BLOGS

Inference-Based Reading Comprehension: CLAT Practice Questions

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Reading Comprehension 1

In recent years, governments across the world have increasingly relied on technology-driven welfare delivery systems. Digital identification, direct benefit transfers, and automated eligibility checks are often presented as solutions to corruption and inefficiency. Proponents argue that such systems reduce leakages, ensure targeted delivery, and promote transparency.

However, critics highlight that excessive dependence on technology can exclude vulnerable populations. Issues such as lack of internet access, biometric failures, and low digital literacy disproportionately affect the elderly, migrant workers, and rural communities. Studies from multiple countries indicate that while fraud reduction may occur, exclusion errors often rise simultaneously.

The debate therefore is not about whether technology should be used, but about how it should be designed and implemented. Without adequate safeguards, grievance redressal mechanisms, and offline alternatives, digital welfare systems risk prioritising efficiency over equity.

Questions

1. It can be inferred that the author views technology in welfare delivery as

A. inherently harmful to marginalised communities

B. beneficial only when supported by inclusive safeguards

C. ineffective in reducing corruption

D. unsuitable for use in developing countries

2. The mention of “exclusion errors” suggests that

A. digital systems are more corrupt than manual systems

B. technological efficiency may come at the cost of access

C. welfare schemes should be discontinued

D. fraud is the primary concern of governments

3. From the passage, it can be inferred that critics of digital welfare systems are mainly concerned about

A. budgetary constraints

B. political misuse of technology

C. unequal access to technological infrastructure

D. delays in implementation

4. The author's statement that the debate is "not about whether technology should be used" implies that

A. the use of technology in welfare is inevitable

B. technology has already failed

C. governments are unwilling to reform

D. traditional welfare systems are superior

5. Which of the following would the author most likely agree with?

A. Digital welfare systems should replace all offline systems

B. Technology alone can ensure social justice

C. Welfare delivery must balance efficiency with inclusiveness

D. Leakages are a minor concern in welfare schemes

Reading Comprehension 2

Social media platforms have transformed the way political discourse takes place. They allow citizens to engage directly with leaders, mobilise support, and share opinions instantly. This has been praised as a step towards democratising public debate, especially for voices that were previously marginalised in traditional media.

At the same time, these platforms have been criticised for amplifying misinformation and polarisation. Algorithm-driven content often prioritises engagement over accuracy, leading to the rapid spread of emotionally charged or misleading information. As a result, public discourse may become fragmented, with users exposed mainly to views that reinforce their existing beliefs.

While regulation of social media is increasingly discussed, there is concern that excessive control may curb free expression. The challenge lies in addressing harmful content without undermining

the open nature of digital platforms.

Questions

6. It can be inferred that the author believes social media's impact on democracy is

A. entirely positive

B. largely harmful

C. complex and mixed

D. irrelevant to political participation

7. The reference to algorithms prioritising engagement suggests that

A. platforms intentionally spread misinformation

B. business incentives influence content visibility

C. users prefer inaccurate information

D. regulation has failed completely

8. From the passage, one can infer that misinformation spreads rapidly on social media primarily because

A. users lack political awareness

B. governments do not regulate platforms

C. emotionally engaging content is promoted

D. traditional media is unreliable

9. The concern about "excessive control" indicates that the author is wary of

A. technological innovation

B. corporate dominance

C. censorship affecting free speech

D. user disengagement

10. Which of the following conclusions is most consistent with the author's view?

A. Social media should be banned from political use

B. Regulation must eliminate all harmful content

C. A balance is needed between regulation and free expression

D. Political discourse was healthier before social media

Answer Key:

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. C
7. B
8. C
9. C
10. C