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Topic Break Down

Topic	No. of Questions
Topic 1, Language Skills	24
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Total	936

QUESTION NO: 1

"Chesterton on Virtues and Vices" by Matthew Minerd (2013)

The British author G.K. Chesterton once wrote that the modern world was not really a combination of evils brought about by mere vices being unleashed. Instead, following his normal paradoxical style, Chesterton spoke of the modern world as having been filled with “virtues gone mad.” He believed that Christian notions of things like pity and truth had been split apart in an unhealthy way. Without a sense of honesty, pity could become quite untruthful and deceptive. Likewise, unbridled truth could be come quite nefarious and pitiless. Without a broader context, such virtues could become quite wild and indeed vicious.

Chesterton’s remark is more insightful than might appear at first glance. For instance, it has been confirmed, in part at least, by the historical research undertaken by men like Professor Étienne Gilson. Gilson, an historian of philosophy in the twentieth century, did much of his early work proving that many of the strange positions of Rene Déscartes, a modern man, were actually made up of pieces taken from earlier Christian theologies and philosophies. Although Gilson’s work must be supplemented by newer research, his work remains a confirmation of at least some aspects of Chesterton’s lighthearted reflection. Indeed, a contemporary of Gilson’s, Jacques Maritain, likewise performed similar researches, though his perspective was not historical but speculative.

Based on what is stated in the paragraphs, what can be inferred about Chesterton’s manner of expressing things?

A. His style was strictly like that of the researchers of the early twentieth century.

B. He often presents things in an absurd manner.

C. His insights were applicable when he wrote but no longer should be heeded.

D. He is nothing more than a popularizer, not a real historian of ideas.

E. He is inconsistent and unreliable in his facts.

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The key passage for making a general inference regaring Chesterton's style of expression is, "following his normal paradoxical style." When something is "paradoxical" it seems absurd or selfcontradictory. For instance, the notion of "virtues gone mad" actually is very paradoxical – virtues becoming vices. Thus, the correct answer is the one that infers that that his general manner of presentation must have something of an absurd character to it.

QUESTION NO: 2

Simplify: x5(x2 + 1)

A. x10 + x5

B. x10 + 1

C. x7 + x

D. x7 + 1

E. x7 + x5

ANSWER: E

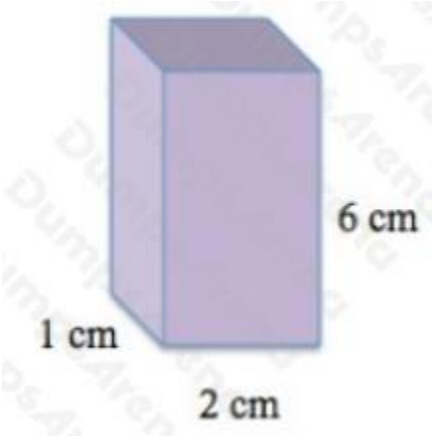
Explanation:

In order to simplify this expression, distribute and multiply the outer term with the two inner terms.

x5(x2 + 1) = x5(x2) + x5(1) = x7 + x5

QUESTION NO: 3

What is the volume of the rectangular prism below?



A. 14 m3

B. 18 cm3

C. 12 cm3

D. 8 cm3

E. 16 m3

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

The formula for volume of a rectangular prism is v = l × w × h

v = 1 × 2 × 6 v = 12 cm3

Remember, volume is always labeled as units to the third power.

QUESTION NO: 4

Mark is three times as old as his son Brian. In ten years, Mark will be 43 years old. In how many years will Mark be twice as old as Brian?

A. 17

B. 11

C. 22

D. 13

E. 20

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

In ten years, Mark will be 43 years old, so Mark is 43 − 10 = 33 years old now, and Brian is one-third of this, or 33 ÷ 3 = 11 years old.

