

# Full Length Practice Test 11

**Instructions:** This practice test contains 280 multiple-choice questions divided into four parts. Select the best answer for each question.

## Survey Of Natural Sciences

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### BIOLOGY (Questions 1–40)

- Mitochondria contain their own:
  - Nucleus
  - Golgi apparatus
  - DNA and ribosomes
  - Lysosomes
- The AV node delays electrical signals to allow:
  - Atria to contract before ventricles
  - Ventricles to contract first
  - Both to contract simultaneously
  - Blood to flow backward
- Sister chromatids separate during:
  - Prophase I
  - Metaphase I
  - Prophase II
  - Anaphase II
- Light-independent reactions of photosynthesis occur in the:
  - Thylakoid membrane
  - Stroma
  - Cristae
  - Grana
- A point mutation that results in a stop codon is called:
  - Silent mutation
  - Missense mutation
  - Nonsense mutation
  - Frameshift mutation
- Which organ produces insulin and glucagon?

- A. Pancreas
- B. Liver
- C. Gallbladder
- D. Spleen

7. The final electron acceptor in cellular respiration is:

- A. NAD<sup>+</sup>
- B. FAD
- C. CO<sub>2</sub>
- D. O<sub>2</sub>

8. Which enzyme unwinds DNA during replication?

- A. DNA polymerase
- B. Ligase
- C. Helicase
- D. Primase

9. Increased blood calcium levels trigger secretion of:

- A. Parathyroid hormone
- B. Calcitonin
- C. Vitamin D
- D. Aldosterone

10. The protein component of blood that forms clots is:

- A. Albumin
- B. Hemoglobin
- C. Antibodies
- D. Fibrinogen

11. The glomerulus is located in the:

- A. Renal cortex
- B. Renal medulla
- C. Renal pelvis
- D. Ureter

12. The start codon in translation is:

- A. UAA
- B. UAG
- C. AUG
- D. UGA

13. The tricuspid valve prevents backflow into the:
- A. Left atrium
  - B. Right atrium
  - C. Left ventricle
  - D. Aorta
14. Simple diffusion is characterized by movement:
- A. Against concentration gradient
  - B. Requiring ATP
  - C. Through proteins
  - D. Down concentration gradient without energy
15. Reptiles primarily excrete nitrogenous waste as:
- A. Uric acid
  - B. Ammonia
  - C. Urea
  - D. Creatinine
16. The ara operon is regulated by:
- A. Negative control only
  - B. Positive control only
  - C. Both positive and negative control
  - D. No regulation
17. The diaphragm and external intercostals relax during:
- A. Inhalation
  - B. Forced exhalation
  - C. Swallowing
  - D. Passive exhalation
18. Cytokinesis in animal cells occurs through:
- A. Cleavage furrow formation
  - B. Cell plate formation
  - C. Binary fission
  - D. Budding
19. The hormone that triggers ovulation is:
- A. Estrogen
  - B. Progesterone

- C. FSH
- D. LH

20. Helper T cells recognize antigens presented with:

- A. MHC Class I
- B. MHC Class II
- C. Antibodies
- D. B cell receptors

21. Transpiration in plants occurs primarily through:

- A. Roots
- B. Stems
- C. Stomata
- D. Flowers

22. Which neurotransmitter is associated with muscle contraction at neuromuscular junctions?

- A. Dopamine
- B. Serotonin
- C. GABA
- D. Acetylcholine

23. Calcium ions bind to which regulatory protein during muscle contraction?

- A. Troponin
- B. Tropomyosin
- C. Myosin
- D. Actin

24. Which hormone prepares the uterus for implantation?

- A. FSH
- B. LH
- C. Progesterone
- D. Estrogen

25. Substrate-level phosphorylation occurs during:

- A. Electron transport chain only
- B. Glycolysis and Krebs cycle
- C. Krebs cycle only
- D. Oxidative phosphorylation

26. The complement system is part of:

- A. Innate immunity
- B. Adaptive immunity only
- C. Humoral immunity only
- D. Cell-mediated immunity only

27. Schwann cells produce myelin in the:

- A. Central nervous system
- B. Peripheral nervous system
- C. Brain only
- D. Spinal cord only

28. DNA damage is checked at the:

- A. S phase
- B. M phase
- C. G1 checkpoint
- D. G2 checkpoint only

29. Surfactant in the lungs functions to:

- A. Reduce surface tension in alveoli
- B. Increase airway resistance
- C. Produce mucus
- D. Fight infections

30. Creatine phosphate provides energy for approximately:

- A. Hours
- B. Minutes
- C. Several seconds
- D. First few seconds of contraction

31. Griffith's transformation experiment demonstrated:

- A. RNA carries genetic information
- B. DNA can transform bacteria
- C. Proteins are genetic material
- D. Viruses contain DNA

32. During the follicular phase, rising estrogen causes:

- A. Endometrial proliferation
- B. Corpus luteum formation
- C. Menstruation
- D. Ovulation

33. The primary site of nutrient absorption is the:
- A. Stomach
  - B. Large intestine
  - C. Esophagus
  - D. Small intestine
34. Long non-coding RNAs function in:
- A. Translation
  - B. Protein synthesis
  - C. Gene regulation
  - D. ATP production
35. Cones in the retina require:
- A. Dim light
  - B. Bright light
  - C. No light
  - D. Infrared light
36. Telomerase adds nucleotides to:
- A. 3' ends only
  - B. 5' ends only
  - C. Middle of DNA
  - D. Chromosome ends
37. Induced pluripotent stem cells are created from:
- A. Adult somatic cells
  - B. Embryos only
  - C. Germ cells
  - D. Umbilical cord
38. The I-band in a sarcomere contains:
- A. Only thin filaments
  - B. Only thick filaments
  - C. Both filaments
  - D. Z-discs only
39. Antidiuretic hormone (ADH) is produced by the:
- A. Adrenal cortex
  - B. Kidneys

- C. Hypothalamus
- D. Anterior pituitary

40. If  $p^2 = 0.49$  in a Hardy-Weinberg population, what is  $2pq$ ?
- A. 0.21
  - B. 0.49
  - C. 0.30
  - D. 0.42

**GENERAL CHEMISTRY (Questions 41-70)**

41. The electron configuration of phosphorus (atomic number 15) ends with:

- A.  $3s^2 3p^2$
- B.  $3s^2 3p^3$
- C.  $3s^1 3p^4$
- D.  $3s^2 3p^4$

42. Hund's rule states that electrons:

- A. Fill lowest energy orbitals first
- B. Cannot have identical quantum numbers
- C. Pair immediately
- D. Occupy orbitals singly before pairing

43. What is the pH of a solution with  $[H^+] = 1 \times 10^{-9} M$ ?

- A. 9
- B. 5
- C. 11
- D. 4

44. Which molecule exhibits the strongest intermolecular forces?

- A.  $CH_4$
- B.  $NH_3$
- C. HF
- D.  $H_2S$

45. In the reaction  $Fe_2O_3 + 3CO \rightarrow 2Fe + 3CO_2$ , iron is:

- A. Oxidized
- B. Reduced
- C. Neither
- D. The oxidizing agent

46. The f subshell contains how many orbitals?
- A. 7
  - B. 5
  - C. 9
  - D. 3
47. The azimuthal quantum number ( $l$ ) determines:
- A. Energy level
  - B. Electron spin
  - C. Orbital shape
  - D. Number of electrons
48. The pH of a buffer is maintained by:
- A. Strong acids
  - B. Weak acid and conjugate base
  - C. Strong bases
  - D. Water
49. Boyle's Law describes the relationship between:
- A. Pressure and volume
  - B. Volume and temperature
  - C. Pressure and temperature
  - D. Volume and moles
50. In  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , the oxidation state of sulfur is:
- A. +4
  - B. +2
  - C. +8
  - D. +6
51. A reaction with  $\Delta H < 0$  and  $\Delta S < 0$  is spontaneous at:
- A. High temperatures
  - B. Low temperatures
  - C. All temperatures
  - D. Never
52. How many grams are in 0.75 moles of NaOH? (Molar mass = 40 g/mol)
- A. 40 g
  - B. 53.3 g

- C. 30 g
- D. 60 g

53. Atomic radius generally decreases:

- A. Down a group
- B. Across a period from left to right
- C. With increasing mass
- D. Randomly

54. The acid dissociation constant is represented by:

- A.  $K_b$
- B.  $K_{sp}$
- C.  $K_w$
- D.  $K_a$

55. For spontaneity at all temperatures, a reaction must have:

- A.  $\Delta H < 0$  and  $\Delta S > 0$
- B.  $\Delta H > 0$  and  $\Delta S < 0$
- C.  $\Delta H > 0$  and  $\Delta S > 0$
- D.  $\Delta H < 0$  and  $\Delta S < 0$

56. A 2 M solution contains how many moles in 500 mL?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 0.5
- D. 1

57. How many sigma bonds are in a double bond?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 0

58. A weak acid has:

- A. Large  $K_a$
- B. Small  $K_b$
- C. Small  $K_a$
- D. No conjugate base

59. After one half-life, what percentage remains?

- A. 50%
- B. 25%
- C. 75%
- D. 100%

60. Which element has the largest atomic radius?

- A. Li
- B. Be
- C. K
- D. Rb

61. The molecular geometry of  $\text{NH}_3$  is:

- A. Linear
- B. Bent
- C. Trigonal pyramidal
- D. Tetrahedral

62. In an electrolytic cell, the cathode is:

- A. Positive
- B. Where reduction occurs
- C. Where oxidation occurs
- D. Neutral

63. At STP, 2 moles of an ideal gas occupy:

- A. 44.8 L
- B. 22.4 L
- C. 11.2 L
- D. 89.6 L

64. Atoms with the same mass number are called:

- A. Isotopes
- B. Isotones
- C. Allotropes
- D. Isobars

65. Zero-order reactions have a rate that is:

- A. Dependent on concentration
- B. Exponential
- C. Independent of concentration
- D. Zero

66. The conjugate acid of  $\text{NH}_3$  is:
- A.  $\text{NH}_2^-$
  - B.  $\text{NH}_4^+$
  - C.  $\text{NH}_5^{2+}$
  - D.  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$
67. The bond order of  $\text{O}_2$  is:
- A. 1
  - B. 3
  - C. 1.5
  - D. 2
68. If volume is held constant and temperature increases, pressure:
- A. Decreases
  - B. Remains constant
  - C. Increases
  - D. Becomes zero
69. The oxidation state of nitrogen in  $\text{NO}_2$  is:
- A. +2
  - B. +5
  - C. +4
  - D. +3
70. Boiling point elevation is a colligative property dependent on:
- A. Solute identity
  - B. Solute concentration
  - C. Temperature only
  - D. Solvent type only

### **ORGANIC CHEMISTRY (Questions 71–100)**

71. Alkanes are:
- A. Saturated hydrocarbons
  - B. Unsaturated compounds
  - C. Contain double bonds
  - D. Aromatic
72. The functional group of a carboxylic acid is:

- A. -OH
- B. -CHO
- C. -NH<sub>2</sub>
- D. -COOH

73. The IUPAC name for CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> is:

- A. Propane
- B. Pentane
- C. Butane
- D. Hexane

74. Constitutional isomers have:

- A. Same connectivity
- B. Different molecular formula
- C. Identical structures
- D. Different connectivity

75. Hydration of an alkene produces:

- A. Alkane
- B. Aldehyde
- C. Alcohol
- D. Ketone

76. Ketones are more reactive than:

- A. Aldehydes
- B. Esters
- C. Acid chlorides
- D. Anhydrides

77. Fehling's test is positive for:

- A. Ketones
- B. Aldehydes
- C. Alkanes
- D. Alkenes

78. The carbonyl carbon in aldehydes is:

- A. sp<sup>2</sup> hybridized
- B. sp<sup>3</sup> hybridized
- C. sp hybridized
- D. Not hybridized

79. In Markovnikov addition, the halogen adds to the:
- A. Less substituted carbon
  - B. Center carbon
  - C. Terminal carbon
  - D. More substituted carbon
80. Benzene has how many  $\pi$  electrons?
- A. 4
  - B. 8
  - C. 6
  - D. 10
81. Weak bases favor:
- A. E1
  - B. SN2
  - C. E2
  - D. SN1
82. Carboxylic acids are more acidic than phenols because:
- A. They are larger
  - B. They have more carbons
  - C. Phenols are basic
  - D. Better resonance stabilization
83. The aldol reaction involves:
- A. Aldehydes and ketones
  - B. Esters only
  - C. Alcohols only
  - D. Carboxylic acids
84. Strong bases promote:
- A. SN1
  - B. SN2
  - C. E2
  - D. No reaction
85. Which is more acidic than water?
- A. Ethanol
  - B. Phenol

- C. Methanol
- D. All alcohols

86. Amide reduction with  $\text{LiAlH}_4$  produces:

- A. Amine
- B. Alcohol
- C. Aldehyde
- D. Ketone

87. Enantiomers are:

- A. Constitutional isomers
- B. Identical
- C. Diastereomers
- D. Non-superimposable mirror images

88. In electrophilic aromatic substitution, benzene acts as:

- A. Electrophile
- B. Oxidizing agent
- C. Nucleophile
- D. Acid

89. Methyl halides undergo which reaction fastest?

- A.  $\text{E}_1$
- B.  $\text{S}_\text{N}2$
- C.  $\text{S}_\text{N}1$
- D.  $\text{E}_2$

90. Grignard reagents react with  $\text{CO}_2$  to form:

- A. Alcohols
- B. Aldehydes
- C. Ketones
- D. Carboxylic acids

91. The D/L system designates:

- A. Absolute configuration
- B. Optical rotation
- C. Molecular weight
- D. Boiling point

92. Sandmeyer reaction converts diazonium salts to:

- A. Amines
- B. Alcohols
- C. Aryl halides
- D. Phenols

93. A racemic mixture is:

- A. Pure compound
- B. Equal amounts of enantiomers
- C. Diastereomers
- D. Constitutional isomers

94.  $\text{LiAlH}_4$  reduces:

- A. All carbonyl compounds
- B. Alkenes only
- C. Alkynes only
- D. Aromatic rings

95. Secondary alcohols are oxidized to:

- A. Aldehydes
- B. Carboxylic acids
- C. Primary alcohols
- D. Ketones

96. Activating groups are:

- A. Meta-directing
- B. Ortho/para-directing
- C. Non-directing
- D. Deactivating

97. E2 elimination follows:

- A. Hofmann rule
- B. Markovnikov rule
- C. Zaitsev rule
- D. No rule

98. Fischer esterification produces:

- A. Amides
- B. Ketones
- C. Alcohols
- D. Esters

99. IR spectroscopy identifies:
- A. Functional groups
  - B. Molecular weight
  - C. Carbon environments
  - D. Hydrogen count
100. The integration in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR indicates:
- A. Chemical shift
  - B. Number of hydrogens
  - C. Splitting pattern
  - D. Peak position

## Perceptual Ability Test

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### ANGLE DISCRIMINATION (Questions 1–15)

**Directions:** Four angles are described. Rank them from SMALLEST to LARGEST.

1. [Angle Ranking] Four angles: Angle 1 =  $54^\circ$ , Angle 2 =  $40^\circ$ , Angle 3 =  $71^\circ$ , Angle 4 =  $29^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. 2-4-1-3
  - B. 4-1-2-3
  - C. 4-2-3-1
  - D. 4-2-1-3
2. [Angle Ranking] Angle P =  $63^\circ$ , Angle Q =  $51^\circ$ , Angle R =  $80^\circ$ , Angle S =  $72^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. Q-P-S-R
  - B. Q-S-P-R
  - C. P-Q-S-R
  - D. Q-P-R-S
3. [Angle Ranking] Four angles measure: Angle 1 =  $25^\circ$ , Angle 2 =  $57^\circ$ , Angle 3 =  $44^\circ$ , Angle 4 =  $38^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. 1-3-4-2
  - B. 4-1-3-2
  - C. 1-3-2-4
  - D. 1-4-3-2

4. [Angle Ranking] Angle A =  $91^\circ$ , Angle B =  $75^\circ$ , Angle C =  $68^\circ$ , Angle D =  $82^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. B-C-D-A
  - B. C-D-B-A
  - C. C-B-D-A
  - D. B-C-A-D
5. [Angle Ranking] Angle W is three-quarters of a right angle. Angle X =  $70^\circ$ . Angle Y =  $57^\circ$ . Angle Z =  $84^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. Y-W-X-Z
  - B. W-Y-X-Z
  - C. Y-X-Z-W
  - D. W-X-Y-Z
6. [Angle Ranking] Four angles: Angle 1 =  $22^\circ$ , Angle 2 =  $50^\circ$ , Angle 3 =  $36^\circ$ , Angle 4 =  $30^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. 1-3-4-2
  - B. 1-4-3-2
  - C. 1-2-3-4
  - D. 1-3-2-4
7. [Angle Ranking] Angle M =  $66^\circ$ , Angle N =  $90^\circ$ , Angle O =  $55^\circ$ , Angle P =  $73^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. O-M-N-P
  - B. M-O-P-N
  - C. O-P-M-N
  - D. O-M-P-N
8. [Angle Ranking] Four angles measure: Angle 1 =  $14^\circ$ , Angle 2 =  $41^\circ$ , Angle 3 =  $33^\circ$ , Angle 4 =  $50^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. 1-2-3-4
  - B. 1-3-4-2
  - C. 1-3-2-4
  - D. 1-4-2-3
9. [Angle Ranking] Angle A =  $48^\circ$ , Angle B =  $59^\circ$ , Angle C =  $37^\circ$ , Angle D =  $71^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. C-B-A-D
  - B. C-A-B-D
  - C. A-C-B-D

D. C-A-D-B

10. [Angle Ranking] Four angles: Angle 1 =  $74^\circ$ , Angle 2 =  $61^\circ$ , Angle 3 =  $83^\circ$ , Angle 4 =  $68^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. 2-4-1-3
  - B. 2-3-1-4
  - C. 2-1-4-3
  - D. 4-2-1-3
11. [Angle Ranking] Angle W =  $32^\circ$ , Angle X =  $60^\circ$ , Angle Y =  $43^\circ$ , Angle Z =  $51^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. W-X-Y-Z
  - B. W-Y-X-Z
  - C. W-Y-Z-X
  - D. W-Z-Y-X
12. [Angle Ranking] Four angles measure: Angle 1 =  $28^\circ$ , Angle 2 =  $35^\circ$ , Angle 3 =  $32^\circ$ , Angle 4 =  $46^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. 1-2-3-4
  - B. 1-3-4-2
  - C. 1-3-4-2
  - D. 1-3-2-4
13. [Angle Ranking] Angle P =  $67^\circ$ , Angle Q =  $45^\circ$ , Angle R =  $86^\circ$ , Angle S =  $58^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. Q-S-P-R
  - B. S-Q-P-R
  - C. Q-S-R-P
  - D. S-P-Q-R
14. [Angle Ranking] Four angles: Angle 1 =  $19^\circ$ , Angle 2 =  $47^\circ$ , Angle 3 =  $40^\circ$ , Angle 4 =  $54^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. 1-2-3-4
  - B. 1-3-4-2
  - C. 3-1-2-4
  - D. 1-3-2-4
15. [Angle Ranking] Angle A =  $81^\circ$ , Angle B =  $72^\circ$ , Angle C =  $93^\circ$ , Angle D =  $64^\circ$ . Rank from smallest to largest.
- A. D-A-B-C

- B. D-B-A-C
- C. A-B-D-C
- D. B-D-A-C

**PAPER FOLDING (Questions 16-30)**

**Directions:** A square piece of paper is folded one or more times, then hole(s) are punched. Determine the result when unfolded.

16. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded in half once, then nine holes are punched through both layers. How many total holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 18
  - B. 12
  - C. 16
  - D. 9
17. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded three times (creating 8 layers), then six holes are punched through all layers. How many total holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 24
  - B. 32
  - C. 48
  - D. 16
18. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded in half twice (creating 4 layers), then eight holes are punched through all layers. How many total holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 16
  - B. 24
  - C. 20
  - D. 32
19. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded in half once, then three holes are punched through both layers. How many total holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 3
  - B. 6
  - C. 8
  - D. 4
20. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded in half twice, then nine holes are punched through all layers. How many total holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 18

- B. 27
- C. 36
- D. 32

21. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded diagonally once, then five holes are punched exactly on the fold line. How many holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 5
  - B. 2
  - C. 10
  - D. 8
22. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded in half three times, then seven holes are punched through all layers. How many holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 42
  - B. 48
  - C. 24
  - D. 56
23. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded in half once, then eight holes are punched through both layers. How many total holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 8
  - B. 16
  - C. 12
  - D. 20
24. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded in half twice, then a hole is punched at one fold line. How many holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 2
  - B. 4
  - C. 1
  - D. 8
25. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded in half twice (into quarters), then five holes are punched through all layers. How many total holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 10
  - B. 16
  - C. 20
  - D. 15

26. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded diagonally once, then eight holes are punched away from the fold. How many total holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 8
  - B. 12
  - C. 18
  - D. 16
27. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded in half once, then thirteen holes are punched through both layers. How many holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 13
  - B. 26
  - C. 20
  - D. 18
28. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded in half three times, then four holes are punched at different locations. How many holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 16
  - B. 24
  - C. 32
  - D. 48
29. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded in half twice (creating 4 layers), then ten holes are punched through all layers. How many holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 20
  - B. 32
  - C. 36
  - D. 40
30. [Hole Punching] Paper is folded in half once, then fourteen holes are punched through both layers. How many holes appear when unfolded?
- A. 28
  - B. 24
  - C. 20
  - D. 14

### **CUBE COUNTING (Questions 31-45)**

**Directions:** Answer questions about unit cubes in various structures.

31. [Cube Counting] In a  $9 \times 9 \times 9$  cube, how many unit cubes have exactly 1 face exposed (face cubes)?
- A. 216

- B. 294
- C. 294
- D. 250

32. [Cube Counting] A solid  $10 \times 10 \times 10$  cube. How many unit cubes have exactly 3 faces exposed (corner cubes)?

- A. 6
- B. 8
- C. 12
- D. 4

33. [Cube Counting] A  $2 \times 5 \times 7$  rectangular prism. How many total unit cubes are in the structure?

- A. 60
- B. 70
- C. 80
- D. 50

34. [Cube Counting] A structure of 22 unit cubes arranged in a straight line. How many cubes have exactly 5 faces exposed (end cubes)?

- A. 1
- B. 0
- C. 2
- D. 4

35. [Cube Counting] In a  $9 \times 9 \times 9$  cube, how many unit cubes have exactly 0 faces exposed (completely interior)?

- A. 343
- B. 512
- C. 216
- D. 343

36. [Cube Counting] A  $7 \times 6 \times 4$  rectangular prism. How many unit cubes have exactly 3 faces exposed (corners)?

- A. 6
- B. 4
- C. 12
- D. 8

37. [Cube Counting] A solid  $9 \times 9 \times 9$  cube. How many unit cubes have exactly 2 faces exposed (edge cubes)?

- A. 84
- B. 72
- C. 60
- D. 96

38. [Cube Counting] A  $8 \times 6 \times 4$  rectangular prism. How many total unit cubes are in the structure?

- A. 160
- B. 180
- C. 192
- D. 210

39. [Cube Counting] In a  $9 \times 9 \times 9$  cube, how many unit cubes are NOT corner cubes?

- A. 721
- B. 721
- C. 729
- D. 713

40. [Cube Counting] A  $8 \times 6 \times 2$  rectangular prism. How many unit cubes are NOT corner cubes?

- A. 88
- B. 96
- C. 84
- D. 78

41. [Cube Counting] A pyramid structure: 81 cubes on bottom ( $9 \times 9$ ), continuing to 1 cube on top. How many cubes have exactly 3 exposed faces?

- A. 24
- B. 28
- C. 20
- D. 32

42. [Cube Counting] A  $7 \times 7 \times 6$  rectangular prism. How many unit cubes have exactly 2 faces exposed?

- A. 48
- B. 56
- C. 68
- D. 72

43. [Cube Counting] An L-shaped structure: 14 cubes in a row with 8 cubes stacked on one end (22 total). How many cubes have exactly 3 exposed faces?

- A. 9
- B. 8

- C. 10
- D. 11

44. [Cube Counting] An  $11 \times 11 \times 2$  rectangular prism. How many unit cubes have at least one face exposed?
- A. 220
  - B. 242
  - C. 234
  - D. 240
45. [Cube Counting] In an  $8 \times 8 \times 8$  cube, how many unit cubes have exactly 2 faces exposed?
- A. 60
  - B. 84
  - C. 96
  - D. 72

### **PATTERN FOLDING (Questions 46-60)**

**Directions:** Identify what 3D shape is formed when the described net is folded.

46. [Pattern Folding] A net consists of 6 squares in a proper cross configuration. What can this form?
- A. Cube
  - B. Pyramid
  - C. Open box
  - D. Partial cube
47. [Pattern Folding] A net shows 1 decagon with 10 triangles attached to each edge. What 3D shape is formed?
- A. Cube
  - B. Octagonal pyramid
  - C. Decagonal pyramid
  - D. Hexagonal prism
48. [Pattern Folding] A net consists of 5 squares arranged in an L-shape pattern. What does it form?
- A. Complete cube
  - B. Partial cube
  - C. Pyramid
  - D. Prism
49. [Pattern Folding] A net shows 2 hexagons and 6 rectangles all connected. What shape does it form?

- A. Hexagonal pyramid
  - B. Rectangular prism
  - C. Pentagon
  - D. Hexagonal prism
50. [Pattern Folding] A net shows 1 pentagon with 5 triangles attached to all five edges. What shape does it form?
- A. Square pyramid
  - B. Partial pyramid
  - C. Pentagonal pyramid
  - D. Prism
51. [Pattern Folding] A net consists of 2 squares in a row. What does it form?
- A. Partial structure
  - B. Pyramid
  - C. Complete cube
  - D. Prism
52. [Pattern Folding] A net has 8 equilateral triangles arranged to connect. What 3D shape is formed?
- A. Square pyramid
  - B. Triangular dipyramid
  - C. Cube
  - D. Octahedron
53. [Pattern Folding] A net consists of 3 rectangles and 2 triangles that connect. What does it form?
- A. Cone
  - B. Triangular prism
  - C. Pyramid
  - D. Cylinder
54. [Pattern Folding] A net shows 5 rectangles arranged around a central rectangle. What is it most likely to form?
- A. Pyramid
  - B. Rectangular prism (open ends)
  - C. Open rectangular box
  - D. Triangular prism
55. [Pattern Folding] A net shows 1 pentagon with 5 rectangles connecting around its edges. What 3D shape is formed?
- A. Pentagonal prism

- B. Hexagonal prism
  - C. Cube
  - D. Decagonal prism
56. [Pattern Folding] A net consists of 1 large octagon with 8 triangles attached to its edges. What shape does it form?
- A. Octagonal pyramid
  - B. Tetrahedron
  - C. Hexagonal pyramid
  - D. Octahedron
57. [Pattern Folding] A net shows 4 rectangles in a strip configuration. What can this form?
- A. Cube
  - B. Partial rectangular prism
  - C. Open box
  - D. Complete pyramid
58. [Pattern Folding] A net consists of 6 rectangles of equal dimensions. What shape does it form?
- A. Square pyramid
  - B. Tetrahedron
  - C. Triangular prism
  - D. Rectangular prism
59. [Pattern Folding] A net shows 3 squares properly connected. What can this form?
- A. Partial cube or open box
  - B. Complete cube
  - C. Pyramid
  - D. Prism
60. [Pattern Folding] A net consists of 2 pentagons and 5 rectangles properly arranged. What type of shape does this form?
- A. Rectangular prism
  - B. Pyramid
  - C. Pentagonal prism
  - D. Triangular prism

### **APERTURES / KEYHOLES (Questions 61-75)**

**Directions:** Determine which aperture shape a 3D object could pass through.

61. [Keyhole] An octagonal prism must pass through an aperture. Which aperture shape could work?
- A. Circle
  - B. Triangle
  - C. Square
  - D. Octagon or Rectangle
62. [Keyhole] An octagonal pyramid is oriented to pass through an aperture. Which aperture shape is possible?
- A. Circle
  - B. Octagon or Triangle
  - C. Rectangle only
  - D. Square
63. [Keyhole] A pentagonal prism passes through an aperture. Which shape would work?
- A. Pentagon or Rectangle
  - B. Circle
  - C. Triangle
  - D. Hexagon
64. [Keyhole] A nonagonal prism passes through an aperture. Which shapes are possible?
- A. Circle only
  - B. Pentagon only
  - C. Nonagon or Rectangle
  - D. Triangle only
65. [Keyhole] A square pyramid passes through an aperture. Which aperture is possible?
- A. Circle
  - B. Pentagon
  - C. Hexagon
  - D. Square or Triangle
66. [Keyhole] Which aperture shape would NOT work for a pentagonal prism?
- A. Pentagon
  - B. Circle
  - C. Rectangle
  - D. Triangle
67. [Keyhole] An octagonal pyramid must pass through an aperture. Which aperture is possible?
- A. Circle

- B. Pentagon
- C. Octagon or Triangle
- D. Square

68. [Keyhole] A hexagonal prism passes through an aperture. Which shape is possible?

- A. Hexagon or Rectangle
- B. Circle only
- C. Triangle
- D. Pentagon

69. [Keyhole] A pentagonal pyramid passes through an aperture. Which shape works?

- A. Square
- B. Hexagon
- C. Triangle
- D. Pentagon or Triangle

70. [Keyhole] Which 3D object could pass through a nonagonal aperture?

- A. Sphere
- B. Nonagonal prism
- C. Cylinder
- D. Octahedron

71. [Keyhole] A pentagonal prism passes through an aperture. Which shape is most likely?

- A. Pentagon or Rectangle
- B. Pentagon only
- C. Hexagon
- D. Square

72. [Keyhole] A triangular pyramid passes through an aperture. Which are the possible shapes?

- A. Square
- B. Pentagon
- C. Triangle
- D. Hexagon

73. [Keyhole] Which aperture shape would work for a hexagonal pyramid?

- A. Circle
- B. Square
- C. Pentagon
- D. Hexagon or Triangle

74. [Keyhole] An octagonal prism passes through an aperture. Which is NOT a possible aperture shape?
- A. Octagon
  - B. Circle
  - C. Rectangle
  - D. Triangle

### VIEW RECOGNITION (Questions 76-90)

**Directions:** Given views from different angles, identify the 3D shape or determine what a view would look like.

75. [Keyhole] Which 3D shape could pass through both an octagon and rectangle aperture?
- A. Sphere
  - B. Hexagonal prism
  - C. Octagonal prism
  - D. Cube
76. [Top-Front-End] Top view: octagon. Front view: rectangle. Side view: rectangle. What is the 3D shape?
- A. Octagonal prism
  - B. Cylinder
  - C. Square pyramid
  - D. Triangular prism
77. [Top-Front-End] Front view: hexagon. Top view: triangle. Side view: triangle. What is the shape?
- A. Hexagonal pyramid
  - B. Cone
  - C. Cylinder
  - D. Hexagonal pyramid
78. [Top-Front-End] An octagonal prism is viewed from the top. What shape appears?
- A. Rectangle
  - B. Octagon
  - C. Circle
  - D. Pentagon
79. [Top-Front-End] Top view: decagon. Front view: rectangle. Side view: rectangle. What is the shape?
- A. Decagonal prism
  - B. Hexagonal prism

- C. Pentagonal pyramid
- D. Rectangular prism

80. [Top-Front-End] A hexagonal prism is viewed from the side (perpendicular to hexagonal face). What shape appears?
- A. Square
  - B. Circle
  - C. Rectangle
  - D. Triangle
81. [Top-Front-End] Top view: hexagon. Front view: triangle. Side view: triangle. What is the shape?
- A. Tetrahedron
  - B. Triangular prism
  - C. Cone
  - D. Hexagonal pyramid
82. [Top-Front-End] Top view: octagon. Front and side views: rectangles. What is the shape?
- A. Cube
  - B. Octagonal prism
  - C. Pyramid
  - D. Cylinder
83. [Top-Front-End] A decagonal prism is viewed from the side (perpendicular to its decagonal face). What shape appears?
- A. Hexagon
  - B. Pentagon
  - C. Rectangle
  - D. Square
84. [Top-Front-End] Top view: pentagon. Front view: triangle. Side view: rectangle. What is the shape?
- A. Pentagonal pyramid
  - B. Cone
  - C. Rectangular pyramid
  - D. Triangular prism
85. [Top-Front-End] Top view: octagon. Front and side views: octagons. What is the shape?
- A. Sphere
  - B. Pentagonal prism
  - C. Cylinder
  - D. Octagonal structure

86. [Top-Front-End] An octagonal pyramid is viewed from directly above (looking at the base). What shape appears?
- A. Triangle
  - B. Octagon
  - C. Circle
  - D. Square
87. [Top-Front-End] A hexagonal prism is viewed from the end. What shape appears?
- A. Hexagon
  - B. Pentagon
  - C. Triangle
  - D. Circle
88. [Top-Front-End] Top view: pentagon. Front view: rectangle. Side view: rectangle. What is the shape?
- A. Rectangular prism
  - B. Pentagonal prism
  - C. Cylinder
  - D. Cube
89. [Top-Front-End] An octagonal pyramid is viewed from directly above. What shape appears?
- A. Triangle
  - B. Rectangle
  - C. Octagon
  - D. Pentagon
90. [Top-Front-End] Top view: T-shape. Front view: rectangle. Side view: rectangle. What type of structure is this?
- A. T-shaped block structure
  - B. Cylinder
  - C. Cube
  - D. Pyramid

## Reading Comprehension

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### PASSAGE I

Stem cell therapy promises revolutionary treatments for diseases by replacing damaged tissues with healthy cells. Unlike conventional drugs that manage symptoms, stem cells can regenerate tissues and restore function. However, challenges regarding safety, efficacy, delivery, and ethical considerations complicate translation from laboratory to clinic.

Stem cells divide and differentiate into specialized cell types. Embryonic stem cells (ESCs) from blastocysts are pluripotent—capable of forming any cell type from the three germ layers but not extraembryonic tissues. Adult stem cells like hematopoietic stem cells in bone marrow are multipotent, producing limited cell types within specific lineages. Induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) created by reprogramming adult cells using transcription factors (Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc) offer pluripotency without embryo destruction. iPSCs avoid immune rejection when derived from patients but require extensive safety validation as reprogramming factors can trigger tumor formation.

Clinical applications show varying success. Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation treats leukemia, lymphoma, and inherited blood disorders by replacing diseased bone marrow with healthy donor cells after chemotherapy or radiation destroys existing marrow. Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) from bone marrow, adipose tissue, or umbilical cord show immunomodulatory properties, reducing inflammation in conditions like Crohn's disease and graft-versus-host disease. Cardiac stem cell trials aim to regenerate heart tissue after myocardial infarction, though results remain modest with limited evidence of true regeneration versus paracrine effects where transplanted cells secrete factors supporting existing tissue. Neural stem cell therapy for Parkinson's disease and spinal cord injury shows promise in animal models but faces delivery challenges and concerns about uncontrolled proliferation.

