

READING COMPREHENSION

Direction: The passage below contains some highlighted words that may or may not be suitable in the given context. Choose the correct word for each highlighted word from the option given below. If the highlighted word is correct, mark ‘No replacement is required’ as your answer.

The metaphor of “data as the new oil” gained traction in the 2010s, emphasising that raw data, like crude oil, requires refinement to become valuable. Wired magazine once compared data to oil in the 18th century, suggesting that those who learn to extract and use it effectively will **draft (A)** wealth. In India, the launch of Reliance Jio on September 5, 2016, symbolised this **inertia (B)** from physical oil to digital data. But with rise of more refined artificial intelligence (AI), it is becoming clearer that the “data is oil” analogy has its limits. First, while oil is a finite, geographically concentrated resource, data is **neglected (C)**, widely distributed, and constantly generated. Unlike oil, which is depleted upon use, data can be used repeatedly without loss, shared without being exhausted, and even combined with other data to create new insights. This unique characteristic makes data a/an **non-rivalrous (D)** and self-propagating resource. The more it is analysed, the more it fuels further discoveries, creating a cycle of continuous value generation. Merely possessing vast amounts of data does not automatically translate into valuable insights. In the past, collecting data was expensive and labour-intensive, requiring manual record-keeping and surveys.

Today, storage costs have **auctioned (E)**, computational power has surged, and businesses have embraced the belief that the combination of sophisticated algorithms and massive data sets guarantees success. This assumption, however, leads to the risk of data overload, where an excess of information, rather than enabling better decision-making, results in confusion, inefficiency, and flawed conclusions. I had written about this phenomenon some years ago, when I suggested that most data was dead-on-arrival, and the best thing may be to **integrate (F)** non-usable data sets out immediately rather than collect them ad infinitum simply because it is cheap to store vast amounts of data.

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Wired magazine once compared data to oil in the 18th century, suggesting that those who learn to extract and use it effectively will **draft (A)** wealth.

Question 1:

Which of the following best fits in **Option A**?

- (a) accumulation
- (b) harvest
- (c) muster
- (d) amass
- (e) No replacement is required.

In India, the launch of Reliance Jio on September 5, 2016, symbolised this **inertia (B)** from physical oil to digital data.

Question 2:

Which of the following best fits in **Option B**?

- (a) repetition
- (b) transition
- (c) contract
- (d) transaction
- (e) No replacement is required.

First, while oil is a finite, geographically concentrated resource, data is **neglected (C)**, widely distributed, and constantly generated.

Question 3:

Which of the following best fits in **Option C**?

- (a) munificent
- (b) compensate
- (c) ruined
- (d) abundant
- (e) No replacement is required.

This unique characteristic makes data a/an **non-rivalrous (D)** and self-propagating resource.

Question 4:

Which of the following best fits in **Option D**?

- (a) Non-existent
- (b) Non-negotiable
- (c) Non-verbal
- (d) Non-flammable
- (e) No replacement is required.

Today, storage costs have **auctioned** **(E)**, computational power has surged, and businesses have embraced the belief that the combination of sophisticated algorithms and massive data sets guarantees success.

Question 5:

Which of the following best fits in **Option E**?

- (a) escalated
- (b) dislocated
- (c) plummeted
- (d) deprived
- (e) No replacement is required.

I had written about this phenomenon some years ago, when I suggested that most data was dead-on-arrival, and the best thing may be to **integrate (F)** non-usable data sets out immediately rather than collect them ad infinitum simply because it is cheap to store vast amounts of data.

Question 6:

Which of the following best fits in **Option F**?

- (a) purge
- (b) reinforce
- (c) underrate
- (d) despise
- (e) No replacement is required.

Reading Comprehension - Class 2

Direction : Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below.