Let N be the number of years in which Mark will be twice Brian's age. Then Brian will be N + 11, and Mark will be N + 33. Since Mark will be twice Brian's age, we can set up and solve the equation:

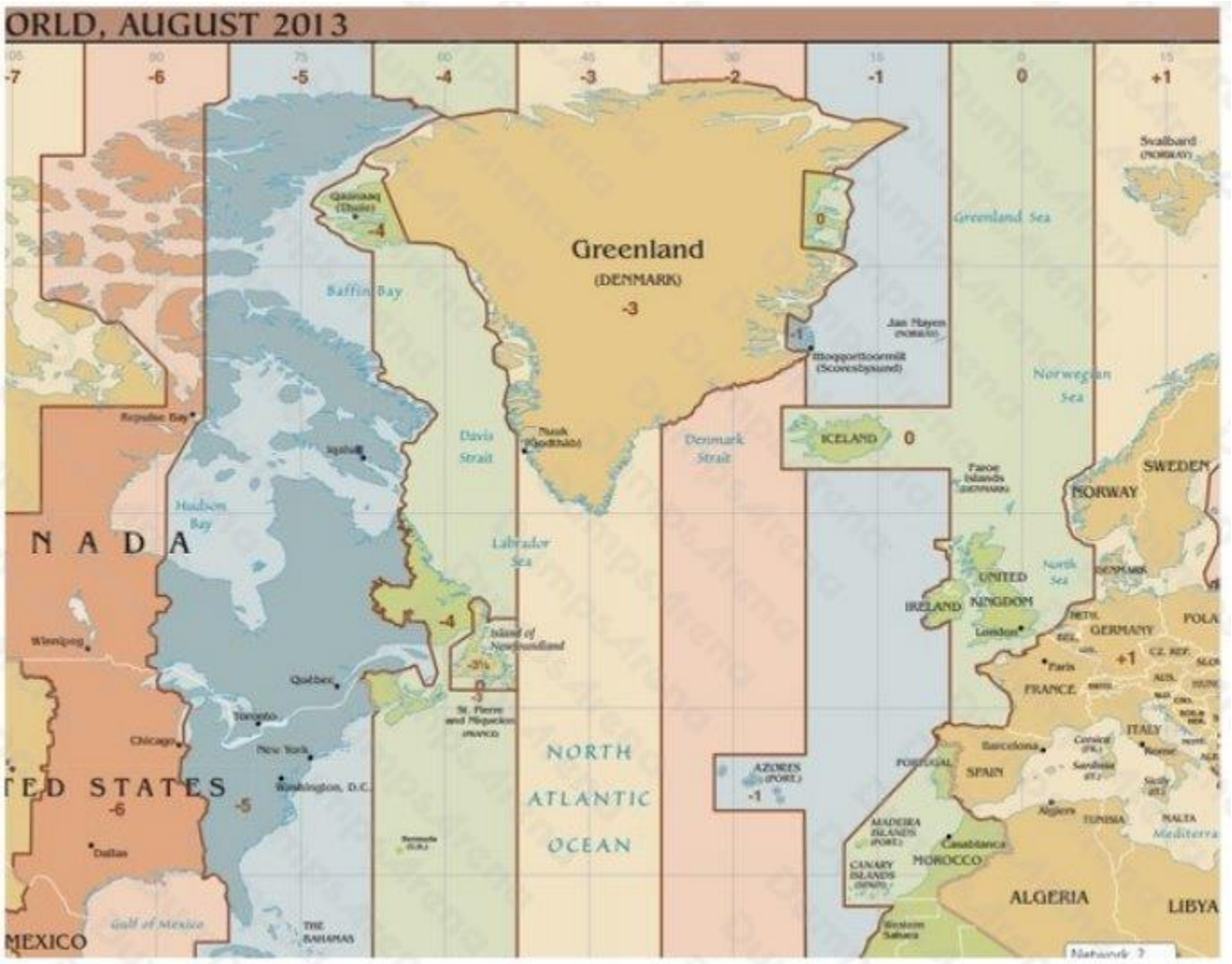
2(N + 11) = N + 33

2N + 22 = N + 33

2N + 22 − N − 22 = N + 33 − N − 22 N = 11

Mark will be twice Brian's age in 11 years.

