

# Verbal Reasoning

## Question & Answers

2019 / 2020 edition

## What are verbal reasoning tests?

Verbal reasoning tests assess your understanding and comprehension skills. You will be presented with a short passage of text which you'll be required to interpret before answering questions on. These are typically in the 'True, False, Cannot Say' multiple choice format, although there are a range of alternatives too.

## What is the format of verbal reasoning tests?

There are a range of formats employed in verbal reasoning tests.

**“The most common of these is the ‘true, false and cannot say’ format which requires you to decide which is the most applicable based on a small passage of text.**

Regardless, of the format, the same principles hold true. You will need to read text, interpret information and decide on the most logical conclusion. It's important to remember that no previous knowledge of the passage topic is required so just make your decisions based on the information you're given.

Although, you might feel confident in your verbal powers, exposing yourself with these tests prior to the day will help. Practicing won't hurt but a lack of familiarity definitely might.

## Instructions for use

We've provided 5 verbal reasoning questions and answers for you to work through. Try and do each one under timed conditions without looking at the answers. Once you've completed each one, look at the answer to assess your performance and see how you can improve moving forwards.

If you'd like more verbal reasoning test practice, you can access our huge [verbal reasoning test](#) vault online. They're all written by industry experts and are designed to replicate the real tests.

## Question 1 – The parental leave system

The proposed flexible parental leave system is similar to the Icelandic model, in that mothers and fathers will be required to share the last seven months of leave.

### Passage

In the United Kingdom, working mothers are entitled to 52 weeks' maternity leave. The first six weeks are paid at 90% of full salary and a further 33 weeks are paid a fixed rate, although some employers offer more generous maternity schemes. If a government proposal becomes law, however, this system will be replaced with flexible parental leave, which can be split between the father and mother. New mothers would be entitled to four months' paid maternity leave after the birth, with two weeks' paid paternity leave. This would be followed by seven month's flexible leave- of which four would be paid.

European member states must offer a minimum of 14 paid weeks of maternity leave, though many countries offer significantly more. France, for example, has 16 weeks' leave at 100% of salary. In Iceland, parents receive nine months' paid leave at 80% of salary, with each parent required to take three months leave and deciding how to share the remaining three. By comparison, the United States mandates twelve weeks' maternity leave - though this is unpaid for approximately 60% of mothers.

The UK's year-long maternity leave provision is intended to provide job security for new mothers. However, some critics believe that it actually damages women's career prospects. They argue that because of the inconvenience of maternity leave administration women are less attractive employees for small businesses. Advocates of the new flexible parental leave system believe that parenting is no longer exclusively a mother's preserve and that the new policy will promote gender equality.

A) True ☐

B) False ☐

C) Cannot Say ☐

## Solution

**False:** Not all twelve months would be paid. “New mothers would be entitled to four months' paid maternity leave after the birth, with two weeks paid paternity leave. This would be followed by seven month's flexible leave – of which four would be paid.”

## Question 2 – The survey by an insurance company

Looking at why people choose to invest in residential property was the sole objective of the survey.

### Passage

A recent survey of its members conducted by a large insurance company produced some interesting results. The survey was designed to gather information from its members regarding what their main criteria were for choosing to invest in residential property. The vast majority rated the 'Returns profile as their main priority, closely followed by 'Development potential' and 'Stability of income! It came as no surprise to find out that 'Portfolio legacy' was ranked at the bottom of the list by contributors.

It was also interesting to note that respondents this year were less likely to have residential holdings that formed part of mixed-use assets, i.e. as an add on to commercial investment. One might assume from this that more investors are proactively investing in residential real estate rather than having an incidental exposure via existing business investments.

Uncovering longer term intentions was also part of the survey remit and it transpired that approximately one third of contributors expected their residential investment exposure to remain stable over the next 12 months. The vast majority intend to increase their investment in the same period with only a few stating that they intended to reduce it in the same period.

A) True ☐

B) False ☐

C) Cannot Say ☐

## Solution

**False:** This is false because in the final paragraph we are told that 'uncovering longer term intentions was also part of the survey remit.' so why people invest was one of multiple objectives of the survey.

