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PASSAGE – 1

Doublespeak-whether jargon, euphemisms or bureaucratese-is not a slip of the tongue but a conscious use of language as both a tool and a weapon. It is language that conceals or manipulates thought. It makes the bad seem good, the negative appear positive, the unpleasant appear attractive or at least tolerable.

There is doublespeak in everyday life ("nondairy creamer"), business ("nonperforming assets") and government (the Internal Revenue Service). But when it comes to doublespeak, the military has a way with words that is unmatched. Only the military could call a tent a "frame-supported tension structure"; a parachute an "aerodynamic personnel decelerator"; and a zipper an "interlocking slide fastener."

Others may call it a bomb, but to the Army it's a "vertically deployed anti-personnel device."

Military doublespeak starts at the top. From the founding of our republic, there has been a Department of War. Until 1947, that is, when the military pulled off the doublespeak coup of the century. On July 27 President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947, an act that completely reorganized the armed forces. Section 202 establishes the post of Secretary of Defence, while Section 205(a) eliminates the Department of War. Thus, war became "defense."

At first glance this change might not seem all that significant, but examine the implications. Now members of Congress campaign to spend more on "defense." Candidates for public office charge their opponents with wanting to cut the \$300 billion defence budget, not the \$300 billion war budget.

Doublespeak also is useful when the Pentagon wants expensive items to sound very complicated and worth their high price. It's not an ordinary steel nut; it's a "hexiform rotatable surface compression unit," which is why it cost \$2,043 for just one of them. This little piece of doublespeak also allows the military to say that the equipment "suffered dramatically degraded useful operational life owing to the fact that a \$2,000 hexiform rotatable surface compression unit underwent catastrophic stress-related shaft detachment," which sounds a lot more impressive than saying it won't work because a 13-cent nut broke.

Some penny-pinchers may think that \$31,672 is a lot to pay for a couch, a love seat and 20 dining room chairs (or almost \$1,500 for each piece of furniture), but not if you think of it the way the Navy does. All that money was spent on "habitability improvements" for the destroyer USS Kidd.

Nothing is ever simple with the Pentagon. Even a newly designed bayonet becomes a "weapons system," while the smoke used in smoke bombs becomes a "universal obscurant." Even that favorite of the GI, field rations or C- rations, has now become MRE or "meal, ready to eat," though changing the name won't make it taste any better.

Then there is the "survivable enduring shelter," or SES, designed by Goodyear Aerospace to be placed on an existing truck chassis. Equipped with a 5,000-pound-plus pay-load, armor-plated shielding capable of stopping .30 caliber "projectiles" (Pentagon doublespeak for bullets) and an "intrusion detection system" (meaning a burglar alarm), the SES is designed "to meet the most stringent technical requirements for survival during a nuclear event," meaning it's supposed to be able to survive a nuclear bomb attack.

With doublespeak, weapons never fail. The Pentagon can explain that the cruise missile didn't fly out of control and crash in three pieces during a test flight in Canada. According to the Air Force, the missile merely "impacted with the ground prematurely." Not to be out-done by their U.S. counterparts, an official of the Canadian forces said the test flight was simply "terminated five minutes earlier than planned." When an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile developed problems after launch and had to be destroyed by commands radioed from the ground, the U.S. Air Force announced, "An anomaly occurred during the flight which caused the early termination." Although the Bigeye aerial nerve-gas bomb has been on the drawing boards for more than 20 years, it still doesn't work and, during one test drop in 1982, the bomb malfunctioned, producing what the Pentagon called "a forcible ejection of the internal bomb components." In other words, the bomb blew up.

With doublespeak, the missile can miss the target but the test can still be a success. "We did acquire the target, but we did not hit it...We achieved our objective," said Jim Kittinger, an official in the air-to-surface guided weapons office at Elgin Air force Base.