QUESTION NO: 5



Note: Public domain map from CIA World Factbook.

Refer to the above time zone map. The numbers along the top represent the difference, in hours, between the given time zone and Greenwich Mean Time (the time zone for the United Kingdom).

Which of the following expressions gives the time difference, in hours, between Paris and Dallas?

A. |1 + (−6)|

B. |1 × (−6)|

C. |1 ÷ (−6)|

D. |1 − (−6)|

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

A difference is the result of a subtraction. The time difference between the two cities will be the result of subtracting the numbers along the top of the map for their respective time zones, and taking the absolute value of the difference. The numbers for Paris and Dallas, respectively, are 1 and −6, so the difference in hours between their times is |1 − (−6)|.

QUESTION NO: 6

An antonym of “bizarre” is _____.

A. monstrous

B. ordinary

C. functional

D. unquestioned

E. rustic

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

Something that is bizarre is very unusual, as when one says, “He has the most bizarre opinions of anyone I know. They are so extraordinary that they make no sense to me at all.” This is quite the opposite from “ordinary,” which is a suitable antonym.

QUESTION NO: 7

"The Pets of the Elderly" by Matthew Minerd (2013)

Many younger people think that it is a bit strange to see elderly widows and widowers fussing greatly over their pet dogs and cats. While it is perhaps amusing to see a mature adult babying an animal, this aspect of life often is of crucial importance for the health and happiness of these aging persons. Although they have lost their spouses and often have a dwindling number of friends, these people often have a social network outside of the house that can be deceptively large and active. All of this activity can hide the great loneliness that these people experience when they return home. Often having been the shared refuge with the loving presence of a spouse, the widow’s house or apartment can become a lonely isolation cell, no matter how active he or she might be. Pets often are a solution to this loneliness, becoming dear companions in a life that would otherwise be very devoid of personal contact every morning and night. They offer great joy and consolation to these elderly people. It is therefore understandable that their owners often give them such large amounts of attention.

Which of the following sentences explicitly describes how pets are important in the lives of elderly widows and widowers?

A. Often having been the shared refuge with the loving presence of a spouse, the widow’s house or apartment can become a lonely isolation cell, no matter how active he or she might be.

B. Pets often are a solution to this loneliness, becoming dear companions in a life that would otherwise be very devoid of personal contact every morning and night.

C. All of this activity can hide the great loneliness that these people experience when they return home.

D. While it is perhaps amusing to see a mature adult babying an animal, this aspect of life often is of crucial importance for the health and happiness of these aging persons.

E. It is therefore understandable that their owners often give them such large amounts of attention.

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

While several of the incorrect options are related to the positive relationship between these elderly people and their pets, the only one that is explicit is the sentence that says that the pets often "are a solution to ... loneliness" because they are "dear companions" particularly "every morning and night."

QUESTION NO: 8

An antonym for “meager” is _____.

A. joyous

B. impoverished

C. thin

D. amazing

E. plentiful

ANSWER: E

Explanation:

The word meager is derived from root words meaning “thin” in the sense of not being physically fat. When supplies, food, or other things are described as being “meager,” they are lacking in quantity. Among the options provided, the only antonym to such lack is “plentiful.”

QUESTION NO: 9

Select the answer choice that is closest in meaning to the word in capital letters.

SAGACIOUS

A. Effluent

B. Astute

C. Arrogant

D. Barefaced

E. Complaisant

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

"Sagacious" and "astute" both mean smart or judicious. "Arrogant" means haughty or overly proud. "Barefaced" means shameless or open. "Complaisant" means agreeable or easy-going. "Effluent" means drainage or outflow.

QUESTION NO: 10

"Turquoise" is to "blue" as "rose" is to "_____".

