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**MEMBERS AREA**

**'RC DAILY DOSE'**  
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**Instructions :** *The RC Daily Dose is a set of 20 excellent RC practice questions, with detailed solutions. Normally every day, one such set will be uploaded into the MEMBERS AREA. These are PDF files and can be saved on your computer. Enjoy!*

**PASSAGE – 1**

It was clear that the police chiefs were fed up with the drug war. "How", the chief asked, "can we get out of the drug war without evoking such a vivid symbol of surrender and defeat ? "

He was speaking the thoughts of many of the 50 law enforcement leaders' participation in a two-day conference on drug policy held at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. The group concluded that studying a medical and public health approach to drug control does not mean putting rock cocaine on store shelves next to soda pop. An evaluation of the drug war and a study of alternative methods of drug control is the way to an honorable peace.

The suggestion sends a powerful message to the politicians trying to outdo each other in being tough on drugs. Ninety percent of the chiefs do not support the federal war against drugs. And the few who do support the war, nevertheless, were part of a unanimous vote saying that treatment, education and prevention are more useful than arrests and prison sentences.

The law enforcement leaders were also unanimous in calling for a blue ribbon commission to evaluate the drug war and to study alternative methods of controlling drugs. The message to the politicians is that your political opponent cannot accuse you of being soft on drugs if you are following the recommendations of the majority of America's cops.

Ethan Nadelmann, formerly a Princeton professor, opened the conference with an overview of the drug war's failure to reduce drug use and a challenge to the participants to put aside their moral views on drug use and to consider ways to minimize the harm being done to drug users and society.

Nadelmann was followed by professor Jerome Skolnick of UC-Berkeley, who described studies showing that successful prosecutions of drug rings led to increased homicides and that successful seizures of drugs by the government sometimes led drug users to experiment with even more dangerous drugs.

Former Secretary of State George Shultz reminded the group that powerful economic forces are at work in the illegal drug market and that it is essential to find a way to reduce the demand that leads to such exorbitant profits for drug dealers.

Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke was the show stopper. He described how his constituents, most of whom are African-Americans, re-elected him after he had called for the "medicalisation" of anti-drug efforts-treating users as people needing help instead of merely jailing them as criminals. Schmoke also described a school visit during which children told him that most of the youngsters dropping out of school did so not because they were hooked on drugs-they were hooked on easy drug money. Schmoke, because of his closeness to African- American neighborhoods, was able to counter Congressman Charles Rangel's charges that it is genocide to consider medicalization approaches to drug control. Schmoke said the drug war itself has a negative effect on African-Americans.

...Two federal judges, Vaughn Walker and Robert Sweet, spoke of the inappropriateness of relying upon criminal law enforcement to control the personal behavior of drug use and the cruelty of imposing 10-year mandatory sentences on first-time drug offenders who had committed no other crime.

Former San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan told how his program of sterile needle exchange had lessened the danger of AIDS not only for intravenous drug users but also for the public and police officers. Professor Alfred Blumstein of Carnegie-Mellon University provided a somber description of how the illegal drug market had caused the juvenile homicide rate to explode. Easy availability of guns and dope money resulted in the juvenile murder rate by firearms more than doubling nationally since 1985. Blumstein also reported that drug enforcement and punishment fell disproportionately on non-whites.

I pointed out that truth is another casualty in the drug war. During my 18 years as a police chief and more than 35 years in law enforcement, we often celebrated "victories," yet almost everyone in law enforcement believes the drug problem is worse now. Furthermore, it does not make sense to have peace officers in a war.

Gen. Colin Powell once said a soldier's duty is to kill the enemy. The first duty of the police is to protect human lives, including the lives of people unfortunate enough to be addicted to drugs. In addition, every week somewhere across the country there is another police scandal related to the drug war-corruption, brutality and even armed robberies by cops in uniform, as well as consistent violations of civil rights by officers who feel that anything goes in a war.

It is not surprising that when law enforcement leaders spend two days analyzing the drug problem, they conclude that the drug war is futile. If the President and Congress take the time to reflect on drugs the way the top cops did, they too, would support a study of how to find peace, and an honorable end to the war on drugs.

