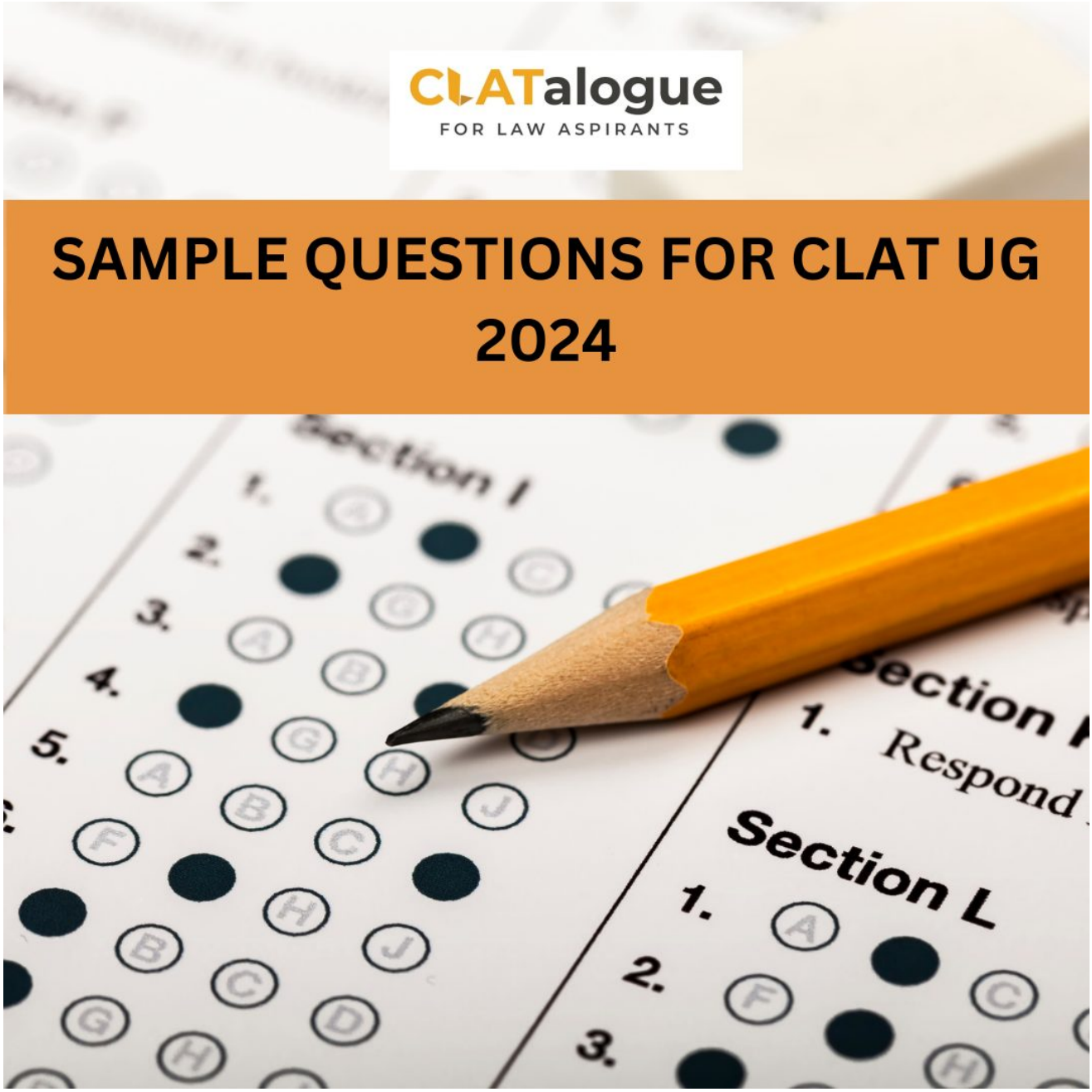
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Practice Important Reading Comprehension Questions for CLAT 2024

Ruchika Mohapatra · 03 Nov 2023

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS FOR CLAT

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PASSAGE

The rationalizing of society can be conceptualized as the pursuit of efficiency, predictability, calculability, and control through technology. But rational systems inevitably spawn a series of irrationalities that result in the compromising and perhaps even the undermining of their rationality. Fast-food restaurants, which epitomize the rational model, proffer the fastest means of getting from a hungry state to a sated one, without surprises, at low cost, in a carnival-like setting suggesting that fun awaits the consumer at each visit.

The wholesomeness of the food seems an insignificant consideration. Whereas in the past, working people were prepared to spend up to an hour preparing dinner, they now are impatient if a meal is not on the table within ten minutes. (For their part, some fast-food restaurants have developed chairs that become uncomfortable after about twenty minutes, to ensure that diners do not stay long.)

Fast-food restaurants have preferentially recruited adolescent help, at least until recently, because this age group adjusts more easily than adults do to surrendering their autonomy to machines, rules, and procedures. Few skills are required on the job, so workers are asked to use only a minute portion of their abilities.