A. bouquet

B. thorns

C. barbed

D. red

E. spring

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

The color turquoise is a shade of blue (or also a shade of green, depending on your perspective). It likewise is a type of stone that is blue-green. (The two uses, unsurprisingly, are related). Although you could read this analogy as using "turquoise" and "rose" to describe the physical things indicated by those names, it is easier to understand if you consider them merely as colors. As turquoise is a type of blue, so is rose a type of red. (It is purple-pink). The analogy would work for the physical objects as well, though. (As a turquoise stone is blue – or at least bluish – so is a rose red – or at least reddish).

QUESTION NO: 11

An antonym for "munificent" is _____.

A. stingy

B. brawny

C. strengthened

D. compact

E. relaxed

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The word “munificent” literally means “gift-giving.” More properly speaking, the English definition is, “the character quality of being very lavish and generous.” One could say, “Uncle Peter was extremely munificent to all of his relatives. Since he had no children of his own, he spent his extra money more lavishly among his other relatives.” In contrast with this, only “stingy” indicates a lack of generosity.

QUESTION NO: 12

Which word does not belong with the others?

A. form

B. curve

C. shape

D. structure

E. arrangement

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

All of the related words pertain to the general shape or structure of something but not to any specific form of shaping. The word “form” can mean “shape” or “outward appearance.” Think of how we speak of someone having a “lovely form” – that is, a beautiful appearance and well-balanced shaping. The structure of something is the general arrangement found among its parts, giving it a certain form of shape. “Curve” really names a single type of shape, not the general idea of arrangement, shaping, or forming.

QUESTION NO: 13

"Preparing for Standardized Tests: Two Approaches" by Matthew Minerd (2013)

Generally speaking, there are two major camps regarding the appropriate manner by which one should approach a standardized test. On the one hand, there are those people and businesses that believe that you should learn the “tricks of the test.” This approach encourages the idea that the given exam relies on a set of “inside tricks” that will fool students who are not well-informed about the way such tricks are designed. It likewise focuses less on content then on strategies for answering questions. On the other hand, there is the camp that believes that the best way to approach an exam is to be a complete expert on the content that will be examined. While this approach focuses on teaching the subject matter that will be tested, it often focuses very little on the test-taking strategies that can aid students who are taking a given exam. Although there are numerous strong partisans regarding each approach, it must be admitted that both have their strengths and their weaknesses.

What is the main idea that this paragraph wishes to convey?

A. The "tricks of the test" approach is a foolish lie that has made a lot of money for those who support it.

B. Test preparation is a great idea; no matter how you do it, you will make great improvement.

C. It is foolish to think that someone can become an expert in examination content before taking the standardized test.

D. There are two major approaches to preparing for standardized tests, one based on test strategies and another based on test content; ultimately, they both have relative strengths and weaknesses.

E. Test-taking strategies are a key component to success in preparing for a standardized test.

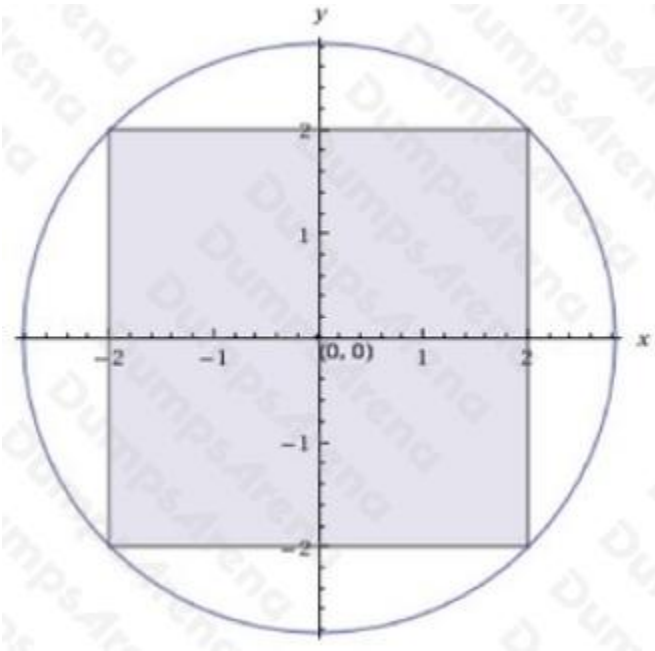
ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Primarily, the passage outlines the differences found in two approaches to preparing for standardized tests. However, note that at the end, it likewise does make a statement acknowledging that there are strengths and weaknesses to each approach. Both of these aspects are necessary in forming a general statement of the main idea of this passage.