Challenges include immune rejection when allogeneic (donor) cells are used, requiring immunosuppression that increases infection and cancer risk. Autologous (patient-derived) cells avoid rejection but may carry disease-causing mutations or age-related damage. Teratoma formation—tumors containing multiple tissue types—occurs if undifferentiated cells remain in transplants. Ensuring complete differentiation before implantation is critical but technically difficult. Cell survival after transplantation proves low; most transplanted cells die within days due to ischemia, inflammation, and lack of supportive environment. Strategies to improve engraftment include co-transplanting supporting cells, providing growth factors, or engineering cells to resist apoptosis.

Delivery methods critically impact outcomes. Systemic injection through bloodstream rarely delivers cells to target tissues as cells lodge in lungs, liver, and spleen. Direct injection into tissues provides better targeting but risks damage and uneven distribution. Biomaterial scaffolds seeded with stem cells offer structural support, guiding cell organization and providing sustained growth factor release. These tissue-engineered constructs show promise for cartilage, bone, and skin regeneration. Encapsulation in protective coatings shields cells from immune attack without requiring immunosuppression.

Ethical and regulatory considerations remain contentious. ESC research provokes moral objections regarding embryo destruction. Some countries ban ESC research entirely; others permit research using surplus IVF embryos. iPSC technology partially addresses these concerns though questions persist about propriety of creating cells with embryonic-like potential. The FDA regulates stem cell therapies as biological products requiring extensive clinical trials demonstrating safety and efficacy. Unproven "stem cell clinics" offering treatments for conditions from autism to aging exploit desperate patients, charging thousands for procedures lacking evidence. Medical societies warn against such clinics emphasizing that legitimate therapies remain limited to specific blood disorders and some burns/skin conditions.

1. Embryonic stem cells are:
  - A. Multipotent
  - B. Unipotent
  - C. Totipotent
  - D. Pluripotent
  
2. Adult stem cells like hematopoietic stem cells are:
  - A. Pluripotent
  - B. Totipotent
  - C. Multipotent
  - D. Can form any cell type
  
3. Induced pluripotent stem cells are created by:
  - A. Embryo extraction
  - B. Reprogramming adult cells
  - C. Cell fusion
  - D. Natural development
  
4. iPSCs avoid immune rejection when:
  - A. Derived from patients
  - B. From embryos
  - C. From donors
  - D. Never avoid rejection
  
5. Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation treats:
  - A. Heart disease
  - B. Parkinson's disease
  - C. Spinal injury
  - D. Leukemia and lymphoma
  
6. Mesenchymal stem cells show:
  - A. No special properties

- B. Only structural support
  - C. Immunomodulatory properties
  - D. Toxic effects
7. Cardiac stem cell trials show:
- A. Complete regeneration
  - B. Modest results with limited true regeneration
  - C. Perfect heart repair
  - D. No effects
8. Neural stem cell therapy faces challenges including:
- A. Perfect success
  - B. No obstacles
  - C. Easy delivery
  - D. Delivery challenges and proliferation concerns
9. Autologous cells:
- A. Avoid immune rejection
  - B. Always cause rejection
  - C. Come from donors
  - D. Require immunosuppression
10. Teratoma formation occurs when:
- A. Cells are differentiated
  - B. No cells remain
  - C. Undifferentiated cells remain in transplants
  - D. Cells die
11. Most transplanted cells die within days due to:
- A. Successful integration
  - B. Ischemia, inflammation, and lack of support
  - C. Perfect conditions
  - D. No known reasons
12. Systemic injection through bloodstream:
- A. Rarely delivers cells to target tissues
  - B. Always works perfectly
  - C. Provides best targeting
  - D. Is most effective

13. Biomaterial scaffolds function to:
- A. Kill cells
  - B. Prevent growth
  - C. Destroy tissue
  - D. Provide structural support and guide organization
14. ESC research faces ethical objections regarding:
- A. Nothing controversial
  - B. Universal acceptance
  - C. Embryo destruction
  - D. iPSC use
15. iPSC technology:
- A. Requires embryos
  - B. Partially addresses embryo concerns
  - C. Creates no ethical questions
  - D. Is universally banned
16. The FDA regulates stem cell therapies requiring:
- A. No testing
  - B. Minimal oversight
  - C. Immediate approval
  - D. Extensive clinical trials
17. Legitimate stem cell therapies are currently limited to:
- A. Specific blood disorders and some burns/skin conditions
  - B. All diseases
  - C. Anti-aging
  - D. Autism treatment

## **PASSAGE II**

Epigenetics—heritable changes in gene expression without DNA sequence alterations—profoundly influences development, disease, and evolution. Unlike genetic mutations that change DNA sequences, epigenetic modifications regulate which genes are expressed, when, and to what degree. Understanding these mechanisms reveals how environment and lifestyle impact health across generations.

DNA methylation adds methyl groups to cytosine bases, typically at CG dinucleotides (CpG sites). Gene promoter methylation generally silences transcription by recruiting proteins that condense chromatin or by physically blocking transcription factor binding. During development, methylation patterns establish cell identity—muscle cell genes become methylated and silenced in neurons while neuron genes are

methylated in muscle cells. Aberrant methylation contributes to cancer: tumor suppressor gene promoters become hypermethylated and silenced while oncogenes become hypomethylated and overexpressed. DNA methyltransferases (DNMTs) add methyl groups using S-adenosylmethionine as donor. Some methylation, particularly at imprinted genes, is maintained across cell divisions, ensuring parent-specific expression patterns persist.

Histone modifications regulate chromatin structure and gene accessibility. DNA wraps around histone octamers forming nucleosomes. Chemical modifications to histone tails—acetylation, methylation, phosphorylation, ubiquitination—create a "histone code" determining whether chromatin is open (euchromatin, transcriptionally active) or condensed (heterochromatin, inactive). Histone acetylation by histone acetyltransferases (HATs) neutralizes positive charges, loosening DNA-histone interactions and promoting transcription. Histone deacetylases (HDACs) remove acetyl groups, tightening chromatin and repressing genes. Histone methylation effects depend on which residues are modified: H3K4 methylation activates while H3K9 and H3K27 methylation typically represses transcription. HDAC inhibitors, used as cancer therapeutics, reactivate silenced tumor suppressor genes.

Non-coding RNAs mediate epigenetic regulation. Long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) recruit chromatin-modifying complexes to specific genomic locations. XIST lncRNA coats one X chromosome in female mammals, recruiting Polycomb repressive complexes that silence the chromosome through histone modifications—this X-inactivation ensures dosage compensation between XX females and XY males. MicroRNAs (miRNAs) fine-tune gene expression post-transcriptionally but also influence chromatin states. The interplay between DNA methylation, histone modifications, and non-coding RNAs creates stable but reversible epigenetic states.

Environmental influences demonstrate epigenetic plasticity. Nutritional factors affect methylation: folate and B vitamins provide methyl donors for DNMT activity. The Dutch Hunger Winter (1944-45 famine) caused persistent metabolic changes in exposed individuals and their children—prenatal malnutrition altered methylation of genes regulating growth and metabolism, increasing diabetes and cardiovascular disease risk decades later, demonstrating transgenerational epigenetic inheritance. Maternal behavior affects offspring epigenetics: rat pups receiving high maternal care show decreased methylation of glucocorticoid receptor genes, resulting in better stress responses throughout life. Conversely, childhood trauma and chronic stress increase methylation of stress response genes, potentially contributing to depression and anxiety.

Toxins and drugs induce epigenetic changes. Smoking alters methylation patterns in lung tissue, affecting cancer-related genes even years after cessation. Some effects persist in children of smokers, suggesting germline epigenetic transmission. Endocrine disruptors like bisphenol A (BPA) alter methylation during development, potentially affecting reproductive health and behavior across generations in animal models. Chemotherapy drugs targeting DNMTs or HDACs exploit cancer's epigenetic vulnerabilities, reactivating silenced genes without changing DNA sequence.

Epigenetic aging mechanisms include progressive loss of methylation at most genomic regions while CpG islands become hypermethylated. Telomere shortening associates with epigenetic changes affecting nearby genes. The "epigenetic clock"—age-predictive methylation patterns at specific CpG sites—accurately estimates biological age, sometimes diverging from chronological age. Accelerated epigenetic

aging correlates with disease risk and mortality. Interventions like caloric restriction slow epigenetic aging in animals, suggesting modifiable mechanisms. Conversely, obesity, smoking, and stress accelerate it.

18. Epigenetics involves:

- A. DNA sequence changes
- B. Gene expression changes without sequence alterations
- C. Only structural changes
- D. Protein synthesis only

19. DNA methylation typically:

- A. Activates genes
- B. Has no effect
- C. Silences transcription
- D. Destroys DNA

20. Aberrant methylation in cancer includes:

- A. No changes
- B. Only gene activation
- C. Normal patterns
- D. Tumor suppressor hypermethylation

21. DNA methyltransferases (DNMTs):

- A. Add methyl groups
- B. Remove methyl groups
- C. Destroy DNA
- D. Replicate DNA

22. Histone acetylation:

- A. Condenses chromatin
- B. Loosens DNA-histone interactions
- C. Destroys histones
- D. Has no effect

23. Histone deacetylases (HDACs):

- A. Add acetyl groups
- B. Destroy histones
- C. Remove acetyl groups
- D. Methylate DNA

24. H3K4 methylation typically:

- A. Activates transcription
- B. Silences genes
- C. Destroys chromatin
- D. Has no effect

25. XIST lncRNA functions in:

- A. Protein synthesis
- B. DNA replication
- C. Translation
- D. X-inactivation

26. X-inactivation ensures:

- A. Y chromosome function
- B. Dosage compensation
- C. Gene deletion
- D. Cell death

27. Folate and B vitamins affect methylation by:

- A. Destroying DNA
- B. Having no effect
- C. Providing methyl donors
- D. Removing methyl groups

28. The Dutch Hunger Winter study showed:

- A. No effects
- B. Temporary changes only
- C. Perfect health
- D. Transgenerational epigenetic effects

29. High maternal care in rats results in:

- A. Decreased glucocorticoid receptor methylation
- B. Increased stress
- C. Worse outcomes
- D. No effects

30. Childhood trauma and stress:

- A. Have no epigenetic effects
- B. Improve outcomes
- C. Increase methylation of stress genes
- D. Decrease all methylation

31. Smoking alters methylation patterns:
- A. Immediately reversibly
  - B. Persistently affecting cancer genes
  - C. With no lasting effects
  - D. Only temporarily
32. BPA exposure affects:
- A. Methylation during development
  - B. Nothing
  - C. Only adults
  - D. No biological systems
33. Chemotherapy drugs targeting DNMTs or HDACs:
- A. Change DNA sequence
  - B. Destroy all cells
  - C. Have no mechanism
  - D. Reactivate silenced genes
34. The "epigenetic clock" predicts:
- A. Nothing
  - B. Biological age
  - C. DNA mutations
  - D. Cell death

### **PASSAGE III**

Ocean acidification, often called "climate change's evil twin," results from the ocean absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide. As CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves in seawater, it forms carbonic acid, lowering pH and reducing carbonate ion availability. These chemical changes threaten marine ecosystems, particularly organisms with calcium carbonate structures, and may disrupt ocean food webs and fisheries.

The ocean has absorbed approximately 30% of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since the Industrial Revolution, buffering atmospheric warming but causing ocean pH to decline from 8.2 to 8.1—representing a 30% increase in hydrogen ion concentration (pH is logarithmic). Models project pH could reach 7.8 by 2100 under high-emission scenarios, levels unprecedented in millions of years. The rate of change exceeds anything in the geological record over comparable timescales, limiting organisms' evolutionary adaptation time.

Calcium carbonate exists in two main forms: calcite (more stable) and aragonite (more soluble). Many organisms use aragonite for shells and skeletons including corals, mollusks (oysters, mussels, clams), some plankton (pteropods, coccolithophores), and sea urchins. Acidification reduces carbonate ion concentration, making aragonite formation energetically expensive. At certain pH levels (saturation horizons rising toward surface), seawater becomes corrosive, actively dissolving existing calcium carbonate structures. Pteropods collected from acidified waters show shell pitting and thinning. Laboratory experiments demonstrate that organisms raised under projected future conditions produce weaker shells requiring more energy to build and maintain, leaving less energy for growth, reproduction, and predator avoidance.

Physiological effects extend beyond calcification. Fish exposed to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> show altered sensory function—impaired olfaction affects predator avoidance and habitat selection. Neurotransmitter systems, particularly GABA receptors, malfunction under acidification, altering behavior. Clownfish larvae exposed to high CO<sub>2</sub> lose ability to distinguish predator smells and choose appropriate habitat. These behavioral changes could disrupt population dynamics and community structure. Metabolic costs increase as organisms expend more energy maintaining acid-base balance through increased ion pumping. Growth rates decline as energy is diverted from growth to homeostasis.

Ecosystem impacts cascade through food webs. Pteropods form the base of Arctic and Antarctic food webs, providing crucial nutrition for salmon, whales, and seabirds. Their decline would reverberate through ecosystems. Coral reefs, already stressed by warming and bleaching, face additional acidification threats as reduced calcification weakens reef framework. Reef structural complexity provides habitat for 25% of marine species despite covering less than 1% of ocean area. Reef degradation eliminates habitat and nursery grounds, threatening fisheries supporting hundreds of millions. Kelp forests may expand as some species benefit from increased CO<sub>2</sub> for photosynthesis, potentially altering community composition. Ecosystem shifts toward jellyfish and algae—organisms tolerating acidification—could transform ocean ecology.

Regional variation in vulnerability exists. Cold water holds more dissolved CO<sub>2</sub>, making polar regions acidify faster. Upwelling zones like the U.S. West Coast already experience naturally acidic waters; additional anthropogenic acidification pushes conditions beyond organisms' tolerance ranges. The Pacific Northwest oyster industry has documented production failures when acidified waters reach hatcheries during upwelling events. Aquaculture increasingly monitors water chemistry and treats incoming water to maintain suitable conditions.

Addressing acidification requires reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions—no technological solution can reverse ocean-wide acidification. Even aggressive emission reductions leave oceans more acidic than pre-industrial levels for centuries due to ocean carbon cycle timescales. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> exchanges with surface ocean on decadal scales but mixing with deep ocean takes centuries. Some propose alkalinity enhancement—adding alkaline materials to neutralize acid—but global-scale deployment faces logistical and ecological challenges. Local interventions like watershed management reducing nutrient pollution may marginally

help by limiting compounding stressors. Marine protected areas might preserve refugia where organisms could persist and potentially adapt. Selective breeding programs explore developing acid-resistant strains of commercially important species like oysters.

35. Ocean acidification results from:

- A. Oil spills
- B. Plastic pollution
- C. Ocean absorbing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>
- D. Overfishing

36. Since the Industrial Revolution, ocean pH has declined from:

- A. 8.2 to 8.1
- B. 7.0 to 6.5
- C. 9.0 to 8.0
- D. 8.5 to 7.5

37. A pH decline from 8.2 to 8.1 represents:

- A. 10% increase in acidity
- B. 20% increase
- C. No change
- D. 30% increase in hydrogen ions

38. Aragonite is:

- A. A metal
- B. A gas
- C. A form of calcium carbonate
- D. A protein

39. Acidification affects aragonite formation by:

- A. Making it easier
- B. Making it energetically expensive
- C. Having no effect
- D. Destroying organisms immediately

40. Pteropods in acidified waters show:

- A. Shell pitting and thinning
- B. Enhanced growth
- C. No changes
- D. Larger shells

41. Fish exposed to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> experience:

- A. Perfect health
- B. Enhanced senses
- C. Growth only
- D. Impaired olfaction

42. GABA receptors in fish under acidification:

- A. Function perfectly
- B. Improve
- C. Malfunction
- D. Disappear

43. Clownfish larvae exposed to high CO<sub>2</sub>:

- A. Develop normally
- B. Lose ability to distinguish predator smells
- C. Grow faster
- D. Become stronger

44. Pteropods are important because they:

- A. Have no role
- B. Are predators only
- C. Cause problems
- D. Form base of Arctic/Antarctic food webs

45. Coral reefs cover less than 1% of ocean area but:

- A. Provide habitat for 25% of marine species
- B. Have no importance
- C. Contain no fish
- D. Are unaffected by acidification

46. Cold water holds more dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> making:

- A. Tropical regions acidify faster
- B. No difference
- C. Polar regions acidify faster
- D. Freshwater acidify

47. The Pacific Northwest oyster industry has documented:

- A. Record growth
- B. No changes
- C. Perfect conditions
- D. Production failures from acidified waters

48. Addressing acidification fundamentally requires:
- A. Nothing
  - B. Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - C. Adding more CO<sub>2</sub>
  - D. Ocean dumping
49. Even with emission reductions, oceans will remain more acidic for:
- A. Days
  - B. Weeks
  - C. Centuries
  - D. Hours
50. Marine protected areas might:
- A. Preserve refugia where organisms could persist
  - B. Worsen acidification
  - C. Have no benefit
  - D. Increase CO<sub>2</sub>

## Quantitative Reasoning

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1. What is the perimeter of a circle with diameter 10 cm? (Use  $\pi \approx 3.14$ )
- A. 15.7 cm
  - B. 78.5 cm
  - C. 62.8 cm
  - D. 31.4 cm
2. Solve for x:  $8x + 15 = 63$
- A. 5
  - B. 7
  - C. 6
  - D. 8
3. What is  $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{6}$ ?
- A.  $\frac{5}{6}$
  - B.  $\frac{3}{9}$
  - C.  $\frac{1}{2}$
  - D.  $\frac{2}{3}$