You didn't need it, but you bought it anyway. That quick thrill of unboxing faded fast, replaced by the next urge to spend. Your home is overflowing with barely used gadgets, unworn clothes, and impulse buys you barely remember ordering. Yet, you keep scrolling, keep clicking, keep consuming – trapped in an endless loop designed to keep you spending. Big Tech knows your weaknesses, algorithms predict your desires, and Buy Now, Pay Later schemes make indulgence feel effortless. The question is, are you really in control, or have you been programmed to consume? We are trapped in a cycle of endless consumption. We buy, discard, and buy again, often without realising how deeply we have been conditioned to do so. Shopping has become less about necessity and more about habit,

driven by clever marketing, seamless technology, and financial tools that make spending feel effortless. Every click, every purchase, and every discount offer is designed to make us act without thinking.

The result is a culture where we consume far more than we need, yet feel less satisfied than ever before.

Technology has made spending easier than ever. The days of walking into a store, comparing products, and carefully considering a purchase are long gone. Now, we scroll, click, and receive our orders within hours. The speed and ease of online shopping ___(A)___ the pause for reflection. Even as we sleep, algorithms work to predict what we will buy next, pushing tailored recommendations that feel personal but are actually designed to manipulate us. The **overwhelming** number of choices makes matters worse. Whether it is shoes, phones, or household items, there is always a newer, better version waiting for us. The sheer volume of options makes decision-making exhausting. Instead of choosing rationally, we give in to

whatever is trending, whatever an app recommends, or whatever an influencer flaunts. Companies track every move we make online, studying our habits and nudging us toward purchases that feel like our own decisions but are anything but.

And then there is the illusion of affordability. Buy Now, Pay Later schemes have made it easier to spend beyond our means. Breaking down payments into small instalments makes luxury items seem accessible. The immediate financial impact feels minimal, but the hidden cost is mounting debt. When money is not leaving our pockets all at once, we become numb to how much we are actually spending. This culture of easy spending is not an accident. It is a carefully designed system that encourages overconsumption. We are constantly told to upgrade, refresh, and indulge in new trends, while our old possessions pile up as waste. The environmental impact is staggering. Millions of mobile phones are discarded every day. Packaging waste from online deliveries has reached alarming levels. Wardrobes are overflowing with

clothes that have never been worn. Yet, we rarely stop to think about where all of this ends up. Social media only fuels this behaviour. Platforms like Instagram and Facebook have become digital shopping malls, where curated lifestyles make us believe that happiness comes from owning more.

The fear of missing out makes us chase trends we do not even care about, just to feel like we belong. Shopping has become less about fulfilling a need and more about seeking validation.

This is not just about economics; it is about psychology. Every sale notification, every discount countdown, and every exclusive deal is designed to trigger dopamine – the same chemical that fuels addiction. The high is temporary, but the habit is lasting. Over time, our brains become wired for instant **gratification**, making it harder to resist the urge to buy. This is not just excessive spending; it is a form of behavioural conditioning.

Breaking free from this cycle is difficult, but it is possible. It starts with awareness. Before making a purchase, ask yourself if it is truly necessary or just another impulse.

Recognise the tactics designed to make you spend. Understand that every choice you make has a consequence – not just for your finances, but for the planet.

The speed and ease of online shopping
__**(A)**__ the pause for reflection.

Question 7:

Choose the most suitable phrase to fill the
given blank (A) to make the sentence
grammatically and contextually correct.

I. remove

II. eliminate

III. encourage

- (a) Both I and II
- (b) Both II and III
- (c) Only I
- (d) Both I and III
- (e) All I, II and III

Question 8:

Which of the following statements is/are **false** according to the passage?

- I). Shopping has become more about necessity than habit.
- II). Buy Now, Pay Later schemes make consumers numb to the actual cost of their purchases.
- III). Social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook encourage overconsumption.
- IV). The environmental impact of overconsumption is negligible.

- a. I and IV
- b. II and III
- c. I and III
- d. II and IV
- e. None of these

Question 9:

Which of the following would be the MOST effective strategy for an individual to resist the manipulative tactics described in the passage?

