

## Day 12

The oasis was beautiful- there was a pool of nice clean water, surrounded by frondy palm trees, lush greenery, and deckchairs. The three wise men jumped off their camels, and the whole party ran towards the pool. The magi were principally bothered with drinking nice cool water, choosing deck chairs and whipping out their sunglasses. The camels, however, were rather better adapted to travelling long distances across deserts than three wise men who had spent most of their lives so far in libraries. As such, they were racing to the pool to check their reflections in the water. Happy that they were looking dapper, and after a quick slurp of water, the camels trotted off towards the great crowd of camels just a few hundred metres away from the oasis.

“I suppose they must not be too thirsty, what with all that water in their humps” yawned Melchior, as he stretched out of a deck chair.

“They don’t actually store water in their humps, you know” stated Caspar. Even while relaxing, he liked to ensure the other magi knew he was the cleverest. “The humps are actually reservoirs of fatty tissue. Having them concentrated in one place minimises the insulating effect the fat would have if it was distributed all over the camel. Camels have a series of physiological adaptations ...”

“Pass the sun cream, please” Balthazar interrupted. “Then, I think we should write some letters home and send them to our apprentices- to let them know how we are getting on, and remind them not to shirk on their duties while we are away”.

He grabbed some parchment from the bag of magi-supplies, and began to write in his neatest handwriting:

*‘Dear Apprentices,*

*Our journey is progressing...’*

“You can’t say progressing well” piped up Melchior. “Remember that thing with the mineshaft? And all the time Caspar spent sulking because of that wise old sage who was cleverer than him?”

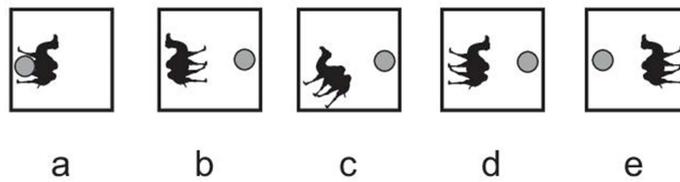
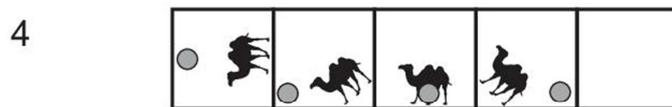
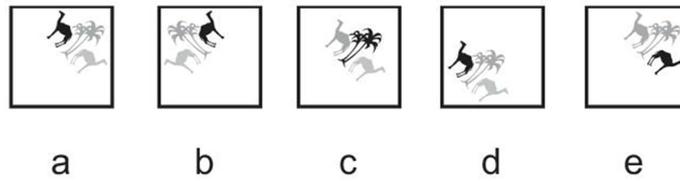
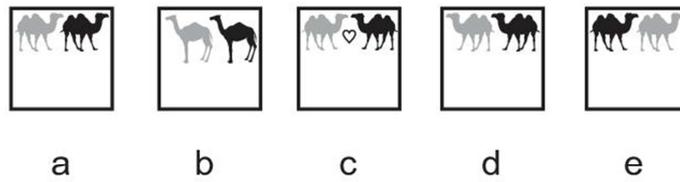
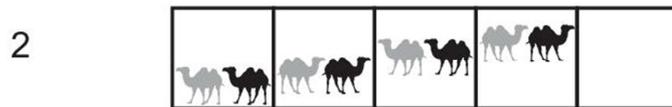
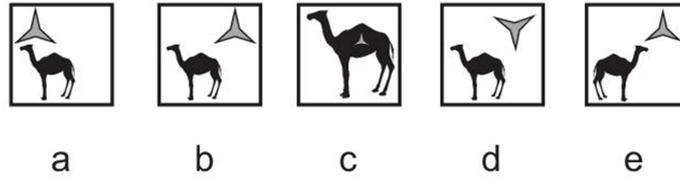
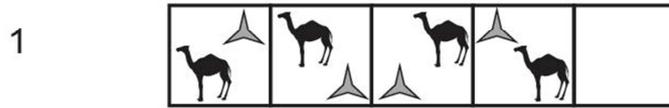
*‘Our journey is progressing eventfully’ finished Balthazar. ‘We have already acquired gold and myrrh, and hope to buy some frankincense soon. Incidentally, I note that one of you spelled frankincense incorrectly while copying out the map. Fear not, dear Apprentices. This is the kind of mistake even fully qualified wise men make from time to time. Do not neglect to complete your daily arithmetic scroll,*

*Your learned masters,*

*Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar*

Meanwhile, Kevin and Gary had found their groove and were fully in the swing of the camel party dance (Wayne had spotted Sharon the camel, his ex-girlfriend, and was hiding behind a palm tree, wondering whether to go to talk to her or not). Look at the next page to see what camel dances look like!

What comes next in each sequence?



If you had fun doing this exercise, or found it horribly tricky and think you need to improve your Non-Verbal Reasoning skills, then you can buy whole books just stuffed full of wonderful Non-Verbal Reasoning questions at [www.sarahbeswick11plus.co.uk](http://www.sarahbeswick11plus.co.uk).

Answers: 1- b 2- d 3- a 4- d