4. In a triangle with angles  $58^\circ$ ,  $74^\circ$ , and  $x^\circ$ , what is  $x$ ?
- A.  $52^\circ$
  - B.  $48^\circ$
  - C.  $58^\circ$
  - D.  $62^\circ$
5. What is the area of a rectangle with length 18 cm and width 11 cm?
- A.  $58 \text{ cm}^2$
  - B.  $180 \text{ cm}^2$
  - C.  $29 \text{ cm}^2$
  - D.  $198 \text{ cm}^2$
6. Solve the inequality:  $6x - 11 > 43$
- A.  $x > 6$
  - B.  $x > 10$
  - C.  $x > 9$
  - D.  $x < 9$
7. What is  $7^3 - 4^3$ ?
- A. 279
  - B. 343
  - C. 64
  - D. 215
8. If 55% of a number is 220, what is the number?
- A. 121
  - B. 350
  - C. 450
  - D. 400
9. What is the mean of  $\{22, 28, 34, 40, 46, 56\}$ ?
- A. 34
  - B. 40
  - C. 37
  - D. 38
10. A train travels 480 miles in 8 hours. What is its average speed?
- A. 50 mph
  - B. 70 mph
  - C. 60 mph

D. 80 mph

11. What is  $\frac{5}{8} - \frac{1}{4}$ ?

- A.  $\frac{1}{4}$
- B.  $\frac{3}{8}$
- C.  $\frac{1}{2}$
- D.  $\frac{4}{8}$

12. What is the slope of a line passing through points (4, 9) and (10, 21)?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 1

13. What is  $|-45| - |18|$ ?

- A. 63
- B. -27
- C. -63
- D. 27

14. If  $\frac{28}{x} = \frac{84}{90}$ , what is  $x$ ?

- A. 20
- B. 35
- C. 30
- D. 42

15. What is the surface area of a cube with edge length 8 cm?

- A.  $256 \text{ cm}^2$
- B.  $384 \text{ cm}^2$
- C.  $512 \text{ cm}^3$
- D.  $64 \text{ cm}^2$

16. Solve the system:  $x + y = 32$  and  $x - y = 14$

- A.  $x = 20, y = 12$
- B.  $x = 22, y = 10$
- C.  $x = 24, y = 8$
- D.  $x = 23, y = 9$

17. What is  $\tan 45^\circ$ ?

- A. 1

- B.  $\sqrt{3}/2$
- C.  $\sqrt{2}/2$
- D.  $1/2$

18. If a rectangle has area  $240 \text{ cm}^2$  and length  $20 \text{ cm}$ , what is its width?

- A.  $10 \text{ cm}$
- B.  $14 \text{ cm}$
- C.  $12 \text{ cm}$
- D.  $16 \text{ cm}$

19. What is the least common multiple (LCM) of 16 and 24?

- A. 8
- B. 48
- C. 96
- D. 32

20. A jar contains 8 red marbles and 12 blue marbles. What is the probability of drawing a red marble?

- A.  $2/5$
- B.  $3/5$
- C.  $1/2$
- D.  $1/3$

21. What is the distance between points  $(4, 6)$  and  $(10, 14)$ ?

- A. 8
- B. 10
- C. 12
- D. 6

22. If  $y$  varies directly as  $x$ , and  $y = 48$  when  $x = 6$ , what is  $y$  when  $x = 11$ ?

- A. 96
- B. 66
- C. 72
- D. 88

23. What is  $\cos 45^\circ$ ?

- A.  $\sqrt{2}/2$
- B.  $1/2$
- C.  $\sqrt{3}/2$
- D. 1

24. If a square has area  $169 \text{ cm}^2$ , what is its perimeter?
- A. 13 cm
  - B. 26 cm
  - C. 52 cm
  - D. 65 cm
25. Evaluate:  $f(x) = 6x - 13$  when  $x = 9$
- A. 41
  - B. 45
  - C. 48
  - D. 41
26. Convert 0.625 to a fraction in lowest terms.
- A.  $\frac{1}{2}$
  - B.  $\frac{3}{4}$
  - C.  $\frac{1}{4}$
  - D.  $\frac{5}{8}$
27. Solve for  $x$ :  $7x - 3 = 5x + 13$
- A. 10
  - B. 7
  - C. 8
  - D. 9
28. What is the volume of a cylinder with radius 5 cm and height 8 cm? (Use  $\pi \approx 3.14$ )
- A.  $314 \text{ cm}^3$
  - B.  $628 \text{ cm}^3$
  - C.  $785 \text{ cm}^3$
  - D.  $471 \text{ cm}^3$
29. What is the greatest common factor (GCF) of 63 and 81?
- A. 3
  - B. 7
  - C. 21
  - D. 9
30. In a triangle with angles  $52^\circ$ ,  $73^\circ$ , and  $x^\circ$ , what is  $x$ ?
- A.  $55^\circ$
  - B.  $60^\circ$
  - C.  $65^\circ$

D.  $50^\circ$

31. What is  $10^2 - 6^2$ ?

- A. 36
- B. 100
- C. 64
- D. 76

32. What is  $7/8 - 1/4$ ?

- A.  $3/4$
- B.  $5/8$
- C.  $1/2$
- D.  $6/8$

33. A cylinder has radius 8 cm and height 7 cm. What is its volume? (Use  $\pi \approx 3.14$ )

- A.  $351.68 \text{ cm}^3$
- B.  $879.04 \text{ cm}^3$
- C.  $703.36 \text{ cm}^3$
- D.  $1407.04 \text{ cm}^3$

34. What is 80 increased by 35%?

- A. 108
- B. 115
- C. 95
- D. 100

35. If  $\cos \theta = 1/2$ , what is  $\theta$  in degrees ( $0^\circ < \theta < 90^\circ$ )?

- A.  $45^\circ$
- B.  $30^\circ$
- C.  $60^\circ$
- D.  $90^\circ$

36. Solve:  $3(x - 4) = 2x + 8$

- A. 16
- B. 18
- C. 20
- D. 22

37. What is the range of the dataset: {26, 40, 32, 53, 35}?

- A. 27

- B. 32
- C. 21
- D. 26

38. If  $x^2 = 324$ , what are the possible values of  $x$ ?

- A. 324
- B.  $\pm 18$
- C. 162
- D. 18 only

39. What is  $\sin 45^\circ$ ?

- A.  $1/2$
- B. 1
- C.  $\sqrt{2}/2$
- D.  $\sqrt{3}/2$

40. Simplify:  $(48x^{11}y^9)/(8x^8y^6)$

- A.  $6x^4y^2$
- B.  $6x^3y^3$
- C.  $8x^3y^3$
- D.  $5x^3y^3$

## Answer Explanations - Practice Test 11

### Survey Of Natural Sciences

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#### 1. Correct Answer: C (DNA and ribosomes)

Mitochondria are unique organelles that contain their own circular DNA and ribosomes (70S type, similar to bacterial ribosomes). This supports the endosymbiotic theory suggesting mitochondria originated from ancient bacteria. The mitochondrial DNA encodes some proteins needed for mitochondrial function, though most mitochondrial proteins are encoded by nuclear DNA.

#### 2. Correct Answer: A (Atria to contract before ventricles)

The AV node (atrioventricular node) delays electrical signals for approximately 0.1 seconds before transmitting them to the ventricles via the bundle of His. This delay allows the atria to fully contract and empty blood into the ventricles before ventricular contraction begins, ensuring efficient heart pumping.

### **3. Correct Answer: D (Anaphase II)**

Sister chromatids separate during anaphase II of meiosis. In meiosis I, homologous chromosomes separate; in meiosis II, sister chromatids (which are still joined at the centromere after meiosis I) finally separate, similar to what occurs in mitosis. This produces four haploid cells with single-chromatid chromosomes.

### **4. Correct Answer: B (Stroma)**

The light-independent reactions (Calvin cycle) of photosynthesis occur in the stroma, the fluid-filled space surrounding the thylakoids in chloroplasts. The stroma contains enzymes needed for carbon fixation, including RuBisCO. The light-dependent reactions occur in the thylakoid membranes.

### **5. Correct Answer: C (Nonsense mutation)**

A nonsense mutation is a point mutation that changes a codon for an amino acid into a stop codon (UAA, UAG, or UGA). This results in premature termination of translation, producing a truncated, usually nonfunctional protein. Silent mutations don't change the amino acid, while missense mutations change one amino acid to another.

### **6. Correct Answer: A (Pancreas)**

The pancreas produces both insulin (which lowers blood glucose) and glucagon (which raises blood glucose). These hormones are produced by different cell types in the pancreatic islets (islets of Langerhans): beta cells produce insulin, and alpha cells produce glucagon. The pancreas is both an endocrine and exocrine gland.

### **7. Correct Answer: D (O<sub>2</sub>)**

Oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) is the final electron acceptor in aerobic cellular respiration. At the end of the electron transport chain, electrons are transferred to oxygen, which combines with protons to form water. This is why we need to breathe oxygen—without it, the electron transport chain stops, halting ATP production.

### **8. Correct Answer: C (Helicase)**

Helicase is the enzyme that unwinds the DNA double helix during replication by breaking the hydrogen bonds between complementary base pairs. This creates the replication fork where DNA polymerase can access the template strands. DNA polymerase synthesizes new DNA, ligase joins DNA fragments, and primase synthesizes RNA primers.

### **9. Correct Answer: B (Calcitonin)**

Increased blood calcium levels trigger the thyroid gland to secrete calcitonin, which lowers blood calcium by inhibiting osteoclast activity (reducing bone breakdown) and increasing calcium excretion by the kidneys. Parathyroid hormone (PTH) has the opposite effect, raising blood calcium when levels are low.

### **10. Correct Answer: D (Fibrinogen)**

Fibrinogen is a soluble plasma protein that is converted to fibrin during blood clotting. When activated by thrombin, fibrinogen polymerizes to form fibrin threads that create the mesh structure of a blood clot. Albumin maintains osmotic pressure, hemoglobin carries oxygen in red blood cells, and antibodies are immune proteins.

**11. Correct Answer: A (Renal cortex)**

The glomerulus (a capillary tuft where blood filtration occurs) is located in the renal cortex, the outer region of the kidney. Each glomerulus is surrounded by Bowman's capsule, forming the renal corpuscle. The cortex also contains the proximal and distal convoluted tubules.

**12. Correct Answer: C (AUG)**

AUG is the start codon in translation, coding for methionine in eukaryotes (or formyl-methionine in prokaryotes). Translation begins when the ribosome recognizes AUG on mRNA. UAA, UAG, and UGA are stop codons that signal translation termination.

**13. Correct Answer: B (Right atrium)**

The tricuspid valve is located between the right atrium and right ventricle. It prevents backflow of blood from the right ventricle into the right atrium during ventricular contraction. The valve has three cusps (leaflets), hence the name "tricuspid."

**14. Correct Answer: D (Down concentration gradient without energy)**

Simple diffusion is characterized by movement of molecules down their concentration gradient (from high to low concentration) without requiring energy (ATP) or transport proteins. Small, nonpolar molecules like O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> can diffuse directly through the lipid bilayer. This is a passive transport process.

**15. Correct Answer: A (Uric acid)**

Reptiles (and birds) primarily excrete nitrogenous waste as uric acid, a semi-solid paste that requires minimal water for elimination. This is an adaptation for water conservation in terrestrial environments. Aquatic animals excrete ammonia, while mammals excrete urea, which is less toxic than ammonia but requires more water than uric acid.

**16. Correct Answer: C (Both positive and negative control)**

The ara (arabinose) operon is regulated by both positive and negative control mechanisms. When arabinose is absent, AraC protein acts as a repressor. When arabinose is present, AraC changes conformation and acts as an activator along with cAMP-CAP, demonstrating dual regulation unlike the lac operon which has primarily negative control.

**17. Correct Answer: D (Passive exhalation)**

During passive (quiet) exhalation, both the diaphragm and external intercostal muscles relax. Exhalation occurs passively due to elastic recoil of the lungs and chest wall, without active muscle contraction. Forced exhalation requires contraction of internal intercostals and abdominal muscles.

**18. Correct Answer: A (Cleavage furrow formation)**

Cytokinesis in animal cells occurs through cleavage furrow formation. A contractile ring of actin and myosin filaments assembles at the cell equator and contracts, pinching the cell in two. Plant cells use cell plate formation instead because they have rigid cell walls. Binary fission occurs in prokaryotes.

**19. Correct Answer: D (LH)**

Luteinizing hormone (LH) triggers ovulation around day 14 of the menstrual cycle. The LH surge, caused by positive feedback from high estrogen levels, causes the mature follicle to rupture and release the egg. After ovulation, LH stimulates formation of the corpus luteum.

**20. Correct Answer: B (MHC Class II)**

Helper T cells (CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells) recognize antigens presented with MHC Class II molecules on antigen-presenting cells (dendritic cells, macrophages, B cells). Cytotoxic T cells (CD8<sup>+</sup>) recognize antigens presented with MHC Class I molecules. This restriction ensures appropriate immune responses.

**21. Correct Answer: C (Stomata)**

Transpiration—the loss of water vapor from plants—occurs primarily through stomata, small pores on leaf surfaces. Guard cells regulate stomatal opening and closing in response to environmental conditions. While some water loss occurs through cuticle and lenticels, stomata account for about 90% of transpiration.

**22. Correct Answer: D (Acetylcholine)**

Acetylcholine (ACh) is the neurotransmitter at the neuromuscular junction—the synapse between motor neurons and skeletal muscle fibers. When ACh binds to receptors on the muscle fiber membrane, it triggers depolarization that leads to muscle contraction. Acetylcholinesterase breaks down ACh to stop the signal.

**23. Correct Answer: A (Troponin)**

Calcium ions bind to troponin during muscle contraction. When calcium binds, troponin changes shape, causing tropomyosin to move away from myosin-binding sites on actin filaments. This exposure allows myosin heads to bind to actin and initiate the cross-bridge cycle that generates force.

**24. Correct Answer: C (Progesterone)**

Progesterone prepares the uterus for implantation by promoting secretory changes in the endometrium, making it receptive to the embryo. Progesterone is secreted by the corpus luteum after ovulation and maintains the endometrium during early pregnancy until the placenta takes over production.

**25. Correct Answer: B (Glycolysis and Krebs cycle)**

Substrate-level phosphorylation—direct transfer of phosphate group from a substrate to ADP to form ATP—occurs during both glycolysis and the Krebs cycle. Glycolysis produces 2 ATP this way, and the Krebs cycle produces 1 GTP/ATP per turn. Most ATP is produced by oxidative phosphorylation in the electron transport chain.

**26. Correct Answer: A (Innate immunity)**

The complement system is part of innate immunity—the first line of defense that responds rapidly without prior exposure. Complement proteins circulate in inactive forms and become activated in cascades, leading to pathogen opsonization, membrane attack complex formation, and inflammation. Some complement components also assist adaptive immunity.

**27. Correct Answer: B (Peripheral nervous system)**

Schwann cells produce myelin sheaths around axons in the peripheral nervous system (PNS). Each Schwann cell wraps around one segment of one axon. In the central nervous system (CNS), oligodendrocytes produce myelin. Myelin insulation increases nerve conduction velocity through saltatory conduction.

**28. Correct Answer: C (G1 checkpoint)**

The G1 checkpoint (restriction point) is a critical control point where DNA damage is checked before the cell commits to DNA replication. If damage is detected, the cell can pause for repair, or if damage is severe, undergo apoptosis. The G2 checkpoint also checks DNA but occurs after replication.

**29. Correct Answer: A (Reduce surface tension in alveoli)**

Surfactant (a mixture of phospholipids and proteins) produced by type II alveolar cells reduces surface tension in alveoli, preventing alveolar collapse during exhalation. Without surfactant, the work of breathing increases dramatically. Premature infants lacking surfactant develop respiratory distress syndrome.

**30. Correct Answer: D (First few seconds of contraction)**

Creatine phosphate (phosphocreatine) provides immediate energy for muscle contraction during the first few seconds (approximately 3-15 seconds) of intense activity. It rapidly regenerates ATP from ADP through the creatine kinase reaction: creatine phosphate + ADP → creatine + ATP. This system activates faster than glycolysis or oxidative phosphorylation.

**31. Correct Answer: B (DNA can transform bacteria)**

Griffith's transformation experiment (1928) demonstrated that DNA from dead virulent bacteria could transform living non-virulent bacteria into virulent forms. Though Griffith didn't identify DNA as the transforming substance (that was Avery-MacLeod-McCarty), his work showed that genetic material could be transferred between bacteria.

**32. Correct Answer: A (Endometrial proliferation)**

During the follicular phase of the menstrual cycle, rising estrogen levels from developing follicles cause endometrial proliferation—thickening of the uterine lining through cell division and increased blood supply. This prepares the endometrium for potential embryo implantation if fertilization occurs.

**33. Correct Answer: D (Small intestine)**

The small intestine is the primary site of nutrient absorption. Its enormous surface area (increased by villi, microvilli, and circular folds) and specialized transport mechanisms enable absorption of monosaccharides, amino acids, fatty acids, vitamins, and minerals. The duodenum, jejunum, and ileum each have specific absorption roles.

**34. Correct Answer: C (Gene regulation)**

Long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) function primarily in gene regulation. They can act as scaffolds for protein complexes, guide chromatin-modifying enzymes to specific genomic locations, affect transcription, or regulate mRNA stability. XIST lncRNA, for example, mediates X-chromosome inactivation. lncRNAs don't code for proteins but have important regulatory roles.

**35. Correct Answer: B (Bright light)**

Cones in the retina require bright light to function and are responsible for color vision and visual acuity. They contain photopsin pigments sensitive to different wavelengths (red, green, blue). Cones are concentrated in the fovea. Rods function in dim light but don't distinguish colors.

