BLOGS

Passage-Based Questions on English for CLAT UG [Part 23]

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Passage 1 (P.1)

For much of the twentieth century, work followed a predictable structure. Individuals typically joined a single organisation early in their careers and remained there for decades, gradually advancing through clearly defined roles. This stability allowed workers to plan their lives with relative certainty, and companies benefited from loyal employees who accumulated institutional knowledge over time. However, the modern labour market has begun to challenge this traditional model. Rapid technological change, global competition, and shifting economic priorities have transformed the way organisations operate. Companies now frequently prioritise flexibility over permanence, hiring workers for specific projects rather than long-term positions.

The rise of freelance platforms and the gig economy has further accelerated this trend. Supporters of these changes argue that they create opportunities for individuals to pursue diverse interests and maintain greater control over their schedules. Workers may collaborate with multiple organisations simultaneously, gaining exposure to varied industries and experiences. In this view, flexibility can foster innovation and personal autonomy.

Critics, however, warn that such flexibility often comes at the cost of economic security. Gig workers frequently lack benefits such as health insurance, retirement contributions, and paid leave. Without stable employment contracts, individuals may face uncertain incomes and limited legal protections. Governments and policymakers therefore face a difficult challenge.

They must balance the economic benefits of flexible labour markets with the need to ensure fair working conditions. Some countries have begun experimenting with new labour regulations designed to extend certain protections to gig workers while preserving the advantages of flexible employment arrangements. The transformation of work is unlikely to reverse. Instead, societies must adapt their legal and economic frameworks to reflect the realities of an evolving labour landscape.

1. Which of the following best captures the central tension discussed in the passage?

a. Technological progress versus environmental sustainability

b. Labour flexibility versus economic security for workers

c. Corporate profit versus consumer welfare

d. Automation versus human creativity

2. The author's discussion of institutional knowledge primarily serves to?

a. illustrate one advantage of long-term employment structures

b. criticise modern education systems

c. argue that companies resist technological change

d. suggest that older workers are more productive

3. Which of the following statements can most reasonably be inferred from the passage?

a. The gig economy eliminates traditional employment entirely.

b. Governments have already solved the challenges of flexible employment.

c. Labour policies must evolve alongside economic changes.

d. Workers prefer gig work over permanent employment.

4. If governments failed to introduce new labour protections for gig workers, the author would most likely predict?

a. greater economic stability for companies

b. increasing insecurity among segments of the workforce

c. the disappearance of freelance work

d. the end of global competition

5. Which of the following best challenges the critics' argument described in the passage?

a. Evidence that gig workers receive higher hourly wages on average

b. Evidence that technological change has slowed dramatically

c. Evidence that companies prefer permanent employees

d. Evidence that traditional jobs provide no benefits

Passage 2 (P.2)

Public libraries have long served as gateways to knowledge, providing communities with free access to books, information, and educational resources. Historically, they played a particularly significant role in societies where books were expensive and educational opportunities were

limited. By offering access to literature and learning materials, libraries helped bridge gaps in education and literacy. In the digital age, however, some observers have questioned whether libraries remain relevant. With vast amounts of information available online, individuals can now access articles, books, and research materials from their homes.

Critics therefore argue that physical libraries may gradually lose their importance. Yet this view overlooks the broader role libraries play within communities. Modern libraries are not merely repositories of books; they function as cultural and educational centres. Many offer workshops, digital literacy programs, community discussions, and spaces for collaborative learning. For individuals without reliable internet access, libraries often provide essential technological resources. Furthermore, libraries represent one of the few public spaces dedicated entirely to intellectual exploration without commercial pressure.

Unlike bookstores or online platforms driven by profit, libraries prioritise accessibility and knowledge-sharing rather than sales. In this sense, libraries remain vital institutions even in an increasingly digital world. Their function may evolve, but their underlying purpose , to promote learning and equal access to information—continues to hold significant social value.

6. Which of the following assumptions underlies the critics' argument mentioned in the passage?

a. Online information sources are universally accessible.
b. Digital technologies eliminate the need for physical spaces.
c. Libraries depend entirely on government funding.
d. Books are becoming obsolete.

7. The author introduces examples such as workshops and digital literacy programs primarily to?

a. demonstrate that libraries have expanded their functions beyond lending books
b. argue that libraries should replace schools
c. criticise the limited role of online education
d. suggest that libraries should become commercial centres

8. Which of the following conclusions would most weaken the author's argument?

a. A significant proportion of people rely exclusively on online information sources.
b. Most communities continue to support public libraries financially.
c. Libraries remain the only free source of printed books in many regions.

d. Governments increasingly invest in library infrastructure.

