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Logical Reasoning Questions for CLAT Exam

Logical Reasoning Quiz 4

Directions: Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given beside.

A pandemic literally means a disease that stalks all people, but it has visibly unequal effects. The virus exploits our bodily and social vulnerabilities. It reveals our structures of division and our levels of social trust.

The response to Covid-19 prompts a basic question: how do we imagine other people? Are they a problem to be managed with threats and watchful squads, a herd to be corralled, are they “human bombs” of infection? That justifies an authoritarian vision—where states surveil people without their consent, beat them back on the streets without hearing them out, hose tired migrant workers with bleach, suppress information. The aim there is to efficiently control potential mayhem.

A more democratic way is to inform and involve people, respect their intelligence and harness their abilities. We are not mindless “Covidiot” or “go-Corona-go” cheerleaders, we are people with a stake in our own well-being. Nobody wants to wilfully endanger others. Listening to the actual constraints faced by various groups is the best way for administrations to ally with them—provide food and supplies, make room for patients, provide hand washing facilities or whatever is necessary.

Our basic storylines matter. If we are repeatedly told that other humans are untrustworthy, that shapes our reality. In her book about the aftermath of fires, earthquakes, epidemics and the surprising generosity that people show, writer Rebecca Solnit popularised the term ‘elite panic’, used by disaster sociologists. Everyone panics in a disaster, but when fear grips elites and they overreact with all the resources and power at their command, it can dramatically distort the situation.

The worst behaviour, says Solnit, comes from those who expect chaos and viciousness, and act accordingly in advance. Elite panic is fed by the idea that people are selfish and stupid, held in check only by power. That’s what the movies show us too: in a disaster, it takes a few heroes, cops, scientists, to swoop on and save the city which was collapsing in pandemonium. That’s what leads officials to treat people like children, assume they can’t handle full information, tell them what’s strictly necessary, leave the police to command and control.

Solnit describes a smallpox epidemic in 19th century Milwaukee, where the upper and middle class was allowed to quarantine itself while the poor immigrants on the south side, those the newspaper called the “scum of Milwaukee” were forcibly hauled into isolation hospitals. The immigrants cowered in their homes, didn’t report their illness and felt no stake in the city’s welfare. Meanwhile, in New York in 1947, where officials took a friendly, open tack, people showed up voluntarily to be vaccinated against smallpox.

If you don’t trust people, they won’t trust you. If the state creates an adversarial dynamic, if they criminalise the disease and the media runs with scaremongering stories and communal hashtags like Coronajihad, then people might hide to protect themselves. Some might even prefer to take their chances with Covid if they fear harm to their families and communities.

[Extracted from editorial by Amulya Gopalakrishnan “Harness People’s Abilities”]

1. According to the passage the main point is

- A. The administration stigmatizes people and state criminalise the disease.
- B. People should voluntarily provide information regarding their illness in the pandemic.
- C. Media should not run scaremongering stories on communal hashtags.
- D. Government should build trust, inform and involve people by providing food and supplies, make room for patients and efficiently control the potential mayhem.

2. What cannot be inferred from the passage

- A. The virus reveals the social disorganisation present in our social structures.
- B. Coercion and suspicion of others on the basis of religion or appearance destroys social trust.
- C. If state doesn't trust people, people won't trust them
- D. Thorough screening of people can help in mitigating fears of pandemic.

3. Consider the following statement from the passage and answer accordingly

Statement : Elite panic is fed by the idea that people are selfish and stupid, held in check only by power.

Assumption I : The elites are gripped in fear of the disaster

Assumption II : The elites overreact in times of the disaster

- A. Only assumption I is implicit in the statement
- B. Only assumption II is implicit in the statement
- C. Both assumption I and II are implicit in the statement
- D. Neither assumption I nor assumption II is implicit in the statement

4. Which statement from the passage reveals that people are responsible in times of pandemic.

- A. Nobody wants to wilfully endanger other
- B. If we are repeatedly told that other humans are untrustworthy, that shapes our reality.
- C. If you don't trust people, they won't trust you
- D. Some might even prefer to take their chances with Covid if they fear harm to their families and communities.

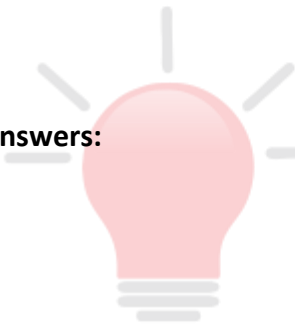
5. Consider the following statements from the passage as assertion and reason and answer accordingly.

Assertion (A) : That's what leads officials to treat people like children, assume they can't handle full information ,tell them what's strictly necessary ,leave the police to command and control.

Reason (R) : It takes a few heroes, cops, scientists ,to swoop in and save the city which was collapsing in pandemonium.

- A. A is true but R is false
- B. A is false but R is true
- C. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- D. Both A and R are true and R is not the correct explanation of A

Correct Answers:



1	2	3	4	5
A	D	C	A	C

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Explanations :

1. Hint: Always look for suggestive measures by the author. Looking at the above options A, B and C they provide information from the passage as drawbacks in the control of pandemonium. And option D makes a suggestive measure to control the pandemic. So it forms the main point of the passage.

Clearly option A is the answer.

2. According to the passage all the option A, B and C are suggestive of the passage. But there is no mention of screening of the people mentioned at any point of the passage.

So option D is the answer.

3. According to the passage the author presumes the concept of “elite panic” as coined by disaster sociologists. The elite fears that people are selfish and stupid, which then uses resources such as law and order machinery to check the people. This overreaction on the part of the elite which is analogous to the state here. Therefore both the assumptions are implicit in the statement.

So option C is the answer.

4. According to the passage when the author mentions that nobody endangers others wilfully it is pre-understood fact that people are responsible. They know their obligations and can understand the dangers of the pandemic. Other options are meant to provide other meanings but not responsibility.

So option A is the answer.

5. Consider the lines 25-28 which suggest both the statements and clearly reason(R) provides the supportive contention to the statement given in assertion(A) above.

So option C is the answer.

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