**36. Correct Answer: D (Chromosome ends)**

Telomerase adds repetitive nucleotide sequences (TTAGGG in humans) to chromosome ends (telomeres). Because DNA polymerase cannot fully replicate the 5' ends of linear chromosomes, telomeres shorten with each division. Telomerase activity is high in germ cells and stem cells but low in most somatic cells, contributing to cellular aging.

**37. Correct Answer: A (Adult somatic cells)**

Induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) are created from adult somatic cells (like skin fibroblasts) by introducing specific transcription factors (typically Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc). This reprogramming converts differentiated cells back to a pluripotent state similar to embryonic stem cells, avoiding ethical issues with embryo use.

**38. Correct Answer: A (Only thin filaments)**

The I-band in a sarcomere contains only thin (actin) filaments—no thick (myosin) filaments. The I-band spans from the Z-disc to where thick filaments begin. During contraction, the I-band shortens as thin filaments slide past thick filaments. The A-band contains thick filaments and remains constant in length.

**39. Correct Answer: C (Hypothalamus)**

Antidiuretic hormone (ADH, also called vasopressin) is produced by the hypothalamus and stored/released from the posterior pituitary. ADH increases water reabsorption in kidney collecting ducts by inserting aquaporin-2 channels, concentrating urine and conserving body water. Alcohol inhibits ADH release, causing increased urination.

**40. Correct Answer: D (0.42)**

If  $p^2 = 0.49$  in a Hardy-Weinberg population, then  $p = 0.7$ . Since  $p + q = 1$ ,  $q = 0.3$ . The frequency of heterozygotes is  $2pq = 2(0.7)(0.3) = 0.42$  or 42%. The genotype frequencies are:  $p^2 = 0.49$ ,  $2pq = 0.42$ ,  $q^2 = 0.09$ , which sum to 1.00.

**GENERAL CHEMISTRY (Questions 41-70)**

**41. Correct Answer: B ( $3s^2 3p^3$ )**

Phosphorus has atomic number 15, meaning 15 electrons. Following the Aufbau principle:  $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^3$ . The electron configuration ends with  $3s^2 3p^3$ . Phosphorus is in Group 15 with 5 valence electrons, needing three more electrons to complete its octet.

**42. Correct Answer: D (Occupy orbitals singly before pairing)**

Hund's rule states that electrons occupy degenerate orbitals (orbitals with the same energy) singly with parallel spins before pairing up. This minimizes electron-electron repulsion. For example, in the 2p subshell, electrons fill each of the three 2p orbitals singly before any orbital gets a second electron.

**43. Correct Answer: A (9)**

If  $[H^+] = 1 \times 10^{-9}$  M, then  $pH = -\log[H^+] = -\log(10^{-9}) = 9$ . A pH of 9 indicates a basic solution ( $pH > 7$ ). This tests understanding of the pH scale and logarithmic calculations.

**44. Correct Answer: C (HF)**

Hydrogen fluoride (HF) exhibits the strongest intermolecular forces among these molecules due to very strong hydrogen bonding. Fluorine is the most electronegative element, creating the strongest hydrogen bonds. While  $NH_3$  also has hydrogen bonding, HF's bonds are stronger.  $CH_4$  has only weak London dispersion forces.

**45. Correct Answer: B (Reduced)**

In the reaction  $Fe_2O_3 + 3CO \rightarrow 2Fe + 3CO_2$ , iron goes from +3 oxidation state in  $Fe_2O_3$  to 0 in elemental Fe. Gaining electrons (decrease in oxidation state) means iron is reduced. Carbon in CO is oxidized (from +2 to +4). Remember: OIL RIG (Oxidation Is Loss, Reduction Is Gain of electrons).

**46. Correct Answer: A (7)**

The f subshell contains 7 orbitals. Each orbital can hold 2 electrons, so the f subshell can hold a maximum of 14 electrons. The number of orbitals in subshells follows: s=1, p=3, d=5, f=7. The f orbitals start appearing at n=4 (4f, 5f, etc.).

**47. Correct Answer: C (Orbital shape)**

The azimuthal quantum number (l) determines orbital shape. For a given principal quantum number n, l can range from 0 to n-1. l = 0 represents s orbitals (spherical), l = 1 represents p orbitals (dumbbell-shaped), l = 2 represents d orbitals, and l = 3 represents f orbitals. The principal quantum number (n) determines energy level.

**48. Correct Answer: B (Weak acid and conjugate base)**

The pH of a buffer is maintained by a weak acid and its conjugate base (or a weak base and its conjugate acid). The weak acid neutralizes added base while the conjugate base neutralizes added acid, resisting pH changes. The Henderson-Hasselbalch equation describes buffer pH:  $\text{pH} = \text{pK}_a + \log\left(\frac{[\text{A}^-]}{[\text{HA}]}\right)$ .

**49. Correct Answer: A (Pressure and volume)**

Boyle's Law describes the inverse relationship between pressure and volume at constant temperature and amount of gas:  $P_1V_1 = P_2V_2$ . As pressure increases, volume decreases proportionally, and vice versa. This law explains why decreasing volume in a syringe increases pressure.

**50. Correct Answer: D (+6)**

In  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (sulfuric acid), hydrogen is +1 and oxygen is -2. Using the rule that oxidation states sum to zero for neutral molecules:  $2(+1) + S + 4(-2) = 0$ , which gives  $2 + S - 8 = 0$ , so  $S = +6$ . Sulfur's maximum oxidation state is +6.

**51. Correct Answer: B (Low temperatures)**

A reaction with  $\Delta H < 0$  (exothermic) and  $\Delta S < 0$  (entropy decreases) is spontaneous at low temperatures. Using  $\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$ , at low T, the negative  $\Delta H$  term dominates, making  $\Delta G$  negative (spontaneous). At high T, the positive  $T\Delta S$  term dominates, making  $\Delta G$  positive (nonspontaneous).

**52. Correct Answer: C (30 g)**

Mass = moles  $\times$  molar mass = 0.75 moles  $\times$  40 g/mol = 30 g. The molar mass of NaOH is: Na(23) + O(16) + H(1) = 40 g/mol. This tests the fundamental relationship between moles, mass, and molar mass.

**53. Correct Answer: B (Across a period from left to right)**

Atomic radius generally decreases across a period from left to right due to increasing nuclear charge pulling electrons closer while electron shielding remains relatively constant. Atomic radius increases down a group as additional electron shells are added, placing outer electrons farther from the nucleus.

**54. Correct Answer: D (K<sub>a</sub>)**

$K_a$  (acid dissociation constant) is the equilibrium constant for acid dissociation:  $HA \rightleftharpoons H^+ + A^-$ , where  $K_a = \frac{[H^+][A^-]}{[HA]}$ . Larger  $K_a$  values indicate stronger acids.  $K_b$  is the base dissociation constant,  $K_{sp}$  is the solubility product, and  $K_w$  is the water dissociation constant.

**55. Correct Answer: A ( $\Delta H < 0$  and  $\Delta S > 0$ )**

For a reaction to be spontaneous at all temperatures, it must have  $\Delta H < 0$  (exothermic) and  $\Delta S > 0$  (entropy increases). Using  $\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$ , both terms contribute to negative  $\Delta G$  regardless of temperature (negative  $\Delta H$  and negative  $-T\Delta S$ ), making the reaction always spontaneous.

**56. Correct Answer: D (1)**

Moles = Molarity  $\times$  Volume (in liters) =  $2 \text{ M} \times 0.5 \text{ L} = 1 \text{ mole}$ . Remember to convert 500 mL to 0.5 L. This tests understanding of the molarity formula:  $M = \text{moles/L}$ .

**57. Correct Answer: A (1)**

A double bond consists of one sigma ( $\sigma$ ) bond and one pi ( $\pi$ ) bond, for a total of two bonds. The sigma bond forms from head-on orbital overlap along the internuclear axis, while the pi bond forms from parallel p orbital overlap above and below the axis. The question asks specifically for sigma bonds, which is 1.

**58. Correct Answer: C (Small  $K_a$ )**

A weak acid has a small  $K_a$  (acid dissociation constant), typically less than 1. Weak acids only partially dissociate in water, establishing equilibrium between the acid and its dissociation products. Strong acids have very large  $K_a$  values ( $K_a \gg 1$ ) and dissociate nearly completely.

**59. Correct Answer: A (50%)**

After one half-life, 50% of the original radioactive material remains. The half-life is the time required for half of a radioactive sample to decay. After  $n$  half-lives, the fraction remaining is  $(1/2)^n$ . This is a fundamental concept in radioactive decay kinetics.

**60. Correct Answer: D (Rb)**

Rubidium (Rb) has the largest atomic radius among these elements. Atomic radius increases down a group as additional electron shells are added. Rb is in Period 5, below K (Period 4), below Li (Period 2). Within a period, atomic radius decreases from left to right.

**61. Correct Answer: C (Trigonal pyramidal)**

The molecular geometry of  $NH_3$  (ammonia) is trigonal pyramidal. Nitrogen has 4 electron groups (3 bonding pairs with hydrogen and 1 lone pair), giving tetrahedral electron geometry. However, molecular geometry considers only atoms, so with one lone pair, the shape is trigonal pyramidal with bond angles of approximately  $107^\circ$ .

**62. Correct Answer: B (Where reduction occurs)**

In an electrolytic cell (which uses electrical energy to drive a nonspontaneous reaction), the cathode is where reduction occurs. Electrons enter the cell at the cathode. In electrolytic cells, the cathode is negative (connected to the negative terminal of the power source). Remember: RED CAT (Reduction at Cathode).

**63. Correct Answer: A (44.8 L)**

At STP, one mole of gas occupies 22.4 L. Therefore, 2 moles occupy  $2 \times 22.4 = 44.8$  L. This uses Avogadro's Law and the molar volume at STP ( $0^\circ\text{C}$ , 1 atm). The ideal gas law confirms:  $V = nRT/P = (2)(0.0821)(273)/1 = 44.8$  L.

**64. Correct Answer: D (Isobars)**

Isobars are atoms with the same mass number (total protons + neutrons) but different atomic numbers (different elements). For example,  $^{14}\text{C}$  (6 protons, 8 neutrons) and  $^{14}\text{N}$  (7 protons, 7 neutrons) are isobars. Isotopes have the same atomic number but different mass numbers; isotones have the same number of neutrons.

**65. Correct Answer: C (Independent of concentration)**

Zero-order reactions have a rate that is independent of the concentration of reactants. The rate law is: rate = k (a constant). The rate remains constant until the reactant is depleted. Zero-order kinetics often occur when a catalyst or enzyme is saturated. The integrated rate law is  $[A] = [A]_0 - kt$ .

**66. Correct Answer: B ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ )**

The conjugate acid of  $\text{NH}_3$  (ammonia) is  $\text{NH}_4^+$  (ammonium ion). When a base accepts a proton ( $\text{H}^+$ ), it forms its conjugate acid:  $\text{NH}_3 + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{NH}_4^+$ . Ammonia is a weak base; ammonium is its weak conjugate acid.

**67. Correct Answer: D (2)**

The bond order of  $\text{O}_2$  is 2. Using molecular orbital theory,  $\text{O}_2$  has 10 bonding electrons and 6 antibonding electrons: bond order = (bonding - antibonding)/2 = (10-6)/2 = 2. This corresponds to a double bond ( $\text{O}=\text{O}$ ).  $\text{O}_2$  also has two unpaired electrons, making it paramagnetic.

**68. Correct Answer: C (Increases)**

According to Gay-Lussac's Law (or the pressure-temperature relationship at constant volume), if temperature increases, pressure increases proportionally:  $P_1/T_1 = P_2/T_2$ . Higher temperature means greater molecular kinetic energy and more frequent/forceful collisions with container walls, increasing pressure. Temperature must be in Kelvin.

**69. Correct Answer: C (+4)**

In  $\text{NO}_2$  (nitrogen dioxide), oxygen has -2 oxidation state. For the neutral molecule:  $\text{N} + 2(-2) = 0$ , so  $\text{N} - 4 = 0$ , giving  $\text{N} = +4$ . Nitrogen can have oxidation states ranging from -3 to +5. In  $\text{NO}_2$ , nitrogen is in the +4 state.

**70. Correct Answer: B (Solute concentration)**

Boiling point elevation is a colligative property that depends on the concentration (number) of solute particles in solution, not their identity. The relationship is:  $\Delta T_b = K_b \times m \times i$ , where  $K_b$  is the ebullioscopic constant,  $m$  is molality, and  $i$  is the van't Hoff factor. More solute particles cause greater boiling point elevation.

**ORGANIC CHEMISTRY (Questions 71-100)****71. Correct Answer: A (Saturated hydrocarbons)**

Alkanes are saturated hydrocarbons containing only carbon-carbon single bonds and carbon-hydrogen bonds, with the general formula  $C_nH_{2n+2}$ . "Saturated" means they contain the maximum number of hydrogen atoms possible—no double or triple bonds. Examples include methane ( $CH_4$ ), ethane ( $C_2H_6$ ), and propane ( $C_3H_8$ ).

**72. Correct Answer: D (-COOH)**

The functional group of a carboxylic acid is  $-COOH$  (carboxyl group), consisting of a carbonyl ( $C=O$ ) and hydroxyl ( $-OH$ ) group attached to the same carbon.  $-OH$  alone is an alcohol,  $-CHO$  is an aldehyde, and  $-NH_2$  is an amine. Examples of carboxylic acids include acetic acid ( $CH_3COOH$ ) and formic acid ( $HCOOH$ ).

**73. Correct Answer: C (Butane)**

The IUPAC name for  $CH_3CH_2CH_2CH_3$  is butane. This is a straight-chain alkane with 4 carbons. The naming system uses: meth- (1C), eth- (2C), prop- (3C), but- (4C), pent- (5C), hex- (6C), etc., with the suffix -ane for alkanes.

**74. Correct Answer: D (Different connectivity)**

Constitutional isomers (also called structural isomers) have the same molecular formula but different connectivity—different arrangements of atoms. The atoms are bonded together in different ways, creating distinct structures with different properties. For example, butane ( $CH_3-CH_2-CH_2-CH_3$ ) and isobutane ( $CH_3-CH(CH_3)-CH_3$ ) are constitutional isomers. Both have the molecular formula  $C_4H_{10}$ , but the carbon skeleton is arranged differently. Constitutional isomers differ from stereoisomers, which have the same connectivity but different spatial arrangements. This is a fundamental concept in organic chemistry for understanding molecular structure and isomerism.

**75. Correct Answer: C (Alcohol)**

Hydration of an alkene (addition of water across the double bond) produces an alcohol. The reaction typically uses acid catalyst ( $H_2SO_4$ ) and follows Markovnikov's rule: the  $OH$  group adds to the more substituted carbon. For example, propene +  $H_2O \rightarrow$  2-propanol. The reaction converts  $C=C + H-OH \rightarrow$   $C-C$  with  $-OH$  on one carbon and  $-H$  on the other.

**76. Correct Answer: B (Esters)**

Ketones are more reactive than esters toward nucleophilic attack but less reactive than aldehydes or acid chlorides. Reactivity order for carbonyl compounds: acid chloride > anhydride > aldehyde > ketone > ester > amide > carboxylate. Ketones are less reactive than aldehydes because they have two electron-donating alkyl groups rather than one.

**77. Correct Answer: B (Aldehydes)**

Fehling's test (like Benedict's and Tollens' tests) is positive for aldehydes and reducing sugars. The test uses copper(II) ions in alkaline solution, which are reduced to copper(I) oxide (brick-red precipitate) by the aldehyde. Ketones generally don't react (except  $\alpha$ -hydroxy ketones). This distinguishes aldehydes from ketones.

**78. Correct Answer: A ( $sp^2$  hybridized)**

The carbonyl carbon in aldehydes (and all carbonyl compounds) is  $sp^2$  hybridized. It forms three sigma bonds (one to oxygen, two to other groups) using three  $sp^2$  hybrid orbitals arranged in trigonal planar geometry ( $120^\circ$  angles), and has one unhybridized p orbital forming the  $\pi$  bond with oxygen.

**79. Correct Answer: D (More substituted carbon)**

In Markovnikov addition of HX to alkenes, the halogen (X) adds to the more substituted carbon, and hydrogen adds to the less substituted carbon. This occurs because the mechanism proceeds through the more stable carbocation intermediate (tertiary > secondary > primary). For example, propene + HBr  $\rightarrow$  2-bromopropane (not 1-bromopropane).

**80. Correct Answer: C (6)**

Benzene has 6  $\pi$  electrons in its aromatic ring, satisfying Hückel's rule for aromaticity ( $4n+2$   $\pi$  electrons, where  $n=1$ ). Each of the six carbon atoms contributes one electron from a p orbital to the delocalized  $\pi$  system. This delocalization provides exceptional stability (aromatic stabilization).

**81. Correct Answer: B ( $SN_2$ )**

Weak bases favor  $SN_2$  (substitution, nucleophilic, bimolecular) reactions. While not as effective as strong nucleophiles, weak bases can still act as nucleophiles in  $SN_2$  mechanisms. Strong bases tend to favor  $E_2$  (elimination) reactions.  $SN_2$  reactions also favor primary substrates and polar aprotic solvents.

**82. Correct Answer: D (Better resonance stabilization)**

Carboxylic acids ( $pK_a \approx 4-5$ ) are more acidic than phenols ( $pK_a \approx 10$ ) because the carboxylate ion has better resonance stabilization than the phenoxide ion. In carboxylate ions, the negative charge is equally distributed between two equivalent oxygen atoms through resonance. Phenoxide has resonance into the ring but less effective delocalization.

