers who manage them well also gain from reduced soil erosion and shelter for crop-pollinating insects.

1. Most hedgerows still standing in Britain were planted during the Bronze Age.

- A True
- B False
- C Can't tell

2. Hedgerows help animals move between areas of woodland.

- A True
- B False
- C Can't tell

3. Farmers who plant hedgerows always earn more money than farmers who remove them.

- A True
- B False
- C Can't tell

4. Government schemes paying farmers to plant hedgerows have been criticised for offering too little money.

- A True
- B False
- C Can't tell

Passage 2: The Invention of the Stethoscope

Before the nineteenth century, physicians who wanted to listen to a patient's chest generally pressed an ear directly against the skin. The method was awkward, and many doctors found it embarrassing when the patient was a woman. In 1816 the French physician René Laennec faced exactly this difficulty. He recalled having seen children at play, one scratching a pin at the end of a long piece of wood while another listened at the opposite end, and the sound seemed louder at a distance than it had when close by. Laennec rolled a sheet of paper into a tube, placed one end on the patient's chest and the other against his ear, and was struck by how clearly he could hear the heart. He later made a wooden tube and named it the stethoscope, from Greek words meaning 'chest' and 'I look at'. He used it to study the sounds of diseased lungs for three years, describing and naming sounds such as crackles and wheezes that are still used by doctors today. Some of his contemporaries dismissed the instrument as a fashion, preferring the traditional method; its adoption was gradual, and the binaural design, with two earpieces, was not introduced until around the middle of the century.

5. According to the passage, what led Laennec to try listening through a rolled tube of paper?

- A A suggestion from a colleague who had read about children's toys
- B A request from a patient who disliked being touched
- C A recollection of children who heard sounds more clearly at a distance
- D A wish to avoid hearing sounds from the lungs

6. Which of the following is stated in the passage about the word 'stethoscope'?

- A It is built from Greek words meaning 'chest' and 'I look at'
- B It was first used by Laennec's contemporaries
- C It refers to the two earpieces of the later design
- D It was chosen by the children who inspired the invention

7. It can be inferred from the passage that:

- A the stethoscope was not immediately accepted by all doctors
- B every doctor adopted the instrument within a few years
- C Laennec stopped using the instrument after three years
- D the first stethoscope had two earpieces

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Answers & worked solutions

Answer Key

1 B	2 A	3 C	4 A	5 C	6 A
7 A	8 B	9 B	10 B	11 B	12 C
13 D	14 A	15 B	16 C	17 B	18 A
19 A	20 C	21 D	22 C	23 A	24 A
25 B	26 A	27 C	28 A	29 D	30 D
31 C	32 B	33 B	34 A	35 A	36 C
37 D	38 B	39 B	40 C	41 B	42 B
43 A	44 C				

1. Most hedgerows still standing in Britain were planted during the Bronze Age. [Statement check: False]

Correct answer: B — False

- False: The passage says some date from the Bronze Age, but most were created between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- Evidence in the passage: "most of those still standing were created between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries".

LOS: Verbal reasoning

KEY TAKEAWAY

Statements that state the opposite of the passage's result are False even if they sound sensible.

2. Hedgerows help animals move between areas of woodland. [Statement check: True]

Correct answer: A — True

- True: The passage describes a hedgerow as a corridor between woodland fragments.
- Evidence in the passage: "it acts as a corridor along which animals can travel between fragments of woodland".

LOS: Verbal reasoning

KEY TAKEAWAY

Do not add outside knowledge: a statement can be true in real life yet still be Can't tell from the passage.

3. Farmers who plant hedgerows always earn more money than farmers who remove them. [Statement check: Can't tell]

Correct answer: C — Can't tell

- Can't tell: The passage mentions some benefits to farmers, but it never compares total earnings, so we cannot tell.