1. *All of the following are true with respect to the passage, except that :*
  - (1) drug control is effective through treatment, education and prevention.
  - (2) drop-outs from school were on account of hooking on to drugs for easy money.
  - (3) the war on drugs received unstinted support from the administrators and powers that be.
  - (4) the illegal drug market resulted in an explosion of juvenile homicide rate.
2. *As per the passage, the step of being tough on drugs is :*
  - (1) the need of the hour and would serve as a strong deterrent.
  - (2) an unwise one and would cause an increase in homicides and use of more dangerous drugs
  - (3) dependent on the involvement and cooperation of one and all.
  - (4) to be implemented on a full -fledged basis as any half- hearted endeavour would result in disaster.
3. *The passage ascribes the menace caused by drugs to :*
  - (1) the destructive role played by the media, especially, the television.
  - (2) the susceptibility of the youth who are influenced by the thinking of the peer group to try and experience the effects of various drugs.
  - (3) the inability of the administrators to crack and pin down the drug traffickers.
  - (4) the powerful economic forces at work in the illegal drug market, resulting in the demand for costly drugs and exorbitant profits for drug dealers.
4. *As per the passage, a fallout of the drug war, is in :*
  - (1) a drastic fall in the number of drug addicts.
  - (2) drug enforcement and punishment falling disproportionately on non-Whites.
  - (3) increase in the number of murders and usage of powerful drugs.
  - (4) All except (1).
5. *Which of the following best adheres to the idea of 'medicalisation' of anti-drug efforts, as explained in the passage ?*
  - (1) Treating drug addicts as people needing help instead of merely jailing them as criminals.
  - (2) Injecting a powerful antidote so that the urge and the dependence of a user on drugs is reduced.
  - (3) Coming out with medical findings and researches on the harm caused by drugs.
  - (4) Replacing the harmful drugs with less harmful ones so that the user is not deprived of drugs, yet no harm is caused.
6. *As per the passage, the enforcement of law to curb the personal behaviour of drug use was :*
  - (1) effective.
  - (2) inappropriate and cruel
  - (3) politically motivated.
  - (4) None of the above.
7. *The manner, in which the passage is handled, is :*
  - (1) castigating
  - (2) eulogising
  - (3) appealing
  - (4) condescending.
8. *A suitable title for the passage is :*
  - (1) Drug Menace - A Social Cause.
  - (2) Can Drug Offences Be Curbed ?
  - (3) Drug Users – Discards Of A Society.
  - (4) Law And Drug Addiction.
9. *The passage is least likely an extract from :*
  - (1) the deliberations in a conference of academicians and administrators assembled to discuss the harm caused by the use of drugs.
  - (2) an article in a magazine describing the efforts to curb drug menace.
  - (3) a viewpoint about the ineffectiveness of law to check the use of drugs.
  - (4) a meeting of the police department discussing about the ways to make the enforcement strong.
10. *Which of the following can be concluded from the passage ?*
  - (1) Drug users are social threats and need to be sternly dealt with.
  - (2) 'Love' and not Law, is effective in curbing the evil of drug use.
  - (3) Medical Science can play an effective role in educating one and all about the harm caused by drugs.
  - (4) The family of drug users can play a vital role in dissuading them from consuming drugs.

## PASSAGE – 2

This, at least, conservatives and liberals seem to agree on: American culture is in a perilous state. Assaulted by rap music and heavy metal, made soft-headed by the novels of Robert James Waller and Danielle Steele, stimulated by violent films, narcotized by mindless TV programs and obsessed with O.J. Simpson, we slide ever closer to a cultural abyss filled with trash and nothing but trash.

Long before O.J. Simpson, however, Americans craved trash. The scandalous penny press, which sprang into existence in the 1830s as a vehicle for the working class, subsisted on juicy tales of criminal conduct. The case of Helen Jewett, a young prostitute allegedly murdered by a rich client named Richard Robinson, held New York City rapt for months as newspapers screamed the lurid details and ordinary citizens debated the evidence.

It didn't take long for other accoutrements of trash culture to surface. In short order, violence was joined by pornography, scandal, exploitation and the mindless celebration of fame for fame's sake. By the 1870s, the protagonists of real-life crime and moral transgression were appearing on the vaudeville stage as similar protagonists today appear on tabloid TV shows: human commodities of trash.

Many conservatives concluded that democracy itself was at fault. Give people what they want, and you will get trash. As a remedy, these cultural custodians promoted genteel literature-stories of domesticity or aristocracy or chaste romance illustrating good and decent values. They felt the masses would learn from these as we are supposed to learn from William Bennett's "Book of Virtues." We would uplift ourselves.

To read trash, to flaunt trash, to prefer trash to "better" literature was a not-so-subtle way of asserting one's independence against one's social superiors. It was a way of saying that we are masters of our own culture. It was a way of saying that we are Americans.