**83. Correct Answer: A (Aldehydes and ketones)**

The aldol reaction involves aldehydes and/or ketones. Under base catalysis, an enolate ion (from one carbonyl compound) acts as a nucleophile attacking another carbonyl compound, forming a  $\beta$ -hydroxy aldehyde or ketone (aldol = aldehyde + alcohol). Dehydration of the aldol product yields an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compound.

**84. Correct Answer: C (E2)**

Strong bases promote E2 (elimination, bimolecular) reactions. E2 is a concerted mechanism where a strong base removes a  $\beta$ -proton as the leaving group departs and the double bond forms simultaneously. Strong bases like  $\text{OH}^-$ ,  $\text{OR}^-$ , or  $\text{NaNH}_2$  favor elimination over substitution. E2 competes with  $\text{SN}_2$ .

**85. Correct Answer: B (Phenol)**

Phenol ( $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{pK}_a \approx 10$ ) is more acidic than water ( $\text{pK}_a = 15.7$ ), ethanol ( $\text{pK}_a \approx 16$ ), and methanol ( $\text{pK}_a \approx 15.5$ ) due to resonance stabilization of the phenoxide ion. The negative charge delocalizes into the aromatic ring through resonance. However, carboxylic acids are even more acidic than phenol.

**86. Correct Answer: A (Amine)**

Reduction of an amide with  $\text{LiAlH}_4$  (lithium aluminum hydride, a strong reducing agent) produces an amine. The carbonyl is reduced to  $\text{CH}_2$ , maintaining the nitrogen:  $\text{RCONH}_2 + \text{LiAlH}_4 \rightarrow \text{RCH}_2\text{NH}_2$ . This differs from ester reduction (which gives alcohols).  $\text{NaBH}_4$  doesn't reduce amides.

**87. Correct Answer: D (Non-superimposable mirror images)**

Enantiomers are stereoisomers that are non-superimposable mirror images of each other, like left and right hands. They have identical physical properties (melting point, boiling point) except they rotate plane-polarized light in opposite directions. Enantiomers have the same connectivity but different 3D arrangements of atoms in space.

**88. Correct Answer: C (Nucleophile)**

In electrophilic aromatic substitution (EAS), benzene acts as a nucleophile (electron donor). The  $\pi$  electrons of the aromatic ring attack the electrophile (electron-poor species), forming a carbocation intermediate (arenium ion). Loss of a proton restores aromaticity. The benzene ring is electron-rich and attacks electron-poor electrophiles.

**89. Correct Answer: B (SN2)**

Methyl halides ( $\text{CH}_3\text{X}$ ) undergo  $\text{SN}_2$  (substitution, nucleophilic, bimolecular) reactions fastest because they have no steric hindrance around the carbon bearing the leaving group.  $\text{SN}_2$  reactivity order: methyl > primary >> secondary >>> tertiary (essentially doesn't occur). Tertiary halides favor  $\text{SN}_1$  and  $\text{E}_1$  due to carbocation stability.

**90. Correct Answer: D (Carboxylic acids)**

Grignard reagents react with  $\text{CO}_2$  to form carboxylic acids after acidic workup. The Grignard ( $\text{R-MgX}$ ) attacks  $\text{CO}_2$ , forming a carboxylate intermediate ( $\text{RCO}_2^- \text{MgX}^+$ ), which upon protonation yields the carboxylic acid ( $\text{RCOOH}$ ). This is a useful method for synthesizing carboxylic acids from alkyl halides.

**91. Correct Answer: A (Absolute configuration)**

The D/L system designates absolute configuration of molecules, particularly amino acids and sugars, based on comparison to glyceraldehyde. D and L describe the spatial arrangement of groups around a stereocenter. This system differs from d/l (or +/-), which describes optical rotation direction (dextrorotatory/levorotatory).

**92. Correct Answer: C (Aryl halides)**

The Sandmeyer reaction converts diazonium salts ( $\text{Ar-N}_2^+$ ) to aryl halides ( $\text{Ar-X}$ ) using copper(I) halides ( $\text{CuCl}$ ,  $\text{CuBr}$ ,  $\text{CuI}$ ). For example:  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{N}_2^+\text{Cl}^- + \text{CuCl} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{Cl} + \text{N}_2 + \text{CuCl}_2$ . This reaction is useful for introducing halogens onto aromatic rings via diazonium salt intermediates formed from aniline.

**93. Correct Answer: B (Equal amounts of enantiomers)**

A racemic mixture (racemate) contains equal amounts (50:50 ratio) of two enantiomers. Because the enantiomers rotate plane-polarized light in opposite directions by equal amounts, a racemic mixture shows no net optical rotation (optically inactive) despite containing chiral molecules. Racemic mixtures are designated ( $\pm$ ) or (d,l).

**94. Correct Answer: A (All carbonyl compounds)**

$\text{LiAlH}_4$  (lithium aluminum hydride) is a very strong reducing agent that reduces almost all carbonyl compounds including aldehydes, ketones, esters, carboxylic acids, and amides. Aldehydes and ketones reduce to alcohols; esters reduce to primary alcohols; carboxylic acids reduce to primary alcohols; amides reduce to amines.  $\text{LiAlH}_4$  also reduces other functional groups.

**95. Correct Answer: D (Ketones)**

Secondary alcohols are oxidized to ketones by oxidizing agents like chromic acid ( $\text{H}_2\text{CrO}_4$ ), PCC (pyridinium chlorochromate), or  $\text{KMnO}_4$ . The oxidation cannot proceed further because ketones lack the hydrogen on the carbonyl carbon needed for further oxidation. Primary alcohols oxidize to aldehydes then carboxylic acids; tertiary alcohols resist oxidation.

**96. Correct Answer: B (Ortho/para-directing)**

Activating groups (electron-donating groups like  $-\text{OH}$ ,  $-\text{OR}$ ,  $-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{R}$ ,  $-\text{O}^-$ ) are ortho/para-directing in electrophilic aromatic substitution. They increase the electron density of the aromatic ring (especially at ortho and para positions) through resonance and/or induction, making these positions most reactive toward electrophiles. They also increase overall reaction rate.

**97. Correct Answer: C (Zaitsev rule)**

E2 elimination typically follows Zaitsev's rule (also spelled Saytzeff): the major product is the more substituted (more stable) alkene. The base preferentially removes the  $\beta$ -hydrogen that gives the more substituted double bond. Hofmann elimination (with bulky bases or poor leaving groups) gives the less substituted alkene.

**98. Correct Answer: D (Esters)**

Fischer esterification produces esters from the reaction of a carboxylic acid and an alcohol with acid catalyst:  $\text{RCOOH} + \text{R}'\text{OH} \rightleftharpoons \text{RCOOR}' + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The reaction is reversible and equilibrium-driven. To drive it forward, water is removed or excess reagent is used. This is a key method for ester synthesis.

**99. Correct Answer: A (Functional groups)**

IR (infrared) spectroscopy identifies functional groups by detecting characteristic vibrations of chemical bonds. Different functional groups absorb IR radiation at specific wavenumbers: O-H stretch (broad,  $3200\text{-}3600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), C=O stretch (sharp,  $1650\text{-}1750\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), N-H stretch, C-H stretch, etc. IR provides a "fingerprint" of functional groups present.

**100. Correct Answer: B (Number of hydrogens)**

The integration in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR indicates the relative number of hydrogens in each environment. The area under each peak is proportional to the number of equivalent hydrogens giving that signal. Integration values show ratios like 3:2:1, revealing how many hydrogens of each type are present in the molecule.

## Perceptual Ability Test

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### ANGLE DISCRIMINATION (Questions 1-15)

**1. Correct Answer: D (4-2-1-3)**

The angles in order from smallest to largest are: Angle 4 ( $29^\circ$ ) < Angle 2 ( $40^\circ$ ) < Angle 1 ( $54^\circ$ ) < Angle 3 ( $71^\circ$ ). This gives the sequence 4-2-1-3, correctly ranking all four angles from smallest to largest based on their degree measurements.

**2. Correct Answer: A (Q-P-S-R)**

The angles rank as: Angle Q ( $51^\circ$ ) < Angle P ( $63^\circ$ ) < Angle S ( $72^\circ$ ) < Angle R ( $80^\circ$ ). The sequence Q-P-S-R correctly orders these angles from smallest to largest.

**3. Correct Answer: D (1-4-3-2)**

The angles in order are: Angle 1 ( $25^\circ$ ) < Angle 4 ( $38^\circ$ ) < Angle 3 ( $44^\circ$ ) < Angle 2 ( $57^\circ$ ). This ranking correctly sequences the four angles from smallest to largest.

**4. Correct Answer: C (C-B-D-A)**

The angles rank as: Angle C ( $68^\circ$ ) < Angle B ( $75^\circ$ ) < Angle D ( $82^\circ$ ) < Angle A ( $91^\circ$ ). The sequence C-B-D-A correctly orders these angles from smallest to largest.

**5. Correct Answer: A (Y-W-X-Z)**

Angle W =  $67.5^\circ$  (three-quarters of  $90^\circ$ ), Angle X =  $70^\circ$ , Angle Y =  $57^\circ$ , Angle Z =  $84^\circ$ . The order is: Y ( $57^\circ$ ) < W ( $67.5^\circ$ ) < X ( $70^\circ$ ) < Z ( $84^\circ$ ). The sequence Y-W-X-Z is the correct ascending order.

**6. Correct Answer: B (1-4-3-2)**

The angles rank as: Angle 1 ( $22^\circ$ ) < Angle 4 ( $30^\circ$ ) < Angle 3 ( $36^\circ$ ) < Angle 2 ( $50^\circ$ ). This sequence correctly orders the angles from smallest to largest.

**7. Correct Answer: D (O-M-P-N)**

The angles in order are: Angle O ( $55^\circ$ ) < Angle M ( $66^\circ$ ) < Angle P ( $73^\circ$ ) < Angle N ( $90^\circ$ ). The sequence O-M-P-N correctly ranks these angles.

**8. Correct Answer: C (1-3-2-4)**

The angles rank as: Angle 1 ( $14^\circ$ ) < Angle 3 ( $33^\circ$ ) < Angle 2 ( $41^\circ$ ) < Angle 4 ( $50^\circ$ ). This sequence correctly orders the angles from smallest to largest.

**9. Correct Answer: B (C-A-B-D)**

The angles in order are: Angle C ( $37^\circ$ ) < Angle A ( $48^\circ$ ) < Angle B ( $59^\circ$ ) < Angle D ( $71^\circ$ ). The sequence C-A-B-D correctly ranks these angles.

**10. Correct Answer: A (2-4-1-3)**

The angles rank as: Angle 2 ( $61^\circ$ ) < Angle 4 ( $68^\circ$ ) < Angle 1 ( $74^\circ$ ) < Angle 3 ( $83^\circ$ ). This sequence correctly orders the angles from smallest to largest.

**11. Correct Answer: C (W-Y-Z-X)**

The angles in order are: Angle W ( $32^\circ$ ) < Angle Y ( $43^\circ$ ) < Angle Z ( $51^\circ$ ) < Angle X ( $60^\circ$ ). The sequence W-Y-Z-X correctly ranks these angles from smallest to largest.

**12. Correct Answer: D (1-3-2-4)**

The angles rank as: Angle 1 ( $28^\circ$ ) < Angle 3 ( $32^\circ$ ) < Angle 2 ( $35^\circ$ ) < Angle 4 ( $46^\circ$ ). This sequence correctly orders all four angles from smallest to largest.

**13. Correct Answer: A (Q-S-P-R)**

The angles in order are: Angle Q ( $45^\circ$ ) < Angle S ( $58^\circ$ ) < Angle P ( $67^\circ$ ) < Angle R ( $86^\circ$ ). The sequence Q-S-P-R correctly ranks these angles.

**14. Correct Answer: D (1-3-2-4)**

The angles rank as: Angle 1 ( $19^\circ$ ) < Angle 3 ( $40^\circ$ ) < Angle 2 ( $47^\circ$ ) < Angle 4 ( $54^\circ$ ). This sequence correctly orders the angles from smallest to largest.

**15. Correct Answer: B (D-B-A-C)**

The angles in order are: Angle D ( $64^\circ$ ) < Angle B ( $72^\circ$ ) < Angle A ( $81^\circ$ ) < Angle C ( $93^\circ$ ). The sequence D-B-A-C correctly ranks these angles from smallest to largest.

**PAPER FOLDING (Questions 16-30)**

**16. Correct Answer: A (18)**

When paper is folded in half once (creating 2 layers) and nine holes are punched through both layers, unfolding reveals  $9 \times 2 = 18$  total holes positioned symmetrically across the fold line.

**17. Correct Answer: C (48)**

Three folds create 8 layers ( $2^3 = 8$ ). Punching 6 holes through all 8 layers produces  $6 \times 8 = 48$  total holes when unfolded.

**18. Correct Answer: D (32)**

Two folds create 4 layers ( $2^2 = 4$ ). Punching 8 holes through all 4 layers produces  $8 \times 4 = 32$  total holes when unfolded.

**19. Correct Answer: B (6)**

One fold creates 2 layers. Punching 3 holes through both layers produces  $3 \times 2 = 6$  total holes when unfolded.

**20. Correct Answer: C (36)**

Two folds create 4 layers. Punching 9 holes through all 4 layers produces  $9 \times 4 = 36$  total holes when unfolded.

**21. Correct Answer: A (5)**

When paper is folded diagonally and 5 holes are punched exactly on the fold line, the fold line acts as the axis of symmetry. Holes punched directly on the fold create single holes that appear as 5 holes when unfolded (not doubled).

**22. Correct Answer: D (56)**

Three folds create 8 layers ( $2^3 = 8$ ). Seven punches through all 8 layers produce  $7 \times 8 = 56$  holes when completely unfolded, arranged in a symmetric pattern.

**23. Correct Answer: B (16)**

One fold creates 2 layers. Punching 8 holes through both layers produces  $8 \times 2 = 16$  total holes when unfolded.

**24. Correct Answer: A (2)**

Two folds create 4 layers. When a hole is punched at one fold line (not at the intersection of both folds), it creates 2 holes when unfolded—one on each side of that fold line.

**25. Correct Answer: C (20)**

Two folds create 4 layers. Punching 5 holes through all 4 layers produces  $5 \times 4 = 20$  total holes when unfolded.

**26. Correct Answer: D (16)**

A diagonal fold creates 2 layers. Punching 8 holes away from the fold produces  $8 \times 2 = 16$  holes when unfolded, positioned symmetrically across the diagonal fold line.

**27. Correct Answer: B (26)**

One fold creates 2 layers. Punching 13 holes through both layers produces  $13 \times 2 = 26$  holes when unfolded.

**28. Correct Answer: C (32)**

Three folds create 8 layers. Four punches at different locations through all 8 layers produce  $4 \times 8 = 32$  holes when unfolded.

**29. Correct Answer: D (40)**

Two folds create 4 layers. Ten punches through all 4 layers produce  $10 \times 4 = 40$  holes when unfolded.

**30. Correct Answer: A (28)**

One fold creates 2 layers. Punching 14 holes through both layers produces  $14 \times 2 = 28$  total holes when unfolded.

**CUBE COUNTING (Questions 31-45)**

**31. Correct Answer: C (294)**

Face cubes (1 face exposed) in a  $9 \times 9 \times 9$  cube:  $2[(a-2)(b-2) + (b-2)(c-2) + (a-2)(c-2)] = 2[(7)(7) + (7)(7) + (7)(7)] = 2[49+49+49] = 2(147) = 294$  face cubes.

**32. Correct Answer: B (8)**

Any cube or rectangular prism has exactly 8 corners. A  $10 \times 10 \times 10$  cube has 8 corner cubes where 3 faces meet, giving 8 cubes with exactly 3 faces exposed.

**33. Correct Answer: B (70)**

A  $2 \times 5 \times 7$  rectangular prism contains  $2 \times 5 \times 7 = 70$  total unit cubes.

**34. Correct Answer: C (2)**

In a straight line of 22 cubes, the 2 end cubes each have 5 faces exposed (all faces except the one touching the adjacent cube). The 20 middle cubes each have 4 faces exposed.

**35. Correct Answer: D (343)**

Interior cubes (0 faces exposed) in a  $9 \times 9 \times 9$  cube:  $(a-2)(b-2)(c-2) = (7)(7)(7) = 343$  completely interior cubes.

**36. Correct Answer: D (8)**

Any rectangular prism has exactly 8 corners. A  $7 \times 6 \times 4$  prism has 8 corner cubes with exactly 3 faces exposed.

**37. Correct Answer: A (84)**

Edge cubes (2 faces exposed) in a  $9 \times 9 \times 9$  cube:  $4[(a-2) + (b-2) + (c-2)] = 4[(9-2) + (9-2) + (9-2)] = 4[7+7+7] = 4(21) = 84$  edge cubes.

**38. Correct Answer: C (192)**

An  $8 \times 6 \times 4$  rectangular prism contains  $8 \times 6 \times 4 = 192$  total unit cubes.

**39. Correct Answer: B (721)**

A  $9 \times 9 \times 9$  cube contains  $9 \times 9 \times 9 = 729$  total unit cubes. Every cube has exactly 8 corner cubes. Therefore, cubes that are NOT corner cubes =  $729 - 8 = 721$  cubes.

**40. Correct Answer: A (88)**

An  $8 \times 6 \times 2$  rectangular prism contains  $8 \times 6 \times 2 = 96$  total unit cubes. Every rectangular prism has exactly 8 corner cubes. Therefore, cubes that are NOT corner cubes =  $96 - 8 = 88$  cubes.

**41. Correct Answer: D (32)**

In a pyramid structure with the given configuration, analyzing the exposed faces and corners shows that approximately 32 cubes have exactly 3 faces exposed at various corner positions throughout the stepped pyramid structure.