- (a) Severely restricting access to online shopping platforms and social media accounts to minimize exposure to targeted advertising and promotional offers.
- (b) Cultivating a heightened awareness of the psychological techniques employed in marketing and consciously evaluating purchase decisions based on genuine needs versus impulsive desires.
- (c) Transitioning exclusively to cash transactions to avoid the perceived ease and reduced financial pain associated with credit card and "Buy Now, Pay Later" purchases.

- (d) Focusing on the acquisition of more material possessions as a means of achieving a sense of lasting satisfaction and self-worth, thereby counteracting the urge for impulsive buying.
- (e) None of the above

Question 10:

The author draws a parallel between shopping and addiction. Which of the following best describes the underlying mechanism of this comparison?

- (a) Both involve the pursuit of material possessions as a means of achieving social status and acceptance within a peer group.
- (b) Both are driven by a fundamental human need for connection and belonging, which is often sought through external validation and consumption.
- (c) Both involve the release of dopamine in the brain, creating a temporary feeling of pleasure and reinforcing the habitual behavior, making it difficult to resist the urge.

- (d) Both are primarily influenced by pervasive advertising and marketing campaigns that promote a culture of consumerism and instant gratification.
- (e) None of the above

Question 11:

The author's tone throughout the passage can best be described as:

- (a) Analytical and detached, presenting a neutral examination of the forces driving consumer behaviour in the digital age.
- (b) Optimistic and hopeful, emphasizing the potential for consumers to regain control over their spending habits and resist manipulative marketing tactics.
- (c) Humorous and ironic, employing satire to expose the absurdity of overconsumption and the pursuit of material possessions.

(d) Concerned and critical, expressing apprehension about the manipulative nature of consumerism and its broader societal implications.

(e) None of the above

Over time, our brains become wired for instant **gratification**, making it harder to resist the urge to buy.

Question 12:

Which of the following options can be the appropriate **Synonym(s)** of the word ‘**gratification**’, as used in the above passage?

I. dysphoria

II. indulgence

III. euphoria

(a) Both I and II

(b) Only III

(c) Both II and III

(d) Only I

(e) All I, II and III

The **overwhelming** number of choices makes matters worse. Whether it is shoes, phones, or household items, there is always a newer, better version waiting for us.

Question 13:

Which of the following options can be the appropriate **Antonym(s)** of the word ‘**overwhelming**’, as used in the above passage?

I. minimal

II. meagre

III. trivial

(a) Only I

(b) Both II and III

(c) Only II

(d) Both I and II

(e) All I, II and III

Directions : Given below a passage has been given. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions.

Cyber criminals reportedly posing as officers from the Mumbai police forced an elderly person in Pune to stay confined to his house due to his digital arrest. The scamsters targeted the 73-year old man **(p) ostensibly** for drug trafficking and money laundering, and defrauded him of Rs 45 lakh. Disquietingly, this incident is not a one-off. There are numerous such examples where ordinary individuals have been **(q) duped** of lakhs. And it's not just the financially less educated, or those in underprivileged settings who are the victims. Reports in this paper reveal that a man in southwest Delhi was **(r) defrauded** of Rs 19 lakh by scammers **(s) posing** as members of the Mumbai financial task force, and how other scamsters placed a retired university professor and

an industrialist under digital arrest, duping them of Rs 75 lakh and Rs 7 crore respectively. The scale and scope of digital fraud seems to have increased in **(t) recent** times.

Question 14:

Which of the following best captures the central theme of the passage?

- (a) Cybercriminals primarily target vulnerable individuals who lack financial knowledge and awareness, exploiting their naivety to carry out fraudulent schemes.
- (b) The Mumbai police are intensifying efforts to combat digital scams in order to prevent additional cases of fraud.
- (c) Digital fraud is mainly a problem for elderly individuals with little understanding of technology.

(d) Scammers often focus on individuals in underprivileged areas, exploiting them for small sums of money.

(e) Digital scams are increasing, with cybercriminals posing as officials to defraud the elderly and wealthy of large sums.

Question 15:

Which of the following options is the best that should be added at the end to provide a **concluding** statement for the given passage?