It still is. From crime pamphlets to dime novels to the "yellow press" to the movies to the tabloids to the trash of today, one theme keeps emerging. In a world culturally divided between the genteel and everything else, Americans opt for trash over art that is supposed to be good for them as much because they resent being told what they should like as because they like trash. Seen this way, trash is not an escape from life, as some would have it; it is an escape from seriousness, which is no doubt why trash in the form of our movies, TV shows, music and popular literature has become one of our chief exports. You don't have to be American to want to play hooky from high culture, though Americans may be prouder of it than anyone else.

To its defenders, trash has the virtue of honesty-of not purporting to be anything other than what it is, which is, well, trash.

Today's American culture, from exploitalk programs to tabloid TV to Howard Stern, is perceived as more honest and democratic than the turgid, domesticated arts and amusements that cultural conservatives believe we should like- and would like-if we weren't being shovel-fed trash.

Trash is subversive that way. It exists to taunt.

No doubt that is why cultural conservatives hate it so. It is not because they want to save us from perdition that they rail against junk. I suspect it is because they want to reassert their dominance over a culture that long ago slipped out of their control even as conservatives have come to dominate politics.

Damning trash and pretending that it is being foisted upon us by media conspirators is a clever technique-and a very old one.

Most Americans, however, know better: Trash is how we distinguish ourselves from all the things others want us to be. Trash may not be good for us, but this we know: It is ours.

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (1) 'Trash' is an escape from life.          | (2) 'Trash' is an escape from seriousness. |
| (3) 'Trash' takes one to subliminal heights. | (4) 'Trash' is not something outdated.     |

12. Which of the following would best signify 'trash', as dealt in the passage ?

- (1) 'Trash' is used to taunt.
- (2) 'Trash' is a way of saying that one is a master of one's own culture
- (3) 'Trash' distinguishes one from all others.
- (4) All of the above.

13. The passage gives out the reason for 'trash' being hated by cultural conservatives as :

- (1) their intention to save the Americans from perdition
- (2) their way of showing importance.
- (3) a reassertion of their dominance over a culture that long ago slipped out of their control.
- (4) it polluted the sane thinking.

14. The passage has treated 'trash' as :

- (1) one of the chief American exports in the form of movies, TV shows, music and popular literature.
- (2) something to be despised and run away from.
- (3) a way of asserting one's independence against one's social superiors.
- (4) All except (2).

15. *All of the following are true, in relation to the passage, except that :*
- (1) 'trash' has the virtue of honesty of not being anything other than what is.
  - (2) 'trash' is subversive and taunting in effect.
  - (3) 'trash' is not good but it cannot be dispensed away with'.
  - (4) None of the above.
16. *For the Americans, as per the passage, 'trash' :*
- (1) is perceived to be more democratic and honest than the conventional arts and amusements of the conservatives.
  - (2) is something to be damned and condemned.
  - (3) denotes aristocracy, nobility and decent values.
  - (4) reflects modernity and is an index of adaptability to changing times.
17. *The passage is dealt with in a style which is :*
- (1) fictional                      (2) imaginative                      (3) questionable                      (4) reasonable
18. *A suitable title for the passage could be :*
- (1) Trash-Something To Be Despised.
  - (2) Americans Value Trash
  - (3) Trash - An Effective Way To Be Non Serious
  - (4) Trash- A Source Of Cultural Destruction
19. *The passage is at best an extract from ;*
- (1) an article describing the American way of life.
  - (2) a humorous write-up on the paradoxes of life - trash being preferred to a thing of value.
  - (3) the presentation in a debate on 'Trash vs. Value'.
  - (4) 'Flights Of Fancy'- an imaginative write up on the utility of trash in God's creation.
20. *The rationale behind the preference for 'trash', as inferred from the passage, is :*
- (1) the dullness in life characterised by seriousness .
  - (2) the desire to be a cut above the rest.
  - (3) a prominent way of asserting one's independence against one's social superiors.
  - (4) the disillusionment acquired over treading the normal path of truth, honesty and tradition.