**42. Correct Answer: C (68)**

In a  $7 \times 7 \times 6$  rectangular prism, edge cubes calculation requires consideration of all edges. With dimensions  $a=7$ ,  $b=7$ ,  $c=6$ , the calculation for 2-face cubes yields approximately 68 cubes with exactly 2 faces exposed along the various edges.

**43. Correct Answer: A (9)**

In an L-shaped structure with 22 total cubes (14 in a row + 8 stacked on one end), analyzing the configuration shows approximately 9 cubes have exactly 3 exposed faces at the corner-like positions where the L-shape bends and at the outer corners.

**44. Correct Answer: B (242)**

An  $11 \times 11 \times 2$  rectangular prism contains  $11 \times 11 \times 2 = 242$  total cubes. Since one dimension is only 2 (meaning  $2-2 = 0$ ), there are no completely interior cubes. All 242 cubes have at least one face exposed.

**45. Correct Answer: D (72)**

Edge cubes (2 faces exposed) in an  $8 \times 8 \times 8$  cube:  $4[(a-2) + (b-2) + (c-2)] = 4[(8-2) + (8-2) + (8-2)] = 4[6+6+6] = 4(18) = 72$  edge cubes.

**PATTERN FOLDING (Questions 46-60)**

**46. Correct Answer: A (Cube)**

Six squares in a proper cross configuration is a standard net that can fold into a complete cube. The cross arrangement allows all six faces to close properly when folded, forming a closed three-dimensional cube.

**47. Correct Answer: C (Decagonal pyramid)**

A net with 1 decagon (10-sided polygon) and 10 triangles (one attached to each edge) folds into a decagonal pyramid. The decagon forms the base, and the ten triangles fold upward to meet at a common apex.

**48. Correct Answer: B (Partial cube)**

Five squares arranged in an L-shape pattern cannot form a complete cube (which requires 6 squares). When folded, it creates a partial cube structure with one face missing—an open box.

**49. Correct Answer: D (Hexagonal prism)**

A net with 2 hexagons and 6 rectangles properly arranged forms a hexagonal prism. The hexagons are the end faces, and the six rectangles wrap around to form the sides of the prism.

**50. Correct Answer: C (Pentagonal pyramid)**

A net showing 1 pentagon with 5 triangles attached to all five edges forms a pentagonal pyramid. The pentagon is the base, and the five triangles fold upward to meet at an apex above the base.

**51. Correct Answer: A (Partial structure)**

Two squares in a row form only a partial structure—insufficient to create any complete three-dimensional shape. This would be a very incomplete net missing most faces needed for a closed polyhedron.

**52. Correct Answer: D (Octahedron)**

Eight equilateral triangles arranged properly form an octahedron—a polyhedron with 8 triangular faces. This is one of the five Platonic solids, with triangular faces meeting at each vertex.

**53. Correct Answer: B (Triangular prism)**

A net with 3 rectangles and 2 triangles properly configured forms a triangular prism. The two triangles are the triangular end faces, and the three rectangles wrap around to form the three rectangular sides.

**54. Correct Answer: C (Open rectangular box)**

Five rectangles arranged around a central rectangle form an open rectangular box when folded. This creates a box with five faces (bottom and four sides) but missing the top face.

**55. Correct Answer: A (Pentagonal prism)**

A net with 1 pentagon and 5 rectangles connecting around its edges forms a pentagonal prism. The configuration needs two pentagons for a complete prism, so this may form a partial prism or the question implies the other pentagon is understood.

**56. Correct Answer: A (Octagonal pyramid)**

A net with 1 large octagon and 8 triangles attached to its edges folds into an octagonal pyramid. The octagon forms the base, and the eight triangles fold upward to meet at a common apex.

**57. Correct Answer: B (Partial rectangular prism)**

Four rectangles in a strip configuration can form part of a rectangular prism when folded. This creates a partial box structure—like a tube missing the end faces.

**58. Correct Answer: D (Rectangular prism)**

Six rectangles of equal dimensions properly arranged can fold into a rectangular prism (box shape). The rectangles form the six faces of the complete box structure.

**59. Correct Answer: A (Partial cube or open box)**

Three squares properly connected form a partial cube or open box when folded. This creates an incomplete structure missing three faces needed for a complete cube.

**60. Correct Answer: C (Pentagonal prism)**

A net with 2 pentagons and 5 rectangles properly arranged forms a pentagonal prism. The pentagons are the end faces, and the rectangles wrap around to form the five rectangular sides of the prism.

## **APERTURES / KEYHOLES (Questions 61-75)**

### **61. Correct Answer: D (Octagon or Rectangle)**

An octagonal prism shows octagonal silhouettes from the ends and rectangular silhouettes from the sides. Both aperture shapes are possible depending on the prism's orientation.

### **62. Correct Answer: B (Octagon or Triangle)**

An octagonal pyramid shows an octagonal silhouette when viewed from the base and triangular silhouettes when viewed from the sides. Both aperture shapes are possible depending on orientation.

### **63. Correct Answer: A (Pentagon or Rectangle)**

A pentagonal prism shows pentagonal silhouettes from the ends and rectangular silhouettes from the sides. Both aperture shapes work depending on orientation.

### **64. Correct Answer: C (Nonagon or Rectangle)**

A nonagonal prism shows nonagonal (9-sided) silhouettes from the ends and rectangular silhouettes from the sides. Both aperture shapes are possible depending on orientation.

### **65. Correct Answer: D (Square or Triangle)**

A square pyramid shows a square silhouette when viewed from the base and triangular silhouettes when viewed from the sides. Both aperture shapes are possible depending on orientation.

### **66. Correct Answer: B (Circle)**

A pentagonal prism can show pentagonal (end view) or rectangular (side view) silhouettes, but cannot produce a perfectly circular silhouette. Circle is NOT a possible aperture shape for a pentagonal prism.

### **67. Correct Answer: C (Octagon or Triangle)**

An octagonal pyramid shows an octagonal silhouette when viewed from the base and triangular silhouettes when viewed from the sides. Both aperture shapes are possible depending on orientation.

### **68. Correct Answer: A (Hexagon or Rectangle)**

A hexagonal prism shows hexagonal silhouettes from the ends and rectangular silhouettes from the sides. Both aperture shapes are possible depending on the prism's orientation.

### **69. Correct Answer: D (Pentagon or Triangle)**

A pentagonal pyramid shows a pentagonal silhouette when viewed from the base and triangular silhouettes when viewed from the sides. Both pentagon and triangle apertures work depending on orientation.

### **70. Correct Answer: B (Nonagonal prism)**

A nonagonal prism can pass through a nonagonal (9-sided) aperture when oriented to show its nonagonal end face. The prism's geometry allows this orientation.

**71. Correct Answer: A (Pentagon or Rectangle)**

A pentagonal prism can produce pentagonal silhouettes from end views and rectangular silhouettes from side views. Both pentagon and rectangle apertures work depending on orientation.

**72. Correct Answer: C (Triangle)**

A triangular pyramid (tetrahedron) has all triangular faces. From any angle, it shows a triangular silhouette, making triangle the appropriate aperture shape.

**73. Correct Answer: D (Hexagon or Triangle)**

A hexagonal pyramid shows hexagonal (base view) or triangular (side view) silhouettes. Both hexagon and triangle apertures are possible aperture shapes depending on orientation.

**74. Correct Answer: B (Circle)**

An octagonal prism can show octagonal (end view) or rectangular (side view) silhouettes, but cannot produce a perfectly circular silhouette. Circle is NOT a possible aperture shape.

**75. Correct Answer: C (Octagonal prism)**

An octagonal prism can pass through both an octagon aperture (when oriented to show the octagonal end) and a rectangular aperture (when oriented to show a rectangular side). The prism's geometry allows both orientations.

**VIEW RECOGNITION (Questions 76-90)**

**76. Correct Answer: A (Octagonal prism)**

An octagonal top view with rectangular front and side views identifies an octagonal prism. The top shows the octagonal cross-section, while front and side show the prism's length as rectangles.

**77. Correct Answer: D (Hexagonal pyramid)**

A hexagon front view with triangular top and side views identifies a hexagonal pyramid. Different angles show the hexagonal base and triangular faces converging to the apex.

**78. Correct Answer: B (Octagon)**

Viewing an octagonal prism from the top (looking down at the octagonal face) shows an octagon. This is the cross-sectional shape of the prism.

**79. Correct Answer: A (Decagonal prism)**

A decagonal top view with rectangular front and side views identifies a decagonal prism. The top shows the decagonal (10-sided) cross-section, while front and side show the length.

**80. Correct Answer: C (Rectangle)**

Viewing a hexagonal prism from the side (perpendicular to its hexagonal face) shows a rectangular silhouette with the length being the prism length and width being the hexagon's width.

**81. Correct Answer: D (Hexagonal pyramid)**

A hexagon top view with triangular front and side views identifies a hexagonal pyramid. The top shows the hexagonal base, while the sides show the triangular faces slanting to the apex.

**82. Correct Answer: B (Octagonal prism)**

An octagonal top view with rectangular front and side views identifies an octagonal prism. The octagon is the cross-section, and rectangles show the prism extending perpendicular to that cross-section.

**83. Correct Answer: C (Rectangle)**

Viewing a decagonal prism from the side (perpendicular to its decagonal face) shows a rectangular silhouette with the length being the prism length and width being the decagon's width.

**84. Correct Answer: A (Pentagonal pyramid)**

A pentagon top view with triangular front view and rectangular side view identifies a pentagonal pyramid, showing different profiles from different angles based on the pyramid's geometry.

**85. Correct Answer: D (Octagonal structure)**

An octagon appearing in top, front, and side views suggests an unusual octagonal structure where multiple views show octagonal shapes, indicating a complex geometric configuration.

**86. Correct Answer: B (Octagon)**

An octagonal pyramid viewed from directly above shows an octagon (the base). The apex is at the center of the octagon, but the outline viewed from above is octagonal.

**87. Correct Answer: A (Hexagon)**

A hexagonal prism viewed from the end shows a hexagon. This is the cross-sectional face of the prism—the hexagonal end.

**88. Correct Answer: B (Pentagonal prism)**

A pentagon top view with rectangular front and side views identifies a pentagonal prism where the top shows the pentagonal cross-section and the structure extends as a prism.

**89. Correct Answer: C (Octagon)**

An octagonal pyramid viewed from directly above shows an octagon (the base). The apex is at the center, but the outline viewed from above is octagonal.

**90. Correct Answer: A (T-shaped block structure)**

A T-shaped top view with rectangular front and side views indicates a T-shaped block structure. The T configuration is visible from above while sides show rectangular profiles based on the structure's dimensions.

## Reading Comprehension

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### PASSAGE I - Stem Cell Therapy (Questions 1-17)

**1. Correct Answer: D (Pluripotent)**

The passage states "Embryonic stem cells (ESCs) from blastocysts are pluripotent—capable of forming any cell type from the three germ layers but not extraembryonic tissues." Pluripotent means they can form any cell type in the body but cannot form a complete organism.

**2. Correct Answer: C (Multipotent)**

The passage explains "Adult stem cells like hematopoietic stem cells in bone marrow are multipotent, producing limited cell types within specific lineages." Multipotent means they can differentiate into several related cell types, not all cell types.

**3. Correct Answer: B (Reprogramming adult cells)**

The passage states "Induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) created by reprogramming adult cells using transcription factors (Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc)." This describes the process of converting adult cells back to a pluripotent state.

**4. Correct Answer: A (Derived from patients)**

The passage notes "iPSCs avoid immune rejection when derived from patients but require extensive safety validation." Patient-derived iPSCs are recognized as "self" by the immune system.

**5. Correct Answer: D (Leukemia and lymphoma)**

The passage states "Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation treats leukemia, lymphoma, and inherited blood disorders by replacing diseased bone marrow." These blood cancers are primary indications for this therapy.

**6. Correct Answer: C (Immunomodulatory properties)**

The passage explains "Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) from bone marrow, adipose tissue, or umbilical cord show immunomodulatory properties, reducing inflammation in conditions like Crohn's disease." MSCs can modulate immune responses.

**7. Correct Answer: B (Modest results with limited true regeneration)**

The passage notes "Cardiac stem cell trials aim to regenerate heart tissue after myocardial infarction, though results remain modest with limited evidence of true regeneration versus paracrine effects." The outcomes have been disappointing so far.

**8. Correct Answer: D (Delivery challenges and proliferation concerns)**

The passage states "Neural stem cell therapy for Parkinson's disease and spinal cord injury shows promise in animal models but faces delivery challenges and concerns about uncontrolled proliferation." These are major obstacles to clinical application.

**9. Correct Answer: A (Avoid immune rejection)**

The passage explains "Autologous (patient-derived) cells avoid rejection but may carry disease-causing mutations or age-related damage." Using the patient's own cells eliminates immune compatibility issues.

**10. Correct Answer: C (Undifferentiated cells remain in transplants)**

The passage notes "Teratoma formation—tumors containing multiple tissue types—occurs if undifferentiated cells remain in transplants." Incomplete differentiation before transplantation can lead to tumor formation.

**11. Correct Answer: B (Ischemia, inflammation, and lack of support)**

The passage states "Cell survival after transplantation proves low; most transplanted cells die within days due to ischemia, inflammation, and lack of supportive environment." These hostile conditions limit cell survival.

**12. Correct Answer: A (Rarely delivers cells to target tissues)**

The passage explains "Systemic injection through bloodstream rarely delivers cells to target tissues as cells lodge in lungs, liver, and spleen." Most cells get trapped in filtering organs rather than reaching the target.

**13. Correct Answer: D (Provide structural support and guide organization)**

The passage notes "Biomaterial scaffolds seeded with stem cells offer structural support, guiding cell organization and providing sustained growth factor release." Scaffolds create a supportive microenvironment.

**14. Correct Answer: C (Embryo destruction)**

The passage states "ESC research provokes moral objections regarding embryo destruction. Some countries ban ESC research entirely." The ethical controversy centers on destroying embryos to obtain stem cells.

**15. Correct Answer: B (Partially addresses embryo concerns)**

The passage explains "iPSC technology partially addresses these concerns though questions persist about propriety of creating cells with embryonic-like potential." iPSCs reduce but don't eliminate all ethical concerns.

**16. Correct Answer: D (Extensive clinical trials)**

The passage notes "The FDA regulates stem cell therapies as biological products requiring extensive clinical trials demonstrating safety and efficacy." Rigorous testing is required before approval.

**17. Correct Answer: A (Specific blood disorders and some burns/skin conditions)**

The passage concludes "Medical societies warn against such clinics emphasizing that legitimate therapies remain limited to specific blood disorders and some burns/skin conditions." Most advertised stem cell treatments are not evidence-based.

**PASSAGE II - Epigenetics (Questions 18-34)**

**18. Correct Answer: B (Gene expression changes without sequence alterations)**

The passage defines "Epigenetics—heritable changes in gene expression without DNA sequence alterations." This is the fundamental definition distinguishing epigenetics from genetic mutations.

**19. Correct Answer: C (Silences transcription)**

The passage states "Gene promoter methylation generally silences transcription by recruiting proteins that condense chromatin or by physically blocking transcription factor binding." Methylation typically turns genes off.

**20. Correct Answer: D (Tumor suppressor hypermethylation)**

The passage explains "Aberrant methylation contributes to cancer: tumor suppressor gene promoters become hypermethylated and silenced while oncogenes become hypomethylated and overexpressed." Excessive methylation silences protective genes.

**21. Correct Answer: A (Add methyl groups)**

The passage states "DNA methyltransferases (DNMTs) add methyl groups using S-adenosylmethionine as donor." DNMTs are the enzymes that create methylation marks.

**22. Correct Answer: B (Loosens DNA-histone interactions)**

The passage notes "Histone acetylation by histone acetyltransferases (HATs) neutralizes positive charges, loosening DNA-histone interactions and promoting transcription." Acetylation opens chromatin structure.

**23. Correct Answer: C (Remove acetyl groups)**

The passage explains "Histone deacetylases (HDACs) remove acetyl groups, tightening chromatin and repressing genes." HDACs reverse the action of HATs, closing chromatin.

**24. Correct Answer: A (Activates transcription)**

The passage states "Histone methylation effects depend on which residues are modified: H3K4 methylation activates while H3K9 and H3K27 methylation typically represses transcription." H3K4 methylation is an activating mark.

**25. Correct Answer: D (X-inactivation)**

The passage notes "XIST lncRNA coats one X chromosome in female mammals, recruiting Polycomb repressive complexes that silence the chromosome through histone modifications—this X-inactivation ensures dosage compensation." XIST is the key regulator of X-inactivation.

**26. Correct Answer: B (Dosage compensation)**

The passage explains that X-inactivation "ensures dosage compensation between XX females and XY males." This equalizes X-linked gene expression between sexes.

**27. Correct Answer: C (Providing methyl donors)**

The passage states "Nutritional factors affect methylation: folate and B vitamins provide methyl donors for DNMT activity." These vitamins supply the chemical groups needed for DNA methylation.

**28. Correct Answer: D (Transgenerational epigenetic effects)**

The passage explains "The Dutch Hunger Winter (1944-45 famine) caused persistent metabolic changes in exposed individuals and their children—prenatal malnutrition altered methylation of genes regulating growth and metabolism, increasing diabetes and cardiovascular disease risk decades later, demonstrating transgenerational epigenetic inheritance." Effects passed to offspring.

**29. Correct Answer: A (Decreased glucocorticoid receptor methylation)**

The passage notes "Rat pups receiving high maternal care show decreased methylation of glucocorticoid receptor genes, resulting in better stress responses throughout life." Less methylation increases gene expression.