### Question 3 – New tax regulation

The majority of Member States believe that it is important to find a way to generate extra income to alleviate the problems our pensions face.

#### Passage

The majority of Member States have been holding discussions in recent years regarding the introduction of new taxes on the financial sector and the impact they would have on pensions. They recognise that creating additional taxes on the financial sector could be a path to alleviating the problems they now face in relation to pensions and the lack of funds available to run them. However, the reason for such debate relates to the role that the banks and other financial service institutions played in the causes of the crises as well as the current government support offered to the financial sector. There is also a general perception that, as financial activities are generally exempt from VAT, the financial sector is under-taxed currently.

One potential new tax rule being considered is that which would introduce a tax on as broad a range of financial transactions as possible. This could include bonds, shares and derivatives as a starting point. Almost all financial institutions would be liable but there would be exemptions for some day to day activities such as mortgages and payment services. An impact assessment of the likely revenue this tax could generate was close to 6 billion Euros per year.

That said though, as the tax revenue would be collected on the basis of the principle of residence of the financial institute, one has to consider the possibility that a bank based in the area which is liable could transfer its transactions to a subsidiary outside of the relevant jurisdiction.

A) True ☐

B) False ☐

C) Cannot Say ☐

### Solution

**True:** We know that 'the majority of Member States have been in discussions about the introduction of new taxes on the financial sector and their impact on pensions...' and 'they recognise that creating additional taxes on the financial sector could be a path to alleviating the problems they now face in relation to pensions and the lack of funds available to run them.'

## Question 4 – A petition to ban junk food adverts

Saturday evenings are a time when many families would be tempted to indulge in junk food.

### Passage

Two charities have delivered a petition to the Prime Minister that has been signed by over 35,000 people. The petition, jointly organised by the 'Health Food Group (HFG) and 'Happy Heart and Mind is calling for a ban on junk food adverts before 9pm on any channel. The Government is also being urged to tighten advertising regulations and protect children in this regard more widely. The current regulations restrict junk food adverts from being showing during children's programming but there is nothing to stop them being shown during popular family slots, such as Saturday evenings when many children watch television with their families.

Casey Stemp coordinated the petition and is a strong advocate of the proposed changes. 'By removing junk food adverts from television at any time before 9pm, we would be seeing a simple, popular and effective move that would help parents to tackle the increasing desire of young people to consume such foods.'

The loopholes that junk food companies find mean that our younger generation are faced with a constant bombardment of junk food adverts. As future generations are becoming more and more obese, we have to look for opportunities to alleviate the temptations they are facing on a daily, if not hourly basis!

A) True ☐

B) False ☐

C) Cannot Say ☐

## Solution

**Cannot Say:** Whilst we know that junk food adverts can be shown on Saturday evenings, this doesn't imply that families would be more tempted to eat junk food at this time.

## Question 5 – The earth and its oceans

The Earth is not a perfect sphere.

### Passage

Located in the western Pacific Ocean, the Mariana Trench is the deepest part of Earth's oceans. Although just under 70 km wide, this narrow trench extends over 2,500 km. Its deepest point is a valley called Challenger Deep, measuring 10.91 km under sea level. Challenger Deep is not, however, the section of seafloor closest to the Earth's centre. Because Earth's radius is less at its poles than at the equator, parts of the Arctic Ocean's seafloor are closer to its centre.

The bottom of Mariana Trench has been reached by four different expeditions, the first in 1960. These expeditions discovered fish and other oceanic life; a surprise given that water pressure at the trench's bottom is more than one thousand times atmospheric pressure at sea level. Samples collected from the Mariana Trench revealed a variety of tiny organisms, and giant amoebas called xenophyophores.

The Mariana Trench, which is in a subduction zone, has been mooted as a possible site for dumping nuclear waste. Proponents believe subduction, whereby one tectonic plate moves under another, would push radioactive waste down towards the Earth's core. Subduction zones, however, are prone to earthquakes, which raises safety concerns. In any case, international law bans disposing of nuclear waste in the ocean.

A) True ☐

B) False ☐

C) Cannot Say ☐

## Solution

**True:** The first paragraph states, “the Earth’s radius is less at its poles than at the equator”. Hence, the Earth is not perfectly round.



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