

## Assessment Day - Practice Questions

On the day of the assessment you will need to complete three assessments:

- English comprehension
- Maths questions, and
- A letter writing exercise

We have provided some sample questions to give you an idea of what to expect from our assessment day tests.

### English Comprehension Questions

In this example the English comprehension questions relate to the information in a specific article from "The New Yorker", September 2012. At the assessment itself, you will have a total of **10 minutes to complete the test**. In order to give yourself the best practice possible, we recommend you keep to the time frame.

**Please read the article below and answer the questions that follow.  
You have 10 minutes to complete this exercise.**

*Article written by Evan Osnos, published in The New Yorker September 2012*

#### HELPING THE CHINESE FIND LOVE

A few days before the Year of the Dragon began, Jiayuan (Beautiful Destiny), China's largest online dating service, summoned new employees to an orientation meeting at its headquarters in Beijing. Over the holiday, single men and women across the country would be returning home to visit relatives – only to find themselves interrogated about marriage prospects. For some, the pressure would be unbearable. Afterwards, Jiayuan's enrolment would experience a surge similar to the New Year's surge at fitness clubs in Britain and the US.

Gong Haiyan, the company's founder, peered at a dozen new hires and informed them that they were now in "the happiness business". She did not smile. When Gong, 36, talks about the happiness business, she tends to emphasise "price/performance

ratios" and "information asymmetry". The company, which she founded in her dorm room nine years ago in order to find a husband, accounts for a sizeable portion of China's online dating industry and is traded on Nasdaq. The young men and women before her were joining a staff of nearly 500. Your customers, she told them, will be virtually indistinguishable from yourselves: strivers, alone in the city, separated from love by "three towering mountains" – no money, no time and no connections.

I met Gong six years ago. She was nothing like the other web entrepreneurs I've come to know in China. For one thing, the top ranks of Chinese technology are dominated by men. She didn't speak fluent English. She didn't even have a degree in computer science. She had grown up on a farm, her voice trembled before crowds, and when she talked about her business I got the feeling that she was talking about herself.

Of all the upheavals in Chinese life in the past three decades, there is perhaps none more intimate than the opportunity to choose one's mate. For years, village matchmakers and parents, factory bosses and communist cadres efficiently paired off young people with minimum participation from the bride and groom. Romance became political in 1919, when students mounted demonstrations for an end to arranged marriage on behalf of "the freedom of love". Mao outlawed arranged unions, and enshrined a woman's right to divorce, but he left no room for desire. Dating that did not lead to the altar was "hooliganism".

After the orientation, Gong finished the day answering letters in her capacity as "Little Dragon Lady", an advice columnist attuned to the specific problems of the People's Republic. She flipped through messages from anguished bachelors, meddling parents and anxious brides. Her advice reads like an argument against China's ancient pieties. If your mother-in-law sees you as "nothing but a baby-maker" and your husband won't help, she told one new wife, forget the husband "and get out of that family". Above all, Gong frames the search for love as a matter of fortitude. Heaven "will never throw you a meat pie".

When Gong Haiyan was 16, her test scores got her into the top local high school, a transformative moment for a farming family. A few days later, she was on a tractor that plunged into a ditch; the accident crushed her leg and battered her face. The school suggested that she withdraw. Instead, Gong's mother moved into her dorm and hoisted her daughter around campus on her back. "School was her only way out," she explains. "We didn't want her to work in the fields like us."

The medical bills drove the family into debt, which tormented Gong. It was 1994, and China's epic labour migration was gathering pace. Gong dropped out of school and got a job in Zhuhai, assembling TVs. She did well, but was unnerved by the path she saw ahead. The factory was populated almost entirely by women, except for the security guards and loaders. "If I ever wanted to settle down, those were my choices," Gong said. After two years, she decided to go back to school. "Everyone in the village was against the idea," she told me. "They said: 'You're a 21-year-old woman. Go and get married!'" But her parents backed her decision and she eventually earned a place at Peking University. But while doing postgrad studies in Shanghai, she realised that her love life was a wreck: "I didn't know a soul in the city.

My parents had an elementary-school education. I could never be interested in the kinds of people they had access to. So, even though 'free love and marriage' had been written into the laws, we didn't actually have the freedom to choose."

