BLOGS

Passage-Based Questions on English for CLAT UG [Part 6]

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Passage 1 (P.1) In cities that pride themselves on speed, convenience has become the highest form of virtue. Food arrives without kitchens, friendships persist without proximity, and memory itself is outsourced to glowing rectangles that never forget, even when we would prefer to. At first glance, this seems like progress: a triumph of human ingenuity over the frictions of time and space. Yet beneath this seamless surface lies a subtler transformation one that does not announce itself with the drama of revolution but advances with the soft footsteps of habit. The promise of convenience is not merely that life becomes easier, but that effort itself becomes unnecessary. The more our surroundings anticipate our needs, the less often we are required to articulate them, even to ourselves. Navigation applications guide us through cities we never truly learn, recommendation systems introduce us to books we might never choose, and automated reminders nudge us through days that feel increasingly pre-scripted. What is lost in this exchange is not simply skill, but a certain intimacy with the world, a knowledge born of trial, error, and occasional failure. This shift also alters how we understand choice. When options are filtered before they reach us, freedom takes on a curated quality. The individual remains convinced of their autonomy, even as invisible mechanisms shape the horizon of what seems desirable or sensible. It becomes difficult to tell where personal preference ends and quiet suggestion begins. The result is not coercion, but a gentler form of guidance, one that feels less like being pushed and more like being carried. Yet convenience is not an enemy to be defeated. It has eased burdens that once consumed entire lifetimes and has opened doors for those previously excluded by geography, time, or physical limitation. The challenge lies in resisting the temptation to let ease replace engagement altogether. A life stripped of friction may be efficient, but it risks becoming thin, smooth on the surface, yet lacking the depth that comes from navigating the world without a map already drawn. **1. The author's primary concern in the passage is that convenience?**

a. has eliminated human creativity in modern societies

b. subtly reshapes how individuals engage with the world and make choices

c. primarily benefits corporations rather than individuals

d. is a temporary trend driven by digital technology **2. In the line "freedom takes on a curated**

quality," the word curated most nearly means?

a. carefully selected by external systems

b. made more efficient and accessible

c. restricted through force or authority

d. entirely artificial and deceptive **3. Which of the following would the author most likely agree with?**

a. Convenience improves life but reduces meaningful engagement with the world

b. Technology-driven convenience should be limited by law

c. Individuals are incapable of making genuine choices in modern society

d. Efficiency and depth of experience cannot coexist **4. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?**

a. Narrative

b. Optimistic

c. Descriptive

d. Critical **5. If the author were to respond to the statement, "Navigation apps simply make life easier without changing how people think," would they most likely say that ?**

a. this is true because thinking is unaffected by tools

b. even small aids can gradually alter how people relate to their surroundings

c. tools only influence physical movement, not mental habits

d. people become dependent only if they lack education **Passage 2 (P.2)** In many cultures, speech is treated as the primary currency of intelligence. The ability to argue, persuade, and articulate is celebrated as evidence of a sharp mind and a confident presence. Silence, by contrast, is often interpreted as absence: of opinion, of courage, or even of understanding. Yet this assumption overlooks the complex work that quietness can perform. Silence can be a form of listening that goes beyond mere politeness. To remain quiet in a conversation is sometimes to create space rather than to withdraw from it. In such moments, attention shifts away from the speaker's desire to be heard and toward the subtle rhythms of what is being said. Tone, hesitation, and what is left unsaid begin to matter as much as the words themselves. Meaning emerges not only from expression, but from restraint. There is also a political dimension to silence. Throughout history, those denied a voice have used quiet as a tool of resistance, refusing to participate in conversations structured against them. At the same time, silence has been imposed as a means of control, a way to erase experiences that threaten dominant narratives. This dual nature makes quietness difficult to interpret: it can signal both power and powerlessness,

both choice and compulsion. In the digital age, silence has become even more ambiguous. Platforms designed for constant expression render absence conspicuous. Not posting, not reacting, not commenting can be read as indifference, disagreement, or even hostility. The expectation of perpetual visibility turns quiet into a statement, whether or not it was intended as one. Paradoxically, the more opportunities we have to speak, the more meaningful silence can become. To recognize the value of quiet is not to dismiss the importance of speech, but to question the hierarchy between them. Words shape the world, but so do pauses. Between what is said and what is withheld lies a space where understanding can either deepen or disappear. **6. The central argument of the passage is that ?**

a. Silence is generally misunderstood and can carry meaningful functions

b. Silence is more powerful than speech in all social contexts

c. Silence should be encouraged in digital communication

d. Silence mainly serves as a political tool **7. In the passage, silence is described as having a "dual nature" because it can?**

a. indicate both intelligence and ignorance

b. function as both resistance and oppression

c. represent both agreement and disagreement

d. reflect both tradition and modernity **8. The author's discussion of digital platforms primarily serves to show that?**

a. technology has reduced people's ability to communicate effectively

b. silence is less meaningful in online spaces

c. absence itself can become a form of expression

d. online speech is more valuable than offline speech **9. Which of the following statements would most weaken the author's argument?**

a. Studies show that people who speak more are often perceived as more confident.