9. The author's reference to commercial pressure mainly emphasises?

a. the financial difficulties faced by libraries

b. the difference between public institutions and profit-driven enterprises

c. the rising cost of books

d. government regulation of libraries

10. The passage suggests that the future relevance of libraries depends primarily on?

a. their ability to adapt their services to evolving informational needs

b. their transformation into digital corporations

c. the decline of internet access

d. their replacement by private bookstores

Passage 3 (P.3)

Artificial intelligence has rapidly become integrated into many aspects of modern life, from recommendation algorithms used by streaming platforms to complex systems assisting medical diagnoses. These technologies promise efficiency, accuracy, and the ability to process vast quantities of information far beyond human capacity. Despite these advantages, the increasing reliance on artificial intelligence has raised important ethical questions. One major concern involves algorithmic bias. If the data used to train AI systems reflects existing social inequalities, the resulting decisions may unintentionally reinforce those inequalities.

For example, hiring algorithms trained on biased historical data may unfairly disadvantage certain groups of applicants. Another concern relates to accountability. When decisions are made by automated systems, determining responsibility for errors becomes difficult. Should the developer of the algorithm, the company deploying it, or the machine itself be held responsible when mistakes occur? Some experts argue that strong regulatory frameworks are necessary to ensure that AI technologies are used responsibly.

Others caution that excessive regulation could slow innovation and prevent beneficial technological progress. The debate therefore reflects a broader challenge: balancing technological advancement with ethical responsibility. As artificial intelligence continues to develop, societies must carefully consider how these systems are designed, deployed, and governed.

11. The example of hiring algorithms in the passage primarily shows?

a. the technological limitations of artificial intelligence

b. the possibility that automated systems may reproduce existing biases

c. the efficiency of machine learning systems

d. the advantages of data-driven recruitment

12. The author raises the question of accountability mainly to highlight?

a. the legal ambiguity surrounding responsibility for automated decisions

b. the economic costs of AI technology

c. the technical complexity of algorithms

d. the role of governments in software development

13. Which of the following developments would most directly address the concerns about algorithmic bias described in the passage?

a. Increasing the speed of AI decision-making systems

b. Expanding the volume of training data without review

c. Carefully auditing datasets and algorithmic outcomes for fairness

d. Eliminating human oversight from automated systems

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

a. Artificial intelligence should replace human judgment entirely.

b. Ethical considerations should guide the development of new technologies.

c. Innovation should be prioritised regardless of social consequences.

d. Regulation inevitably prevents technological progress.

15. The passage implies that the debate about AI regulation arises because?

a. artificial intelligence has no practical benefits

b. innovation and ethical safeguards may sometimes conflict

c. governments lack technological expertise

d. developers intentionally design biased algorithms

Answers

1. B – The passage keeps comparing flexibility in modern jobs with the loss of stability and benefits, showing a conflict between flexibility and security.

2. A – Institutional knowledge is mentioned to show how long-term employees benefit companies, highlighting one advantage of the old stable work model.
3. C – The author says societies must adapt laws and policies to new work patterns, so labour rules need to change with economic reality.
4. B – If protections are not added, gig workers will continue to lack benefits and stable income, leading to more insecurity.
5. A – If gig workers earn higher wages, it weakens the critics' claim that flexibility always harms workers financially.
6. A – Critics assume online information is easily available to everyone, so they think physical libraries are no longer necessary.
7. A – Workshops and digital programs show that libraries now do more than lend books, proving they have adapted to modern needs.
8. A – If most people use only online sources, it weakens the claim that libraries remain essential for access to information.
9. B – The author contrasts libraries with profit-driven platforms to show that libraries exist for public learning, not for making money.
10. A – The passage says libraries will stay relevant if they evolve, meaning their future depends on adapting to new informational needs.
11. B – The hiring example shows that AI can repeat past discrimination if the data used to train it is biased.
12. A – The author asks who is responsible for AI mistakes to show that the law is unclear about liability in automated decisions.
13. C – Checking datasets and results for fairness directly helps prevent biased outcomes, which is the main concern discussed.
14. B – The passage stresses balancing innovation with responsibility, so technology should develop with ethical limits in mind.
15. B – The debate exists because strict rules may slow innovation, but no rules may cause harm, so both goals can clash.