1. *Which of the following best concurs with that the passage has to convey ?*
 - (1) Doublespeak is a slip of the tongue.
 - (2) Doublespeak is consciously used both as a tool and a weapon.
 - (3) Doublespeak is a language concealing or manipulating a thought.
 - (4) All except (1).
2. *All of the following, as per the passage, are false except that :*
 - (1) doublespeak is used to falsify a statement, thereby throwing dust in the eyes of the people concerned.
 - (2) it is on account of doublespeak that the administration of the country take wrong decisions and plunge the country in economic ruin and disaster.
 - (3) it is a ploy employed to thwart espionage by the neighbouring, enemy country.
 - (4) doublespeak is highly resorted to, by the top brass of the military.
3. *As per the passage, doublespeak is resorted to :*
 - (1) improve the skills of communication.
 - (2) mislead and confuse the policy makers so that the real picture does not come to the surface.
 - (3) impress the superiors and earn quick promotions.
 - (4) None of the above.
4. *According to the passage, all of the following are characteristics of doublespeak, except that :*
 - (1) it makes the bad seem good, the unpleasant appear attractive or tolerable and negative appear positive.
 - (2) it is used when the Pentagon wants expensive items to sound very complicated and worth their high price.
 - (3) it takes the form of a jargon, euphemisms or bureaucratese.
 - (4) it is nothing but just a slip of the tongue.
5. *As per the passage, doublespeak is :*
 - (1) rare in set ups like Science & Technology.
 - (2) common in bazaar talk and rumour mill.
 - (3) useful in defence establishments.
 - (4) a tool used by the politician while facing the public.
6. *The underlying theme of the passage is that :*
 - (1) doublespeak reflects the presence of mind of a person and is an effective arsenal for the person to sail through.
 - (2) doublespeak lessens the unpleasantness or the harshness of a situation which might be caused by blurting out the truth.
 - (3) doublespeak does not reflect a person's intentions in a noble way and often makes the person land in trouble and stand in poor light.
 - (4) the simple and the illiterate have no place for doublespeak, it is the educated and the refined, who employ the mode of doublespeak, to carry them through.
7. *A suitable source of extraction for the passage could be :*
 - (1) the minutes of the meeting of the high powered committee to deliberate on defence deals.
 - (2) an article on 'The Latest In Management Thought'.
 - (3) an analysis of the budget, whose special feature was the disproportional allocation of the budget to the defence sector.
 - (4) a freelance, yet thought provoking, writing on the skills of communication, used for carrying oneself convincingly and unscathingly amidst confronting circumstances.
8. *The style of the author in handling the passage is :*
 - (1) insulting
 - (2) impudent
 - (3) insightful
 - (4) ineffective
9. *A suitable title for the passage could be :*
 - (1) A Gift Of The Gab-Doublespeak.
 - (2) The Art Of Misleading People-Doublespeak.
 - (3) Doublespeak-A Weapon For settling Scores With The Opponents.
 - (4) Doublespeak - A Cause For The Incorrect Decision Taken.
10. *"With doublespeak, the missile can miss the target but the test can still be a success". Which of the following best means the above statement, as per the passage ?*
 - (1) Results are not important, what is important are the efforts put in.
 - (2) Ends justify the means, a right approach will lead to the achievement of the target.
 - (3) Hitting the acquired target was not the objective, the objective was in justifying the inputs used for their achievement.
 - (4) Success cannot be acquired overnight but spills over to several days.

PASSAGE – 2

Tim Barnard married when he was 25, fresh out of graduate school. His wife was a 21-year-old college student. "At that age," recalled Barnard, now 36, "I didn't comprehend what it took to stay in a long-lasting relationship. It seemed that if you're in a serious relationship and you're committed to another person, the next logical step is to get married."

Four years later, they were divorced. He got the credit-card debt and she got the washer and dryer.

Barnard's marriage was typical of the many brief, early marriages that end in divorce by age 30, with no children and little more joint property than wedding gifts and a stereo. While couples in these marriages do not wed with the intention of divorcing, their temporary stay in marriage is much like the starter home of a generation ago, shed as the family outgrew it.

"The idea of a starter marriage is a fascinating one," said Dr. Constance Ahrons, professor of sociology at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and associate director of its marriage and family therapy doctoral program. "These marriages are very common, but they are not given much credibility."

Marriage and family experts-psychologists, sociologists, lawyers and clergy-are beginning to look at these brief young unions, seeing in their implications a barometer of society's attitudes about marriage and divorce.

Some say starter marriages signal the need for more premarital counseling. Others have begun to rethink the whole notion of early, pre-children marriages, suggesting that it may be time to lessen the legal and social burdens of divorce for couples at this stage.

No statistics are kept on such marriages, but according to the Census Bureau, in 1992 there were 1.3 million divorces among people age 25 to 29, up from 253,000 in 1962-a five- fold increase-while the population for that age group did not even double in that time period.

Psychotherapists say brief, early marriages have been around as long as divorce has, although they often are overlooked in studies. "There may be no children, no property, and the marriage doesn't make headlines," said Ahrons, who wrote "The Good Divorce.". "But people still enter marriage with expectations, with dreams, with fantasies or the house we're going to buy, the children we're going to have." ...

There is debate about how much people should pay in brief marriages without children. Margaret Mead recommended in the 1960s, that such unions be codified as "trial marriages." Believing that it is the presence of children that should render a marriage lifelong, Mead described an alternative relationship that would last for a finite period, whereupon the couple would decide whether to have children and enter what she viewed as the more permanent stage of matrimony, or not.