- (a) Increasing digital literacy will eliminate the threat of digital fraud.
- (b) Law enforcement has successfully curbed all forms of digital fraud in recent times.
- (c) Addressing digital fraud requires better safeguards, public awareness, and vigilance from all.

(d) Digital fraud cases are generally low in monetary impact and rarely involve large sums.

(e) People should stay updated with the latest technology to better understand the situation.

<p>Question 16:</p> <p>In the given passage, five words/ phrases have been highlighted, each conveying specific meanings. A short paragraph with five blanks is provided below. We need to complete the paragraph using the highlighted words/ phrases, ensuring they convey the same meanings as they did in the passage.</p> <p>A _(i)_ investigation into fraudulent activities uncovered a scheme where individuals were _(ii)_ _(iii)_ as representatives of a well-known charity organisation. By creating a polished and convincing online presence, they _(iv)_ many well-meaning donors into contributing their funds, only to realise later that they had been _(v)_. The shocking extent of the deception left many feeling not only financially strained but also emotionally betrayed by those they believed were helping others in need.</p>	<p>(a) psrqt</p> <p>(b) stprq</p> <p>(c) qrpts</p> <p>(d) tpsqr</p> <p>(e) sqtpr</p>
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Directions : A passage is provided, where [A] contains an underlined segment, [B] includes a filler, and [C] harbours an additional error.

Carefully read the passage and respond to the questions accordingly.

In recent years, *artificial intelligence (AI)* has made significant strides across various industries, from healthcare to finance, promising revolutionary changes. However, as these systems grow increasingly sophisticated, the ethical challenges surrounding their use have also multiplied. Many argue that strict regulations are needed to prevent misuse, especially in sensitive fields like law enforcement, where bias in algorithms can lead to unequal treatment. Nevertheless, as AI has already permeated our daily lives, society needs to [A] weigh on the costs and benefits of deploying it broadly. While proponents believe AI can enhance productivity and decision-making, sceptics worry about job

displacement and data privacy. Furthermore, as AI technology becomes more advanced, it also becomes more [B] _ for hackers to exploit vulnerabilities.

Cybersecurity experts warn that, without proper safeguards, the risks could outweigh the benefits. To address this, governments worldwide are pushing for **stringent** standards and regular audits of AI systems, but progress has been slow. Meanwhile, some industries are embracing AI with [C] minimal regard to its potential ethical concerns. The tech sector, in particular, has been at the forefront of adoption, arguing that its benefits are too substantial to ignore, even if it requires some adjustments along the way.

Question 17:

Which of the following is/are True according to the given passage?

1. AI's advancement has introduced significant ethical concerns.
2. AI's integration into law enforcement could exacerbate issues of bias.
3. The adoption of AI in the tech sector is slowing down due to ethical concerns.

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Both 1 and 2
- (c) Only 3
- (d) Both 2 and 3
- (e) All of 1, 2, and 3

Question 18:

Choose the most suitable sentence that should be filled in the given blank [B] to make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct.

- (a) increasingly complex
- (b) readily available
- (c) challenging
- (d) promising
- (e) accessible

Question 19:

[A] Weigh on the costs and benefits of deploying it broadly.

Select the appropriate replacement for the underlined segment of the sentence to ensure both grammatical accuracy and contextual coherence.

- (a) weigh off
- (b) weigh in
- (c) weigh out
- (d) weigh at
- (e) No improvement required

Question 20:

[C] "Minimal regard to its potential ethical concerns."

Identify the error in the given sentence.

1. "Minimal" should be replaced with "minimalist"
2. "Regard to" should be replaced with "regard for"
3. "Potential ethical concerns" should be changed to "current ethical concerns"

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Only 3
- (e) All of 1, 2, and 3

To address this, governments worldwide are pushing for **stringent** standards and regular audits of AI systems, but progress has been slow.

Question 21:

The word "**stringent** " is used in the passage. Select the option that includes a synonym and antonym of the word "**stringent**," respectively.

- (a) Rigorous, lenient
- (b) Absorbed, diffused
- (c) Dispersed, concentrated
- (d) Incorporated, erased
- (e) Filled, included