This policy is irrational from the standpoint of the organization, since it could obtain much more from its employees for the money (however negligible) it pays them. These minimal skill demands are also irrational from the perspective of the employees, who are not allowed to think or to respond creatively to the demands of the work. These restrictions lead to high levels of resentment, job dissatisfaction, alienation, absenteeism, and turnover among workers in fast-food franchises.

In fact, these businesses have the highest turnover rate of any industry in the U.S. The entire workforce of the fast-food industry turns over three times in a year. Although the simple, repetitive nature of the work makes it easy to replace those who leave, the organization would clearly benefit from keeping employees longer.

The costs of hiring and training are magnified when the turnover rate is extraordinarily high. The application of the rational model to the house-building process in the 1950s and ’60s led to suburban communities consisting of nearly identical structures. Indeed, it was possible to wander into the residence of someone else and not to realize immediately that one was not at home.

The more expensive developments were superficially more diversified, but their interior layouts assumed residents who were indistinguishable in their requirements. Furthermore, the planned communities themselves look very similar. Established trees are bulldozed to facilitate construction.

In their place, a number of saplings, held up by posts and wire, are planted. Streets are laid out in symmetrical grid patterns. With such uniformity, suburbanites may well enter the wrong subdivision or become lost in their own.Many of Steven Spielberg’s films are set in such suburbs.

Spielberg's strategy is to lure the viewer into this highly repetitive world and then to have a completely unexpected event occur. For example, the film *Poltergeist* takes place in a conventional suburban household in which evil spirits ultimately disrupt the sameness. (The spirits first manifest themselves through another key element of the homogeneous society—the television set.) The great success of Spielberg's films may be traceable to a longing for some unpredictability, even if it is bizarre and menacing, in increasingly routinized lives.

1.According to the passage, how can the rationalization of society be described?

A) The pursuit of diversity and creativity through technology.

B) The pursuit of efficiency, predictability, calculability, and control through technology.

C) The promotion of individual autonomy and self-expression.

D) The embrace of unpredictability and chaos.

2. What is the primary focus of fast-food restaurants, as described in the passage?

A) Providing wholesome and high-quality food.

B) Offering a fun and entertaining dining experience.

C) Minimizing meal preparation time.

D) Hiring skilled and experienced workers.

3. According to the passage, why do fast-food restaurants prefer to recruit adolescent help?

A) Because adolescents are more skilled in food preparation.

B) Because adolescents are more likely to follow rules and procedures.

C) Because adolescents are cheaper to hire.

D) Because adolescents are known for their creativity.

4. What is the main consequence of the minimal skill demands imposed on fast-food workers, as mentioned in the passage?

A) High levels of job satisfaction.

B) Low turnover rates.

C) Resentment and job dissatisfaction.

D) Increased organizational profits.

5. According to the passage, why do fast-food businesses have a high turnover rate?

A) Because the work is too challenging for employees.

B) Because they invest in extensive training programs.

C) Because employees are not allowed to think creatively.

D) Because employees become alienated and dissatisfied.

6. How does the passage characterize the suburban communities built in the 1950s and '60s?

A) As highly diverse and unique.

B) As featuring nearly identical structures and layouts.

C) As catering to residents with distinct requirements.

D) As promoting unpredictability and chaos.

7. What is the primary reason for the uniformity described in suburban developments in the passage?

A) To encourage individual expression.

B) To facilitate navigation for residents.

C) To increase construction efficiency.

D) To minimize costs.

8. According to the passage, what strategy does filmmaker Steven Spielberg employ in his films set in suburban settings?

A) He portrays suburban life as highly diverse and unpredictable.

B) He emphasizes the benefits of uniformity and routine.

C) He lures viewers into a repetitive world and introduces unexpected events.

D) He promotes the idea of a homogeneous society.

9. What does the passage suggest about the viewers' response to Spielberg's films?

A) Viewers appreciate the predictability of suburban life depicted in his films.

B) Viewers are drawn to the bizarre and menacing aspects of suburban settings.

C) Viewers prefer films with no surprises or disruptions.

D) Viewers dislike the concept of homogeneous societies.

10. In the context of the passage, what is the central irony related to the rationalization of fast-food restaurants and suburban communities?

A) Rationalization consistently leads to improved job satisfaction.

B) Rationalization undermines the pursuit of efficiency and predictability.

C) Rationalization unintentionally creates uniformity and monotony.

D) Rationalization ensures that employees are highly skilled and creative.

ANSWERS

1.B) The pursuit of efficiency, predictability, calculability, and control through technology.

2.C) Minimizing meal preparation time.

3.B) Because adolescents are more likely to follow rules and procedures.

4.C) Resentment and job dissatisfaction.

5.D) Because employees become alienated and dissatisfied.

6.B) As featuring nearly identical structures and layouts.

7.C) To increase construction efficiency.

8.C) He lures viewers into a repetitive world and introduces unexpected events.

9.B) Viewers are drawn to the bizarre and menacing aspects of suburban settings.

10.C) Rationalization unintentionally creates uniformity and monotony.

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