Mead's views on trial marriages came before the proliferation of cohabitation. In 1990, 2.9 million unmarried couples were living together, up 80 percent from 1980 and up 454 percent from 1970, according to the Census Bureau. Some of those couples may be replacing couples who could find themselves in a starter marriage, but cohabitation has not reduced the divorce rate.

Society has a vested interest in making the breakup of a marriage difficult, said Michael Albano, President of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Religious beliefs, too, tend to hold marriage as a linchpin of community, and many churches and synagogues offer marital counseling. In the Roman Catholic Church, for instance, couples undergo pre-wedding counseling on the specifics of married life, such as raising children and handling finances, said the Rev. Francis Muller, a judge with the Marriage Tribunal of the Archdiocese of New York.

All marriages go through stages of evaluation, typically in the first year or two after marriage and again after seven years or so, said Dr. Anna Beth Benningfield, president of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, a professional organization of therapists. At these junctures, the challenges of one's 20s- living independently for the first time, beginning a career-can strain a marriage to the breaking point.

Those who have been through young marriages point to the divorce-not the wedding- as the real rite of passage of their 20s. "Marriage is very easy; divorce is very hard," said Pachet.

Albano, the lawyer, speaks to high school classes about the need to communicate in a marriage, about changing gender roles of spouses and parents, and about weathering the inevitable bad times.

"They really don't know that there are going to be days when he's obnoxious or she's so tired she can't deal with him, or the fact that she may make more money than he does" he said. "The Church tells them marriages are made in heaven, but so are thunder and lightning."

11. Which of the following would best align with the contents of the passage ?

- (1) Starter marriages can bring in stability in the lives of married people.
- (2) Starter marriages do not require pre-marital counselling.
- (3) Starter marriages cause marriages to break, creating a split in the families.
- (4) Starter marriages, though common, are not given much credibility.

12. *All of the following are true with respect to the passage, except that :*
- (1) trial marriages provide the opportunity for couples to understand each other's past life and relationships.
 - (2) it is the presence of children that sustains a marriage lifelong.
 - (3) people enter marriage with expectations, dreams, fantasies regarding the house to be acquired, the children to be reared and things of the like.
 - (4) legal and social burdens of divorce need to be lessened for couples at the early, pre-children stage of marriage.
13. *Cohabitation, as per the passage, means :*
- (1) the rehabilitation of estranged couples.
 - (2) the staying together of unmarried couples.
 - (3) the patch up between couples opting for divorce, as a compromising arrangement.
 - (4) All except (2).
14. *Which of the following, as per the passage, is true of religious beliefs ?*
- (1) they do not attach significance to the relationship between a man and a woman.
 - (2) They emphasize on the relationship between man and God.
 - (3) They give importance to marriage as the support on which rests the community.
 - (4) None of the above.
15. *The passage relates to the field of :*
- (1) human biology
 - (2) anthropology
 - (3) genealogy
 - (4) sociology
16. *A suitable title for the passage could be :*
- (1) Starter Marriages - A Step Towards Marital Stability.
 - (2) Cohabitation-Not A Solution For Curbing Divorce Rate.
 - (3) Divorce- A Burgeoning Social Problem.
 - (4) Trial Marriages End Disastrously.
17. *The author has handled the passage in a manner which is :*
- (1) humorous
 - (2) clarifying
 - (3) ambiguous
 - (4) debatable
18. *As per the passage, marriages, which are brief and a short lived, reflect :*
- (1) the immoral and irreligious lifestyle of today's generation.
 - (2) the lack of values in today's men and women.
 - (3) society's attitudes about marriage and divorce.
 - (4) the mismatch between expectations and fulfilments.
19. *Which of the following can be concluded from the passage ?*
- (1) Marriages break up because of unrealistic expectations of the persons involved.
 - (2) The permanent state of matrimony is when children enter the lives of the married couple.
 - (3) Cohabitation has proved to be effective in curbing the divorce rate.
 - (4) To marry is easy, to divorce is easier.
20. *'Marriage is easy, but divorce is difficult'. The statement, according to the passage is :*
- (1) upheld
 - (2) negated
 - (3) not considered relevant
 - (4) None of the above.