Gong paid 500 yuan (about £40) to an early online dating service, and singled out 12 men. She got no response, and complained. She still recalls the company's reply: "Look at yourself – you're ugly, and you go after these high quality men? No wonder you got no replies." She tracked down one of the bachelors and learned that he hadn't registered with the site. The contact information had been cobbled together from other online sites. "I wasn't thinking about being an entrepreneur – I was just so angry," Gong said. "I wanted a site for people who were in the same position I was in."

Gong's business is animated by an image of love and fulfilment that privileges beauty and income above all, and promotes the fear of becoming a leftover woman. But she believes that her mission is simply to give women like her the options that never existed before. "Women used to say: 'If you want clothes on your back and food to eat, get married,'" she says. "As long as you had the most basic requirements, I'd marry you. But not any more: now I can live a good life, an independent life. I can be picky."

**Now answer the following questions:**

- 1) What is Jiayuan's business compared with?
- 2) Why did Haiyan set up Beautiful Destiny?
- 3) What stands between Jiayuan customers and their goal?
- 4) According to the text, what are the characteristics of a web entrepreneur?
- 5) What happened in 1919?
- 6) Who writes to the Little Dragon Lady?
- 7) What does fortitude mean?
- 8) Why did her mother go to such efforts?
- 9) When did Haiyan drop out of school?
- 10) How does she describe her love life?
- 11) What is the main reason she failed to attract a partner?
- 12) What are Jiayuan's customers afraid of becoming?

## Maths Questions

For the Maths practice test, we have provided questions that are the standard and structure you can expect from our assessment day tests.

At the assessment itself, you will have a total of **30 minutes to complete the test**. In order to give yourself the best practice possible, we recommend you keep to the time frame.

### Test of mathematical competence

Time allowed – 30 minutes

Use a pencil throughout.

For each of the 15 items in this paper there are four options: A, B, C, D. Choose the response that appears to be the best and indicate your choice by underlining the appropriate answer.

Example:

What is the square root of 16?

A            1.6

B            4

C            2.5

D            -4

Choose one response for each item. Mistakes should be carefully erased and the new choice marked. Make no other marks on the sheet. Any item with more than one answer will score nil.

**Attempt all items;** you will score equally for each correct response. There will be no deductions for incorrect responses or omissions.

You may use the calculator provided. For any workings, please use the paper provided.

1: What is the value of  $(3^3 \times 2) - (\sqrt{25} \times 4) + 7$

- A 5
- B 81
- C 27
- D 41

2: After the budget the price of an article was £11.49, which included VAT at 20%. If the old rate was 15%, what was the old price (including VAT) of the article, to the nearest penny?

- A £8.62
- B £9.58
- C £11.01
- D £11.99

3: Find x and y if 
$$\begin{array}{rcl} 0.5x + 0.4y & = & 11 \\ 3.5x - 1 & = & y \end{array}$$

- |   | $x$ | $y$ |
|---|-----|-----|
| A | 8   | 18  |
| B | 6   | 20  |
| C | 5   | 14  |
| D | 2   | 6   |

4: If the profits of a partnership amounted to £270,000 and partners are to be paid a salary of £20,000 each before dividing the remainder of profits in the ratio 3:2:1, how much in total does the second partner receive?

- A £55,000
- B £70,000
- C £90,000
- D £105,000

5: If  $\frac{2a - b}{4a + b} = \frac{1}{4}$  and  $a = 5$ , what is the value of  $b$ ?

- A 4
- B -4
- C 2
- D -2

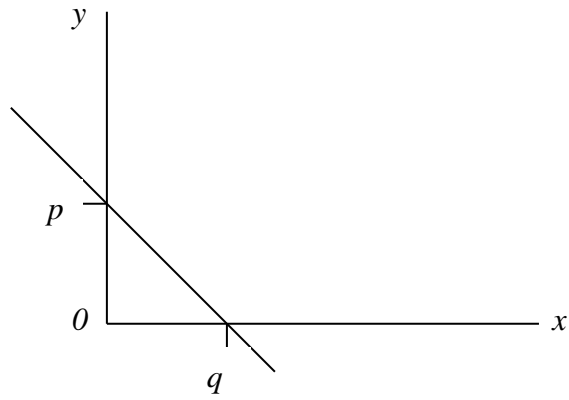
6:  $64^{-1/3}$  is equal to:

- A -4
- B 4
- C -0.25
- D 0.25

7: Which of the following expressions is true?