b. In some cultures, silence is taught as a sign of respect and attentiveness.

c. Online platforms encourage frequent and rapid responses.

d. Silence is almost always interpreted in the same way across different societies. **10. What does the phrase "the hierarchy between them" as given in the passage refer to?**

a. the idea that speech is valued more highly than silence

b. the order in which people learn to communicate

c. the political ranking of different forms of expression

d. the technical features of digital platforms **Passage 3 (P.3)** The idea of nature is often treated

as something ancient and self-evident, a realm untouched by human hands and intentions. Forests, oceans, and mountains are imagined as existing in a pure state, separate from the structures and ambitions of society. Yet this separation is, in many ways, a recent invention, a product of modern life rather than a timeless truth. For much of human history, people did not stand apart from their surroundings to admire them as "nature." Fields were not landscapes but sources of survival, rivers were not symbols but routes and risks, and animals were not objects of contemplation but companions or competitors. The notion of stepping outside the human world to observe a non-human one emerged alongside cities, industries, and technologies that made such distance possible. This reimagining has consequences. When nature is framed as something "out there," it becomes easier to treat it as a resource or a spectacle rather than as a system we inhabit. Conservation efforts sometimes reflect this tension: they aim to preserve spaces in a pristine state, even when those spaces have long been shaped by human presence. The desire to protect can, ironically, rest on a misunderstanding of what is being protected. At the same time, the modern concept of nature has inspired powerful movements. By presenting the non-human world as something valuable in itself, it has challenged the assumption that usefulness to humans is the only measure of worth. The language of wilderness and beauty has mobilized people to defend environments they may never personally experience. The challenge, then, is not to abandon the idea of nature, but to complicate it. To recognize that the line between the human and the natural is neither fixed nor clear allows for a more responsible relationship with the world. Rather than seeing ourselves as visitors to a distant realm, we might begin to understand ourselves as participants in a shared and fragile system. **11. What is the modern idea of nature according to the author ?**

a. Nature has remained unchanged throughout human history

b. Nature is a recent concept shaped by social and technological developments

c. Nature is primarily a scientific classification

d. Nature exists independently of human interpretation **12. The author contrasts earlier human relationships with the environment in order to show that?**

a. people in the past were more environmentally responsible

b. ancient societies lacked environmental awareness

c. modern society has lost all connection with the natural world

d. nature was once viewed mainly in practical rather than abstract terms **13. In the context of the passage, the word "spectacle" most nearly means?**

a. something carefully protected

b. something observed for enjoyment rather than participation

c. something dangerous or threatening

d. something scientifically analyzed **14. Which of the following best reflects the author's attitude toward modern conservation efforts?**

a. Entirely supportive, as they preserve untouched wilderness

b. Entirely critical, as they ignore human needs

c. Appreciative but cautious about the assumptions behind them

d. Indifferent to their goals and outcomes **15. The final paragraph primarily suggests that humans should?**

a. recognize their involvement within natural systems

b. separate themselves further from nature

c. abandon the concept of nature altogether

d. prioritize economic development over environmental concerns **Answers B –** The author repeatedly shows that convenience slowly changes how people think, choose, and relate to their surroundings rather than openly restricting freedom. **A –** "Curated" suggests that choices are subtly selected or filtered for individuals by external systems, not forced upon them. **A –** The passage shows convenience as beneficial but warns that excessive ease can reduce engagement **D –** The tone is critical because the author questions and evaluates the effects of convenience while recognising its advantages. **B –** The author clearly believes that tools like navigation apps slowly reshape how people interact with and understand their environment. **A –** The passage consistently argues that silence is often misjudged and can carry different meanings in different contexts. **B –** The author explains that silence can be an act of resistance or a tool of oppression, depending on context. **C –** By discussing digital platforms, the author shows that not speaking online can itself communicate meaning or intention. **D –** If silence were interpreted the same way everywhere, it would undermine the author's claim that silence is complex and context-dependent. **A –** The "hierarchy" refers to society's ranking to value speech more highly than silence as a form of expression. **B –** The author explains that the idea of nature is separate from humans developed alongside modern cities and technology **D –** The contrast shows that earlier humans viewed nature mainly through practical needs and not as an abstract concept. **B –** Here, "spectacle" means something looked at or admired from a distance, rather than lived within or participated in. **C –** The author appreciates conservation efforts but cautions that they sometimes rely on mistaken assumptions about "pristine" nature. **A –** The final paragraph requests humans to see themselves as part of natural systems and not just as detached observers.