BLOGS

Sample Reading Comprehension Questions for CLAT 2024

Ruchika Mohapatra · 17 May 2023

Read the passage and answer the following questions.

PASSAGE

There are three stages in your reintegration,' said O'Brien. 'There is learning, there is understanding, and there is acceptance. It is time for you to enter upon the second stage.'

As always, Winston was lying flat on his back. But of late his bonds were looser. They still held him to the bed, but he could move his knees a little and could turn his head from side to side and raise his arms from the elbow. The dial, also, had grown to be less of a terror.

He could evade its pangs if he was quick-witted enough: it was chiefly when he showed stupidity that O'Brien pulled the lever. Sometimes they got through a whole session without use of the dial. He could not remember how many sessions there had been. The whole process seemed to stretch out over a long, indefinite time — weeks, possibly — and the intervals between the sessions might sometimes have been days, sometimes only an hour or two.

'As you lie there,' said O'Brien, 'you have often wondered you have even asked me — why the Ministry of Love should expend so much time and trouble on you. And when you were free you were puzzled by what was essentially the same question. You could grasp the mechanics of the Society you lived in, but not its underlying motives.

Do you remember writing in your diary, "I understand how: I do not understand why"? It was when you thought about "why" that you doubted your own sanity. You have read the book, Goldstein's book, or parts of it, at least. Did it tell you anything that you did not know already?'

'You have read it?' said Winston.

'I wrote it. That is to say, I collaborated in writing it. No book is produced individually, as you know.'

‘Is it true, what it says?’

‘A description, yes. The programme it sets forth is nonsense. The secret accumulation of knowledge — a gradual spread of enlightenment — ultimately a proletarian rebellion — the overthrow of the Party. You foresaw yourself that that was what it would say. It is all nonsense. The proletarians will never revolt, not in a thousand years or a million.

They cannot. I do not have to tell you the reason: you know it already. If you have ever cherished any dreams of violent insurrection, you must abandon them. There is no way in which the Party can be overthrown. The rule of the Party is for ever. Make that the starting-point of your thoughts.’

He came closer to the bed. ‘For ever!’ he repeated. ‘And now let us get back to the question of “how” and “why”. You understand well enough how the Party maintains itself in power. Now tell me why we cling to power. What is our motive? Why should we want power? Go on, speak,’ he added as Winston remained silent.

Nevertheless Winston did not speak for another moment or two. A feeling of weariness had overwhelmed him. The faint, mad gleam of enthusiasm had come back into O’Brien’s face. He knew in advance what O’Brien would say. That the Party did not seek power for its own ends, but only for the good of the majority. That it sought power because men in the mass were frail cowardly creatures who could not endure liberty or face the truth, and must be ruled over and systematically deceived by others who were stronger than themselves.

That the choice for mankind lay between freedom and happiness, and that, for the great bulk of mankind, happiness was better. That the party was the eternal guardian of the weak, a dedicated sect doing evil that good might come, sacrificing its own happiness to that of others. The terrible thing, thought Winston, the terrible thing was that when O’Brien said this he would believe it. You could see it in his face.

O’Brien knew everything. A thousand times better than Winston he knew what the world was really like, in what degradation the mass of human beings lived and by what lies and barbarities the Party kept them there. He had understood it all, weighed it all, and it made no difference: all was justified by the ultimate purpose. What can you do, thought Winston, against the lunatic who is more intelligent than yourself, who gives your arguments a fair hearing and then simply persists in his lunacy?

‘You are ruling over us for our own good,’ he said feebly. ‘You believe that human beings are not fit to govern themselves, and therefore –‘

[Excerpt taken from George Orwell’s 1984]

1. What are the three stages mentioned by O’Brien in the process of reintegration? a) Denial, acceptance, submission b) Learning, understanding, acceptance c) Inquiry, analysis, transformation d) Curiosity, adaptation, obedience
2. According to O’Brien, what is the Party’s view of the possibility of a proletarian rebellion? a) It is inevitable in the near future. b) It has already happened. c) It is a fantasy and will never occur. d) It can be achieved with the right strategy.
3. What is Winston’s realization about O’Brien’s understanding of the world? a) O’Brien is deluded and ignorant. b) O’Brien is aware of the Party’s lies and deception. c) O’Brien has a deeper comprehension than Winston. d) O’Brien is trapped in a cycle of lunacy.
4. What does Winston doubt when he ponders the motives of the Ministry of Love? a) The sanity of the Party members b) The authenticity of Goldstein’s book c) The effectiveness of the reintegration process d) His own understanding of the society’s motives
5. Does O’Brien believe the Party can be overthrown? Why or why not? a) Yes, because the Party’s power is not absolute. b) Yes, because the proletarians will eventually rebel. c) No, because the Party’s rule is permanent and unchallenged. d) No, because the Party is weak and vulnerable.

Answers

1. b
2. c
3. c
4. d
5. c

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