Verbal Reasoning Test C
Solutions

1. The Earth is not a perfect sphere.
   
   True – The first paragraph states, “Because the Earth’s radius is 25 km less at the poles than at the equator”. Hence, the Earth is not perfectly round.

2. High pressure conditions are generally not favourable for most living things.
   
   True – this can be deduced from the fact that the passage says that the discovery of fish and oceanic life was “a surprise given that water pressure at the trench’s bottom is more than one thousand times atmospheric pressure at sea level”

3. If dumped in the Mariana Trench, nuclear waste would be pushed under shifting tectonic plates.
   
   Cannot tell – this is a hypothetical situation, so although this is a theory given in the third paragraph, there is no way to answer this question definitively.

4. Although assumed to be the deepest point in the world’s oceans, parts of the Arctic ocean are in fact deeper.
   
   False – the first paragraph says that parts of the Arctic Ocean are closer to the Earth’s centre, but the first sentence definitively states that “the Mariana Trench is the deepest part of Earth’s oceans”.

5. Xenophyophores are among the myriad of microscopic organisms dwelling in the Mariana Trench.
   
   False – while xenophyophores do indeed live in the Mariana Trench, they are described as “gigantic amoebas” – so they are not “microscopic” in size.
6 Contemporary sushi gets its sour taste from vinegar.

Cannot tell – the first paragraph states that “Over time, vinegar replaced the fermenting process.” However, in the subsequent sentences describing modern sushi, no mention is made of whether vinegar is used in its preparation, so it is not possible to say definitively whether vinegar is an ingredient.

7 In Nigirizushi, raw fish and rice are held together with nori.

Cannot tell – Although the last paragraph makes reference to raw fish, the description of Nigirizushi does not specify whether the fish is raw or cooked. It is important not to use information you may know from outside of the passage when answering the questions.

8 Futomaki sushi does not contain rice.

False – While rice is not mentioned in the description of Futomaki – “Futomaki are nori rolls filled with fish or vegetarian ingredients” – an earlier sentence states that “There are a wide variety of sushi types, all containing rice.” The word “all” is an absolute. Hence, if it is a type of sushi, futomaki must contain rice.

9 There are both health benefits and risks associated with eating sushi.

True – this statement accurately sums up the last paragraph. While sushi is low in fat (a benefit), eating it could potentially cause illness (a risk).

10 Originating in China, sushi was developed as an early form of fast food.

False – While it is true that sushi originated in China, the first paragraph explains that sushi was developed as a form of food preservation involving a “gradual” fermentation – a slow, rather than fast, process.
11 The UK’s current maternity leave system is based on outmoded views of parenting.

Cannot tell – this is a subjective opinion expressed in the final paragraph. “Advocates of the new flexible parental leave system believe that parenting is no longer exclusively a mother’s preserve”.

12 The proposed flexible parental leave system would increase paid first-year leave to twelve months.

False – not all twelve months would be paid. “…This would be followed by one month’s paid leave for both parents, followed by seven month’s flexible leave – of which four would be paid.”

13 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.

False – the passage says that flexible parental leave “can be split between the father and mother”. It does not say that it must be shared (as per Iceland).

14 Paradoxically, the extension of women’s maternity benefits can have negative implications on their employability.

Cannot tell – this is presented as a subjective opinion in the passage – “however some critics believe that it actually damages women’s career prospects.”

15 The United States does not satisfy the European Union’s statutory minimum maternity leave provision.

True – the second paragraph states that “European member states must offer a minimum of 14 paid weeks of maternity leave”. We are also told that “the United States mandates twelve weeks’ maternity leave – though this is unpaid for approximately 60% of mothers.”