Detailed Solutions

1. **Ans.(4).** The opening line of the passage states that doublespeak is not a slip of the tongue. It is wilfully and consciously used to conceal or manipulate a thought and is thus used both as a tool and a weapon. Hence options (2) and (3) are validated, whereas option (1) is refuted. Option (4), a combination of (2) and (3), is the desired one.
2. **Ans.(4).** Options (1), (2) and (3) are not true, for the passage refutes them. Option (4) finds its place in the second and the third paragraph. To serve their ends, the top brass of the military use the weapon and tool of doublespeak.
3. **Ans.(4).** None of the options (1), (2) and (3) find a place in the passage, direct or implicit. Hence option (4) is the one to be ticked.
4. **Ans.(4).** Options (1), (2) and (3) are the characteristics of doublespeak. Paragraphs one and five uphold and validate them. Option (4) is not true since the opening line of the passage negates it. Thus the sought option is (4).
5. **Ans.(3).** The passage states that doublespeak is most often used in the defence set ups when okaying proposals that otherwise and uncommonly entail huge expenditure. It is a weapon used to justify and convince the superiors of the viability and feasibility of the proposals. Option (3) best conforms to this and is the chosen one. The remaining options (1), (2) and (4) are not the contents of the passage.
6. **Ans.(2).** From the passage, it can be inferred that option (2) best fits in as the central idea of the passage. The remaining options (1), (3) and (4) are poor choices before option (2).
7. **Ans.(4).** Options (1), (2) and (3) are not appropriate to be the source from where the passage could have been extracted. Option (4) is the suitable one as the passage illustratively dwells on the notion of doublespeak.
8. **Ans.(3).** The passage is neither insulting or impudent or ineffective. That eliminates options (1), (2) and (4). Option (3) is the right one, for the passage throws enough light on 'doublespeak'. It provides the reader with 'insight'. Hence option (3) is the correct one.
9. **Ans.(1).** The passage has not condemned or looked down on doublespeak. Only has it been stated that doublespeak requires artful skills in twisting the words without directly changing the meaning but make the other person seem to agree with what is being stated. It aids in convincing people and carrying oneself through, unscathed. Option (1) best aligns with this. The remaining options are not apt.
10. **Ans.(3).** The last line of the passage says it all. The people can be made to believe that the test conducted towards achievement of target is successful though the target may be unachieved. An example of doublespeak. Option (3) is the closest approximation in meaning to the sentence given above. The remaining options (1), (2) and (4) are not apt.
11. **Ans.(4).** Options (1), (2) and (3) are not true with respect of what is stated in the passage. Option (4) is stated at the end of the second paragraph. Hence the sought option is (4).
12. **Ans.(1).** Options (2), (3) and (4) find their place in the passage, in the seventh, sixth and fifth paragraphs respectively. They are true with respect to the passage. Options (1) falls apart, for the passage does not state it or imply it. Hence option (1) is the sought one.
13. **Ans.(2).** The eighth paragraph describes cohabitation as the staying together of unmarried couples. Option (2) best represents this and is the one sought. Options (1), (3) and (4) are not correct, as the passage does not state them or imply them.
14. **Ans.(3).** The eleventh paragraph is all about religious beliefs. They give stability to institution of marriage and view it as the bedrock on which the community rests. Option (3) best represents this. The remaining options are not apt.
15. **Ans.(4).** 'Human biology' is the study of the anatomy and physiology of the various organs constituting the human system. 'Anthropology' is the study of evolution and development of human beings as a race. 'Genealogy' is the study of one's lineage, study of family history. None of the options (1), (2) and (3) are apt, leading to option (4) as the field of study to which the passage relates.
16. **Ans.(3).** The passage has described the breaking of marriages as a social problem whose menace is growing. The rate of divorce is steadily increasing. Option (3) could be the best title for the passage. The remaining options do not represent the contents of the passage, although they are partially correct.
17. **Ans.(2).** The passage is neither humorous, ambiguous or debatable, thus negating options (1), (3) and (4). Option (2) is in place and is the sought one as the passage clarifies an issue through illustrations.
18. **Ans.(3).** Options (1), (2) and (4) are not correct. The passage neither states them nor endorses them. Option (3) is the correct one. The fourth paragraph states that the short lived marriages are the barometer of society's attitudes of marriage and divorce.
19. **Ans.(2).** The seventh paragraph has described the role of children in acting as a unifying force and bringing in stability to the lives of the married couple. Option (2) is the correct conclusion which can be drawn from the passage. Options (3) and (4) are refuted, as their opposite is stated in paragraphs eight and the penultimate one respectively. Option (1) is absurd for the passage makes no mention of it.
20. **Ans.(1).** The penultimate paragraph upholds the statement. Hence option (1) is the correct one. The remaining options are to be ignored.

Answer Keys

(1).07	(2).61	(3).18	(2).17	(3).16	(4).15	(3).14	(2).13	(1).12	(4).11
(3).10	(1).9	(3).8	(4).7	(2).6	(3).5	(4).4	(4).3	(4).2	(4).1