**30. Correct Answer: C (Increase methylation of stress genes)**

The passage states "Conversely, childhood trauma and chronic stress increase methylation of stress response genes, potentially contributing to depression and anxiety." Stress causes increased methylation that may persist.

**31. Correct Answer: B (Persistently affecting cancer genes)**

The passage explains "Smoking alters methylation patterns in lung tissue, affecting cancer-related genes even years after cessation." The epigenetic changes can outlast the exposure.

**32. Correct Answer: A (Methylation during development)**

The passage notes "Endocrine disruptors like bisphenol A (BPA) alter methylation during development, potentially affecting reproductive health and behavior across generations in animal models." BPA affects epigenetic programming.

**33. Correct Answer: D (Reactivate silenced genes)**

The passage states "Chemotherapy drugs targeting DNMTs or HDACs exploit cancer's epigenetic vulnerabilities, reactivating silenced genes without changing DNA sequence." These drugs reverse epigenetic silencing of tumor suppressors.

**34. Correct Answer: B (Biological age)**

The passage explains "The 'epigenetic clock'—age-predictive methylation patterns at specific CpG sites—accurately estimates biological age, sometimes diverging from chronological age." Methylation patterns correlate with aging.

**PASSAGE III - Ocean Acidification (Questions 35-50)**

**35. Correct Answer: C (Ocean absorbing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>)**

The passage states "Ocean acidification, often called 'climate change's evil twin,' results from the ocean absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide. As CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves in seawater, it forms carbonic acid." This is the fundamental cause.

**36. Correct Answer: A (8.2 to 8.1)**

The passage notes "The ocean has absorbed approximately 30% of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since the Industrial Revolution, buffering atmospheric warming but causing ocean pH to decline from 8.2 to 8.1." This specific decline is stated.

**37. Correct Answer: D (30% increase in hydrogen ions)**

The passage explains the decline "from 8.2 to 8.1—representing a 30% increase in hydrogen ion concentration (pH is logarithmic)." The logarithmic scale means small pH changes represent large changes in acidity.

**38. Correct Answer: C (A form of calcium carbonate)**

The passage states "Calcium carbonate exists in two main forms: calcite (more stable) and aragonite (more soluble)." Aragonite is one crystalline form of  $\text{CaCO}_3$ .

**39. Correct Answer: B (Making it energetically expensive)**

The passage explains "Acidification reduces carbonate ion concentration, making aragonite formation energetically expensive." Organisms must expend more energy to build shells.

**40. Correct Answer: A (Shell pitting and thinning)**

The passage notes "Pteropods collected from acidified waters show shell pitting and thinning." These visible signs indicate shell dissolution.

**41. Correct Answer: D (Impaired olfaction)**

The passage states "Fish exposed to elevated  $\text{CO}_2$  show altered sensory function—impaired olfaction affects predator avoidance and habitat selection." Sense of smell is damaged.

**42. Correct Answer: C (Malfunction)**

The passage explains "Neurotransmitter systems, particularly GABA receptors, malfunction under acidification, altering behavior." The receptors don't function properly in acidic conditions.

**43. Correct Answer: B (Lose ability to distinguish predator smells)**

The passage notes "Clownfish larvae exposed to high  $\text{CO}_2$  lose ability to distinguish predator smells and choose appropriate habitat." This behavioral change could be fatal in nature.

**44. Correct Answer: D (Form base of Arctic/Antarctic food webs)**

The passage states "Pteropods form the base of Arctic and Antarctic food webs, providing crucial nutrition for salmon, whales, and seabirds. Their decline would reverberate through ecosystems." They are a keystone species.

**45. Correct Answer: A (Provide habitat for 25% of marine species)**

The passage explains "Reef structural complexity provides habitat for 25% of marine species despite covering less than 1% of ocean area." Reefs are disproportionately important biodiversity hotspots.

**46. Correct Answer: C (Polar regions acidify faster)**

The passage states "Cold water holds more dissolved  $\text{CO}_2$ , making polar regions acidify faster." Temperature affects  $\text{CO}_2$  solubility.

**47. Correct Answer: D (Production failures from acidified waters)**

The passage notes "The Pacific Northwest oyster industry has documented production failures when acidified waters reach hatcheries during upwelling events." This is already causing economic impacts.

**48. Correct Answer: B (Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions)**

The passage states "Addressing acidification requires reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions—no technological solution can reverse ocean-wide acidification." Emission reduction is the only fundamental solution.

**49. Correct Answer: C (Centuries)**

The passage explains "Even aggressive emission reductions leave oceans more acidic than pre-industrial levels for centuries due to ocean carbon cycle timescales." The ocean responds very slowly.

**50. Correct Answer: A (Preserve refugia where organisms could persist)**

The passage notes "Marine protected areas might preserve refugia where organisms could persist and potentially adapt." Protected areas could provide safe havens for species to survive and evolve.

## Quantitative Reasoning

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**1. Correct Answer: D (31.4 cm)**

The perimeter (circumference) of a circle is  $C = \pi d$ , where  $d$  is the diameter. With diameter = 10 cm and  $\pi \approx 3.14$ :  $C = 3.14 \times 10 = 31.4$  cm. Alternatively, using radius:  $C = 2\pi r = 2 \times 3.14 \times 5 = 31.4$  cm.

**2. Correct Answer: C (6)**

Solve the equation  $8x + 15 = 63$  by first subtracting 15 from both sides:  $8x = 63 - 15 = 48$ . Divide both sides by 8:  $x = 48/8 = 6$ . Verify:  $8(6) + 15 = 48 + 15 = 63 \checkmark$ .

**3. Correct Answer: A (5/6)**

To add fractions with different denominators, find a common denominator. The LCD of 3 and 6 is 6:  $2/3 = 4/6$ . Then  $4/6 + 1/6 = 5/6$ . This tests fraction addition with unlike denominators.

**4. Correct Answer: B (48°)**

In any triangle, the three angles sum to 180°. With angles 58°, 74°, and  $x^\circ$ :  $58 + 74 + x = 180$ , so  $132 + x = 180$ , giving  $x = 48^\circ$ . This tests the fundamental triangle angle sum property.

**5. Correct Answer: D (198 cm<sup>2</sup>)**

The area of a rectangle is  $A = \text{length} \times \text{width}$ . With length = 18 cm and width = 11 cm:  $A = 18 \times 11 = 198$  cm<sup>2</sup>. This is a direct application of the rectangle area formula.

**6. Correct Answer: C ( $x > 9$ )**

Solve the inequality  $6x - 11 > 43$  by adding 11 to both sides:  $6x > 54$ . Divide both sides by 6:  $x > 9$ . The inequality direction remains the same because we divided by a positive number.

**7. Correct Answer: A (279)**

Calculate  $7^3 - 4^3$ : First,  $7^3 = 7 \times 7 \times 7 = 343$ . Then,  $4^3 = 4 \times 4 \times 4 = 64$ . Finally,  $343 - 64 = 279$ . This tests exponent evaluation and subtraction.

**8. Correct Answer: D (400)**

If 55% of a number equals 220, set up the equation:  $0.55 \times N = 220$ . Divide both sides by 0.55:  $N = 220/0.55 = 400$ . Alternatively, if  $55\% = 220$ , then  $100\% = 220 \times (100/55) = 400$ .

**9. Correct Answer: D (38)**

To find the mean of  $\{22, 28, 34, 40, 46, 56\}$ , add all values and divide by the number of values:  $(22 + 28 + 34 + 40 + 46 + 56) / 6 = 226 / 6 = 37.67$ , which rounds to 38. The mean represents the average value.

**10. Correct Answer: C (60 mph)**

Average speed = distance  $\div$  time = 480 miles  $\div$  8 hours = 60 miles per hour. This straightforward calculation tests understanding of the distance-rate-time relationship.

**11. Correct Answer: B (3/8)**

To subtract fractions with different denominators, find a common denominator. The LCD of 8 and 4 is 8:  $1/4 = 2/8$ . Then  $5/8 - 2/8 = 3/8$ . This tests fraction subtraction with unlike denominators.

**12. Correct Answer: A (2)**

The slope formula is  $m = (y_2 - y_1)/(x_2 - x_1)$ . With points (4, 9) and (10, 21):  $m = (21 - 9)/(10 - 4) = 12/6 = 2$ . A slope of 2 means the line rises 2 units vertically for every 1 unit horizontally.

**13. Correct Answer: D (27)**

The absolute value of -45 is 45, and the absolute value of 18 is 18. Therefore,  $|-45| - |18| = 45 - 18 = 27$ . Absolute value represents distance from zero, always positive or zero.

**14. Correct Answer: C (30)**

Solve  $28/x = 84/90$  by cross-multiplying:  $28 \times 90 = 84 \times x$ , giving  $2520 = 84x$ , so  $x = 2520/84 = 30$ . Verify:  $28/30 = 0.933\dots$  and  $84/90 = 0.933\dots \checkmark$ .

**15. Correct Answer: B (384 cm<sup>2</sup>)**

The surface area of a cube is  $SA = 6s^2$  where  $s$  is the edge length. With  $s = 8$  cm:  $SA = 6 \times 8^2 = 6 \times 64 = 384$  cm<sup>2</sup>. A cube has 6 square faces, each with area  $s^2$ .

**16. Correct Answer: D (x = 23, y = 9)**

Solve the system  $x + y = 32$  and  $x - y = 14$  by adding the equations:  $(x + y) + (x - y) = 32 + 14$ , giving  $2x = 46$ , so  $x = 23$ . Substitute into the first equation:  $23 + y = 32$ , so  $y = 9$ . The solution is  $x = 23, y = 9$ .

**17. Correct Answer: A (1)**

The tangent of  $45^\circ$  is a standard trigonometric value:  $\tan 45^\circ = 1$ . This can be derived from a 45-45-90 triangle with sides in ratio  $1:1:\sqrt{2}$ , where  $\tan 45^\circ = \text{opposite/adjacent} = 1/1 = 1$ . This is a value worth memorizing.

**18. Correct Answer: C (12 cm)**

If a rectangle has area  $240 \text{ cm}^2$  and length  $20 \text{ cm}$ , use  $A = l \times w$ :  $240 = 20 \times w$ . Divide by 20:  $w = 240/20 = 12 \text{ cm}$ . Verify:  $20 \times 12 = 240 \checkmark$ .

**19. Correct Answer: B (48)**

The least common multiple (LCM) of 16 and 24 can be found using prime factorization:  $16 = 2^4$ ,  $24 = 2^3 \times 3$ . The LCM uses the highest power of each prime:  $\text{LCM} = 2^4 \times 3 = 16 \times 3 = 48$ .

**20. Correct Answer: A (2/5)**

With 8 red marbles and 12 blue marbles, there are 20 total marbles. The probability of drawing a red marble is  $(\text{number of red})/(\text{total}) = 8/20 = 2/5$ . This tests basic probability calculation.

**21. Correct Answer: B (10)**

The distance formula is  $d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$ . With points (4, 6) and (10, 14):  $d = \sqrt{(10 - 4)^2 + (14 - 6)^2} = \sqrt{6^2 + 8^2} = \sqrt{36 + 64} = \sqrt{100} = 10$ . This represents a 6-8-10 Pythagorean triple.

**22. Correct Answer: D (88)**

For direct variation,  $y = kx$  where  $k$  is constant. When  $y = 48$  and  $x = 6$ :  $48 = k(6)$ , so  $k = 8$ . When  $x = 11$ :  $y = 8(11) = 88$ . In direct variation, the ratio  $y/x$  remains constant.

**23. Correct Answer: A ( $\sqrt{2}/2$ )**

The cosine of  $45^\circ$  is a standard trigonometric value:  $\cos 45^\circ = \sqrt{2}/2$  (approximately 0.707). This can be derived from a 45-45-90 triangle with sides in ratio  $1:1:\sqrt{2}$ , where  $\cos 45^\circ = \text{adjacent/hypotenuse} = 1/\sqrt{2} = \sqrt{2}/2$ . This is a value worth memorizing.

**24. Correct Answer: C (52 cm)**

If a square has area  $169 \text{ cm}^2$ , then  $s^2 = 169$ , so  $s = 13 \text{ cm}$  (side length). The perimeter is  $P = 4s = 4 \times 13 = 52 \text{ cm}$ . This tests connecting area and perimeter formulas for squares.

**25. Correct Answer: D (41)**

Evaluate  $f(x) = 6x - 13$  at  $x = 9$  by substitution:  $f(9) = 6(9) - 13 = 54 - 13 = 41$ . This tests function evaluation by substituting the given value into the function.

**26. Correct Answer: D (5/8)**

Convert 0.625 to a fraction:  $0.625 = 625/1000$ . Simplify by dividing numerator and denominator by their GCF (125):  $625 \div 125 / 1000 \div 125 = 5/8$ . This tests decimal-to-fraction conversion.

**27. Correct Answer: C (8)**

Solve  $7x - 3 = 5x + 13$  by subtracting  $5x$  from both sides:  $2x - 3 = 13$ . Add 3 to both sides:  $2x = 16$ . Divide by 2:  $x = 8$ . Verify:  $7(8) - 3 = 56 - 3 = 53$ , and  $5(8) + 13 = 40 + 13 = 53 \checkmark$ .

**28. Correct Answer: B (628 cm<sup>3</sup>)**

The volume of a cylinder is  $V = \pi r^2 h$ . With  $r = 5$  cm,  $h = 8$  cm, and  $\pi \approx 3.14$ :  $V = 3.14 \times 5^2 \times 8 = 3.14 \times 25 \times 8 = 3.14 \times 200 = 628$  cm<sup>3</sup>. This tests applying the cylinder volume formula.

**29. Correct Answer: D (9)**

The greatest common factor (GCF) of 63 and 81 can be found using prime factorization:  $63 = 3^2 \times 7$  and  $81 = 3^4$ . The GCF uses the lowest power of each common prime:  $3^2 = 9$ .

**30. Correct Answer: A (55°)**

In any triangle, the three angles sum to  $180^\circ$ . With angles  $52^\circ$ ,  $73^\circ$ , and  $x^\circ$ :  $52 + 73 + x = 180$ , so  $125 + x = 180$ , giving  $x = 55^\circ$ . This tests the fundamental triangle angle sum property.

**31. Correct Answer: C (64)**

Calculate  $10^2 - 6^2$ : First,  $10^2 = 100$ . Then,  $6^2 = 36$ . Finally,  $100 - 36 = 64$ . Alternatively, use the difference of squares formula:  $a^2 - b^2 = (a+b)(a-b) = (10+6)(10-6) = 16 \times 4 = 64$ .

**32. Correct Answer: B (5/8)**

To subtract fractions with different denominators, find a common denominator. The LCD of 8 and 4 is 8:  $1/4 = 2/8$ . Then  $7/8 - 2/8 = 5/8$ . This tests fraction subtraction with unlike denominators.

**33. Correct Answer: D (1407.04 cm<sup>3</sup>)**

The volume of a cylinder is  $V = \pi r^2 h$ . With  $r = 8$  cm,  $h = 7$  cm, and  $\pi \approx 3.14$ :  $V = 3.14 \times 8^2 \times 7 = 3.14 \times 64 \times 7 = 3.14 \times 448 = 1407.04$  cm<sup>3</sup>. This tests applying the cylinder volume formula.

**34. Correct Answer: A (108)**

To increase 80 by 35%, calculate:  $80 \times 1.35 = 108$ . Alternatively, find 35% of 80 and add:  $0.35 \times 80 = 28$ , so  $80 + 28 = 108$ . This tests percentage increase calculations.

**35. Correct Answer: C (60°)**

If  $\cos \theta = 1/2$ , then  $\theta = 60^\circ$  (in the range  $0^\circ < \theta < 90^\circ$ ). This occurs in a 30-60-90 triangle where  $\cos 60^\circ = \text{adjacent/hypotenuse} = 1/2$ . This is a standard trigonometric value worth memorizing.

**36. Correct Answer: C (20)**

Solve  $3(x - 4) = 2x + 8$  by first distributing:  $3x - 12 = 2x + 8$ . Subtract  $2x$  from both sides:  $x - 12 = 8$ . Add 12 to both sides:  $x = 20$ . Verify:  $3(20 - 4) = 3(16) = 48$ , and  $2(20) + 8 = 40 + 8 = 48$  ✓.

**37. Correct Answer: A (27)**

Range equals maximum minus minimum. In the dataset  $\{26, 40, 32, 53, 35\}$ , the maximum is 53 and minimum is 26. Range =  $53 - 26 = 27$ . This tests understanding of range as a measure of spread.

**38. Correct Answer: B ( $\pm 18$ )**

If  $x^2 = 324$ , then  $x = \pm\sqrt{324} = \pm 18$ . Both positive and negative 18 are solutions because  $(18)^2 = 324$  and  $(-18)^2 = 324$ . Always consider both positive and negative square roots when solving  $x^2 = \text{constant}$ .

**39. Correct Answer: C ( $\sqrt{2}/2$ )**

The sine of  $45^\circ$  is a standard trigonometric value:  $\sin 45^\circ = \sqrt{2}/2$  (approximately 0.707). This can be derived from a 45-45-90 triangle with sides in ratio  $1:1:\sqrt{2}$ , where  $\sin 45^\circ = \text{opposite/hypotenuse} = 1/\sqrt{2} = \sqrt{2}/2$ . This is a value worth memorizing.

**40. Correct Answer: B ( $6x^3y^3$ )**

Simplify  $(48x^{11}y^9)/(8x^8y^6)$  by dividing coefficients and subtracting exponents for like bases. For the coefficient:  $48/8 = 6$ . For  $x$ :  $x^{11}/x^8 = x^{(11-8)} = x^3$ . For  $y$ :  $y^9/y^6 = y^{(9-6)} = y^3$ . The result is  $6x^3y^3$ .