QUESTION NO: 14

A square with a side length of 4 inches is inscribed in a circle, as shown below. What is the area of the unshaded region inside of the circle, in square inches?



A. 4π − 4

B. 8π − 4

C. 2π − 4

D. 8π − 8

E. 8π − 16

ANSWER: E

Explanation:

Using the Pythagorean Theorem, the diameter of the circle (also the diagonal of the square) can be found to be $4\sqrt{2}$. Thus, the radius of the circle is half of the diameter, or $2\sqrt{2}$. The area of the circle is then $\pi(2\sqrt{2})2$, which equals 8π. Next, the area of the square must be subtracted from the entire circle, yielding an area of $8\pi - 16$ square inches.

QUESTION NO: 15

Bob gets paid $5.25 an hour for the regular hours he works and $6 an hour for any overtime hours he works. All hours over 40 in a week are considered overtime. If Bob works 44 hours this week, how much did he make?

A. $264

B. $234

C. $285

D. $231

E. $495

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

You first calculate how much he makes for normal hours, which is the number of hours works multiplied by the wage. So for normal hours, 40 × 5.25 = $210. For overtime, it is 4 × 6 = 24. Add the amount made in overtime and the normal hours and you get $234.

QUESTION NO: 16

Throughout the course of history, trends often occur in pairs, one cancelling out the excesses of the one that preceded it. For instance, after many years of dictatorship, a nation can find itself only worried about securing the maximum amount of freedom for its citizens. Things had been going very well for Paul for a number of years, and he had become quite wealthy and satisfied that he would forever rest in his wealth; however, he should have been aware that the winds of fate do change rapidly.

Which of the following can be inferred from the paragraph?

A. Paul will realize that he acquired his wealth by oppression and will decide to distribute it all to the poor.

B. Paul will realize his greed and repent.

C. Paul should be aware that his wealth might suddenly be lost.

D. Paul will soon forget about his wealth and focus on humanitarian pursuits.

E. Paul will be wealthy in spite of hard circumstances.

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

The opening sentence of this paragraph sets up the general motif that is being explained – about the "back and forth" of history that leads one change to happen in an opposite manner to the state of affairs before that change. The example of the dictatorship vs. quasi-libertarian state is supposed to provide an image of such change. Then, describing Paul's life, the paragraph remarks that he was wealthy. The paragraph closes by clearly (and ominously) relating Paul's life to the general "back and forth" of history; therefore, the implication is that Paul should be concerned that he will lose his wealth. (Note that we cannot say anything about Paul's character, so any of the answers related there to go beyond what can be implied from the passage).

QUESTION NO: 17



The above depicts a rectangular swimming pool for an apartment. The pool is two meters deep everywhere. What is the volume of the pool in cubic meters?

A. The correct answer is not among the other choices.

B. 876 m3

C. 720 m3

D. 1,440 m3

E. 820 m3

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

The pool can be seen as a rectangular prism with dimensions 24 meters by 15 meters by 2 meters; its volume is the product of these dimensions, or 24 × 15 × 2 = 720 cubic meters.

QUESTION NO: 18

"Baron" is to "nobility" as "beggar" is to "_____".

A. underclass

B. petition

C. wastrel

D. forgotten

E. deprived

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

A baron is a type of noble and thus could be said to be a member of the general class of "nobility." The bridge sentence for this analogy could be constructed, "As a baron is a member of the nobility, so is a beggar a member of the X." The only general class among the options provided is "underclass," which is the part of society that is greatly impoverished and without employment. A beggar could fairly be said to be a member of this broader group.

QUESTION NO: 19

Consider the sequence

7, 8, 10, 14, 22, 38, ○, □, ...

What number replaces the square?