## Detailed Solutions

1. **Ans.(3).** The third paragraph comes out with the opposition to the War on drugs. The general thinking is that the drug menace could be better and more effectively combatted through treatment, education and prevention. Option (3) falls out as untrue in the above context. Options (1), (2) and (4) are in place. The third, eighth and the tenth paragraphs uphold them. Hence option (3) is the sought one.
2. **Ans.(2).** The third paragraph and the sixth paragraph are of the opinion that tough steps taken to eradicate drug menace is not a wise move. Studies have shown that successful prosecutions of drug rings have increased homicides and successful seizures of drugs have encouraged drug users to experiment with even more dangerous drugs. Option (2) best matches with this and is the correct one. Options (1), (3) and (4) are not relevant to the passage and can be discarded.
3. **Ans.(4).** The seventh paragraph ascribes the drug menace to the powerful economic forces which strengthen the illegal drug market and cause huge profits for drug-dealers. Option (4) best depicts this and is the one to be ticked. The remaining options (1), (2) and (3) are out of place and can be rejected.
4. **Ans.(4).** Option (1) is incorrect as the passage does not state or imply it. Option (2) and (3) are stated in the tenth and sixth paragraphs respectively. Hence the options sought are (2) and (3), however, option (4), their combination is the exact one.
5. **Ans.(1).** The eighth paragraph quotes 'medicalisation' of anti-drug efforts according to Kurt Schmoke, Mayor of Baltimore. Option (1) best represents this. The remaining options are not appropriate and are sidelined.
6. **Ans.(2).** The penultimate paragraph comes out with the statement regarding the law enforcement to check drug offences. Option (2) is the appropriate one for the passage has stated law to be ineffective and cruel. Options (1) and (3) are not correct.
7. **Ans.(3).** Clearly, option (3) is the appropriate one. The passage neither castigates, or eulogises or condescends.
8. **Ans.(2).** Option (2) is the suitable title for the passage. The passage not only deals with the drug menace, but comes out with ways and methods to curb it. Option (4) is not inappropriate, either, but it comes out weak before option (2). The remaining options are not apt and can be eliminated.
9. **Ans.(4).** Each of the options (1), (2) and (3) can quite likely be the source from where the passage could have been extracted. Option (4) is the odd one out and is the one sought.
10. **Ans.(2).** The passage has stressed on the humanitarian way of handling drug offenders. Love is the undercurrent of the humanitarian approach. Hence option (2) best depicts this and is the chosen one. The remaining options are not the conclusions that can be drawn from the passage.
11. **Ans.(2).** The sixth paragraph tells that trash is an escape from seriousness. It is not an escape from life. Option (2) best represents this thought and option (1) is refuted. Options (3) and (4) find no appearance in the passage and are incorrect.
12. **Ans.(4).** Each of the options (1), (2) and (3) best signifies 'trash', as meant in the passage. Paragraphs eight, five and nine uphold and validate these options. Hence option (4), their combination, is the best one.
13. **Ans.(3).** The penultimate paragraph comes out with the cultural conservatives not looking kindly towards 'trash'. Option (3) best matches as the reason. The remaining options are not appropriate, as the passage makes no mention of it.
14. **Ans.(4).** Options (1) and (3) find their place in the passage. Paragraphs six and five state them. Option (2) is refuted as the passage does not state it. However, option (4), a blend of options (1) and (3) is the best one.
15. **Ans.(4).** Each of the options (1), (2) and (3) are true because they are stated in the passage, as evident in paragraphs six, nine and the penultimate one. Hence none of them is false, leading to option (4) as the best one.
16. **Ans.(1).** Option (1) is the apt one, for the seventh paragraph comes out with the reason of 'trash' being accepted by Americans. Options (2), (3) and (4) are not stated in the passage and are not apt.
17. **Ans.(4).** The author has handled the passage in a manner wherein the facts are placed in a proper perspective and reasons are given for each information provided. Option (4) is the apt one, the remaining option being inapt.
18. **Ans.(2).** The passage tells of the reasons Americans value trash. Option (2) would be the best title for the passage. Option (3) is also a good title but it is general and pales out before (2). Option (1) and (4) are not correct.
19. **Ans.(1).** Option (1) seems to be the only source from where the passage could have been extracted. The remaining options are not apt.
20. **Ans.(3).** Option (3) is best expressed in the fifth paragraph of the passage. It is the prime reason for one to read trash and flaunt trash. The remaining options are not correct and can be sidelined.

## Answer Keys

11.(3)	12.(4)	13.(3)	14.(4)	15.(4)	16.(1)	17.(4)	18.(2)	19.(1)	20.(3)
1.(3)	2.(2)	3.(4)	4.(4)	5.(1)	6.(2)	7.(3)	8.(2)	9.(4)	10.(2)