- A  $2^5 = 16$
- B  $38 > \sqrt{81} + 3^3$
- C  ${}^{62}/_7 \approx 7.9$
- D  $2^2 \times 6 \neq 3(2^4 - 8)$

8: Consider the following graph



What is the equation of the line illustrated above?

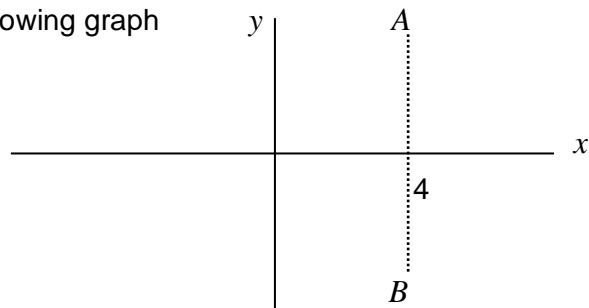
A  $y = -\frac{p}{q}x + p$

B  $y = \frac{q}{p}x + p$

C  $y = -\frac{p}{q}x + q$

D  $y = \frac{q}{p}x + q$

9: Consider the following graph



The line AB has the equation

A  $x - y = 4$

B  $x = 4$

C  $y = 4$

D  $x + y = 4$

10: The formula for the Economic Order Quantity in stock control is given by:

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{2fs}{h}}$$

If  $h$  is made the subject, then  $h$  is equal to

A  $\frac{4f^2s^2}{x^2}$

B  $\frac{x^2}{2fs}$

C  $2fs - x^2$

D  $\frac{2fs}{x^2}$

11: The value of  $x$  which satisfies the equation  $2x^2 - 7x + 3 = 0$  is

A 3

B 4

C 2

D 5

12: Sales are predicted to follow this pattern.

Sales of S	1,500 units with probability 0.1 6,000 units with probability 0.9
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Sales of T	1,000 units with probability 0.3 6,000 units with probability 0.5 5,000 units with probability 0.2
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S requires  $2\text{m}^2$  of warehouse space per unit, and T requires  $3\text{m}^2$  of space per unit.

The required warehouse space is expected to be:

A  $19,400 \text{ m}^2$

B  $24,000 \text{ m}^2$

C  $25,250 \text{ m}^2$

D  $51,000 \text{ m}^2$

13: A loan incurs an interest charge of 2% per month.

What is the effective annual percentage rate?

A 2.0%

B 24.0%

C 26.8%

D 29.8%



- 14: What is the compound interest on £4,000 invested for five years at 6%?
- A £1,353
  - B £1,360
  - C £5,353
  - D £5,360
- 15: What amount would have to be deposited on 1 April 20X5 to total £5,000 on 31 March 20X8 if interest were compound at 7% per annum?
- A £4,081
  - B £3,950
  - C £4,132
  - D £4,255

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## **Answers**

### **English Comprehension Questions**

1) What is Jiayuan's business compared with?

Fitness clubs in Britain and US.

2) Why did Haiyan set up Beautiful Destiny?

To find a husband.

3) What stands between Jiayuan customers and their goal?

Three towering mountains / no money, no time, no connections.

4) According to the text, what are the characteristics of a web entrepreneur?

Male; fluent English speaker; with a degree in computer science.

5) What happened in 1919?

Romance became political / demonstrations against arranged marriage.

6) Who writes to the Little Dragon Lady?

Anguished bachelors, meddling parents and anxious brides.

7) What does fortitude mean?

Strength of mind that allows one to endure pain or adversity with courage (accept 'strength of mind' or 'courage' or 'perseverance').

8) Why did her mother go to such efforts?

She didn't want her to work in the fields / School was her only way out of farm work.

9) When did Haiyan drop out of school?

1994

10) How does she describe her love life?

As a wreck

11) What is the main reason she failed to attract a partner?

She was ugly.

12) What are Jiayuan's customers afraid of becoming?

A leftover woman.

### **Maths Answers**

1. D

2. C

3. B

4. C

5. A

6. D

7. B

8. A

9. B

10. D

11. A

12. B

13. C

14. A

15. A