A. 64

B. 134

C. 94

D. 102

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The increment that is added to each successive term to obtain the next term is doubled each time.

7 + 1 = 8

8 + 2 = 10

10 + 4 = 14

14 + 8 = 22

22 + 16 = 38

38 + 32 = 70, the number in the circle

70 + 64 = 134, the number in the square, which is the correct choice.

QUESTION NO: 20

Adapted from a letter by T. Thatcher published in The Publishers Circular on September 27th, 1902 A PLEA FOR A LONG WALK

Sir – In these days of increasing rapid artificial locomotion, may I be permitted to say a word in favor of a very worthy and valuable old friend of mine, Mr. Long-Walk?

I am afraid that this good gentleman is in danger of getting neglected, if not forgotten. We live in days of water trips and land trips, excursions by sea, road, and rail – bicycles and tricycles, tram cars and motor cars, hansom cabs and ugly cabs; but in my humble opinion good honest walking exercise for health beats all other kinds of locomotion into a cocked hat. In rapid traveling all the finer nerves, senses, and vessels are "rush" and unduly excited, but in walking every particle of the human frame, and even the moral faculties, are evenly and naturally brought into exercise. It is the best discipline and physical mental tonic in the world. Limbs, body, muscles, lungs, chest, heart, digestion, breathing, are healthily brought into normal operation, while. especially in the long distance walk, the exercise of patience, perseverance, industry, energy, perception, and reflection – and, indeed, all the senses and moral faculties – are elevated and cultivated healthfully and naturally. Many never know the beauty of it because they never go far enough: exercise and hard work should never be relinquished at any age or by either sex. Heart disease, faintness, and sudden death, and even crime, are far more due to the absence of wholesome normal exercise and taste than to anything else, to enervating luxuries rather than to hill climbing.

I usually give myself a holiday on a birthday, and as I lately reached my 63rd I determined to give myself a day with my old friend Mr. Long-Walk, and decided to tramp to the city of Wells and back for my birthday holiday – a distance of about forty-two miles. Fortune favors the brave, and, thanks to a mosquito that pitched on my nose and was just commencing operations, I woke very early in the morning. It is an ill wind that blows no one any good. Mosquitoes are early birds, but I stole a march on them. But to my journey.

I started at about 5 A.M., and proceeding via Dundry and Chow Stoke, reached Wells soon after 10 A.M. After attending the cathedral, I pursued my walk homeward by a different route, via Chewton Mendip, Farrington, Temple Cloud, Clutton, and Pensford.

To make a walk successful, mind and body should be free of burden. I never carry a stick on a long walk, but prefer to be perfectly free, giving Nature's balancing poles – the pendulum arms – complete swing and absolute liberty. Walking exercises, together with a well-educated palate, are the greatest physicians in the world: no disease can withstand them. I returned from my fortytwo miles tramp with birthday honors and reward. I had no headache on the following morning, but was up early in good form, fresh and ready for work. Forty-two miles may be too strong a dose for many, but I cannot too strongly recommend for a day's companionship the society of my old and well-tried friend, Mr. Long-Walk. Faithfully yours,

T. Thatcher

44 College Green, Bristol.

Which of the author's claims support his argument that "even crime" is due to a lack of good, long walks?

A. Rapid traveling excites the nerves.

B. Excursions by sea, road, and rail have higher crime rates.

C. Patience, perseverance, and industry are elevated by long distance walks.

D. Long walks are enjoyable.

E. Limbs, body, muscles, and lungs are brought into normal operation by exercise.

F. Thatcher
44 College Green, Bristol.
Which of the author's claims support his argument that "even crime" is due to a lack of good, long walks?

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Patience, perseverance, and industry are positive moral characteristics that can reasonably be put in contrast to a criminal bent. Neither the physical benefits of walking nor the nervous excitement of traveling fast are not relevant for this claim, and the author does not comment on specific crime rates of various modes of transportation. Similarly, while the author clearly enjoys long walks, the fact that he finds them enjoyable has nothing to do with his claim that "even crime" is due to a lack of long walks.

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