

--Question Starting--

1. Consider the following statements regarding the debates around the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs):

I. EVMs and VVPATs enhance the transparency of the voting process by allowing voters to verify their vote before final submission.

II. One of the key criticisms of EVMs without VVPATs is their inability to be audited for accuracy and authenticity post-election.

III. EVMs are designed to automatically tally votes which makes them less susceptible to human counting errors, but more susceptible to hacking.

IV. The introduction of VVPATs has conclusively settled all debates regarding the trust and transparency concerns associated with EVMs.

V. Due to their electronic nature, both EVMs and VVPATs require rigorous and regular software updates to ensure security against emerging cyber threats.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(1) I, II, and IV only

(2) I, II, III and V only

(3) I, III, and V only

(4) II, III, IV, and V only

Answer Key: 3

Solution:

? Statement I (Correct): EVMs paired with VVPATs allow voters to see a printout of their vote, verifying their selection before the final submission, enhancing transparency.

? Statement III (Correct): While EVMs minimize human errors in counting, they introduce risks related to electronic security, including potential vulnerabilities to hacking.

? Statement V (Correct): The electronic components of EVMs and VVPATs necessitate ongoing updates to safeguard against new types of cyber threats, maintaining their integrity and trustworthiness.

? Statement II (Incorrect): Although the lack of auditability is a significant criticism of EVMs alone, VVPATs address this issue by providing a paper trail that can be manually audited, enhancing the auditability of the electoral process.

? Statement IV (Incorrect): While VVPATs have addressed many concerns, debates regarding trust and transparency continue, particularly concerning the implementation and procedural integrity.

Hence, Option (3) is the right answer.

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2. Consider the following statements regarding networked social movements and connective action:

I. Networked social movements rely solely on hierarchical structures similar to traditional organizations to mobilize collective action.

II. In connective action, personal action frames linked through digital media networks replace the need for a unified group identity.

III. Manuel Castells argues that the power of networked social movements primarily derives from their capacity to form a central leadership.

IV. Bennett and Segerberg's concept of connective action illustrates how customization of messages fosters individual engagement in collective processes.

V. The use of social media platforms in connective action inherently strengthens democratic engagement by increasing participation.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(1) I, II, and IV only

(2) II, IV, and V only

(3) I, III, and V only

(4) II, III, IV, and V only

Answer Key: 2

Solution:

? Statement II (Correct): Connective action does not require a unified group identity, as personal action

frames and digital media allow for individualized expressions of support that are networked together.

? Statement IV (Correct): Bennett and Segerberg highlight how personalized content in social media enables individuals to engage more deeply in movements, by aligning their personal narratives with broader social issues.

? Statement V (Correct): Social media platforms increase democratic engagement by enabling more extensive participation and interaction among individuals, even though the quality of this engagement can vary.

? Statement I (Incorrect): Networked social movements are characterized by decentralized, non-hierarchical structures, contrasting with traditional organizational models.

? Statement III (Incorrect): Castells emphasizes the decentralized, networked nature of power in social movements, rather than centralized leadership.

Hence, Option (2) is the right answer.

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3. Consider the following statements about microtargeting in political advertising on digital platforms:

I. Microtargeting inherently violates ethical standards as it manipulates voter behavior by exploiting personal data.

II. The effectiveness of microtargeting in political advertising hinges on the granularity of the data collected and the precision of the targeting algorithms.

III. Political campaigns can use microtargeting to deliver customized messages that resonate with individual preferences and values, enhancing voter engagement.

IV. There is a consensus among political scientists that microtargeting in political campaigns leads to increased polarization within electorates.

V. Regulations such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) have completely eliminated the use of microtargeting in political advertising.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(1) I, III, and V only

(2) I, II, and IV only

(3) I, II, III and IV only

(4) II, III, IV, and V only

Answer Key: 4

Solution:

? Statement II (Correct): The success of microtargeting relies on detailed data and sophisticated algorithms to effectively tailor political messages to individual voters' profiles, enhancing the relevance and impact of these messages.

? Statement III (Correct): By aligning campaign messages with individual beliefs and values, microtargeting can increase engagement and potentially voter turnout, making political communication more effective.

? Statement IV (Correct): While there is significant debate, many scholars argue that microtargeting contributes to political polarization by reinforcing existing beliefs and isolating voters from opposing viewpoints.

? Statement V (Incorrect): Despite strict regulations like GDPR, microtargeting is still used in political advertising, though with more constraints to protect personal data and ensure transparency.

? Statement I (Incorrect): While ethical concerns about manipulation and privacy are prevalent, microtargeting itself does not inherently violate ethical standards; the ethical implications depend on the methods and transparency of data use.

Hence, Option (4) is the right answer.