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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

A couple of years ago I decided to write a novel about a campus date rape. Little did I know that by the time 'Prized Possessions' was published, the subject would be a burning issue at colleges and in the media-and that some critics would say that even by using the label "date rape" I was lessening the crime and blaming the victim. "Rape is rape," the staunch feminists insist. They make no distinction between pathological criminals leaping from behind bushes and college students who find themselves in situations where sex goes wrong on a date. Demonstrations are being waged on campuses large and small to "take back the night" from fellow students who are defined as "rapists." On one campus activists besieged men walking alone and slapped "Gotcha" stickers on them-to show what it's like to be a potential victim.

Date rape is a dreadful, disturbing crime. But if we place the solution in the hands of extremists with a rigid political agenda tailored to blame men as the historic victimizers of women, we could end up souring the relationships between a whole generation of our young people.

Before we go any further here, what exactly is going on ? Did an epidemic of date rape suddenly break out across the country? Some social observers say date rapes have always been under reported and we're finally hearing the bad news. Others, the writer Stephanie Guttman chief among them, say the only epidemic is of media coverage-that date-rape surveys are seriously flawed and that rape is being redefined to include behavior that isn't rape at all. Logic tells us that more young women are now willing to come forward and say they were raped, and that date rape, a relatively new designation, catches in its net behavior that was never so identified in years past.

In my novel a character says, "One rape is too many ." That's pretty much how I feel about debating the numbers. The real issue is how to eliminate the crimes.

I think one reason young men persist when they don't have consent is that in these sexually liberated times some simply refuse to hear the word "no." They say to themselves: "What's the big deal ? She's not a virgin anyway." And some have been so indulged in their lives that they're not accustomed to hearing any kind of "no."

But what of young women ? Don't they bear any responsibility ? One important survey indicated that in nearly half the alleged campus date rapes, the woman had been drinking. If you raise that issue, however, many activists regard it as blaming the victim. Yet, the iconoclastic author and professor Camille Paglia has written: "Every woman must be prudent and cautious about where she goes and with whom. The only solution to date rape is female self-awareness and self-control. A woman's number one line of defense against rape is herself."

Well, I think you should include men in that line of defense. To involve women and men, colleges need to do what they are in business to do: educate. You need a true dialogue between the sexes on campus. You need discussion of the nature of consent. You need to raise the question of drinking and self- control. You need to do this with all students.

I don't see how you can succeed with that educational process if you begin with the view that "rape is rape," pure and simple-that men are historic victimizers and women always their victims. It seems to me the goal should be change, not blame. How are you going to get any young man to change his thinking, to raise his consciousness, if your starting point is to equate him with a stranger wielding a knife? Inevitably, the result will be resentment and anger on both sides, and this coming at a very impressionable time in the lives of young men and women.

Many college students today seem bewildered by their sexual freedom. Back in pre-sexual-revolution days when I was first dating, men were eager and women were virgins, more or less. Turning back the clock is no solution, but neither is a political war between the sexes. Open, constructive dialogue might do it. It has to. One rape is too many.

1. Which of the following, if true, would least concur with the contents of the passage ?
 - (1) The only solution to date rape is female awareness and self-control.
 - (2) Date rape is a disturbing dreadful crime.
 - (3) Rape is mostly an impulsive and a brutish act committed in the heat of the moment, to satiate carnal pleasures.
 - (4) All except (3).
2. The passage suggests that the effective way to deal with the issue of rape is through :
 - (1) the toughening of laws and meting out an exemplary punishment.
 - (2) the education of men and women, by involving them and initiating a true dialogue between the sexes.
 - (3) ostracisation of the offender by society.
 - (4) All of the above.

3. Date rape, as the passages makes out, is :
(1) sensationalising and attention grabbing.
(2) not realistic and is Utopian in nature.
(3) one which involves behaviour which was not identified in years past.
(4) None of the above.
4. Which of the following, if true, would most negate the author's contention, as per the passage ?
(1) Date rape surveys are seriously flawed.
(2) Date rape incidents are under reported.
(3) A women's number one line of defence is herself .
(4) Many college students enjoy sexual freedom.
5. The term, 'One rape is too many', as per the passage, best means :
(1) the heinousness of the crime of rape.
(2) the social pain felt by many women, on account of the unhappy and stigmatic incidence of rape.
(3) the flaw in the media coverage achieved through the surveys done.
(4) the problem of rape is equivalent to many problems.
6. The passage is handled in a manner which is :
(1) thought - provoking
(2) plain
(3) questioning
(4) confusing
7. A suitable title for the passage could be :
(1) Rape - A Heinous Crime
(2) Men Are Blamed For Rape Incidents
(3) Women Cause The Incident Of Rape
(4) Rape - A Two Way Problem Involving Men & Women
8. The passage, is at best, an extract from :
(1) an article giving an objective and a balanced analysis of the incidence of rape.
(2) a rejoinder from the male wing of the college students union denying that men are responsible for the incidence of rape.
(3) a representation from women activists that women be not held responsible for the incidence of rape.
(4) None of the above.
9. The central idea of the passage is that :
(1) healthy education amongst boys and girls can prevent the incidence of rapes.
(2) media has to play a responsible role in minimising the occurrence of rapes.
(3) open, constructive and meaningful dialogue between men and women is necessary so that perverse ideas do not exist.
(4) men are victimizers and women victims of rape.
10. The passage is concerned about :
(1) sexual freedom enjoyed by men and women.
(2) acts of rape committed by men of well-to-do families.
(3) date rape where college students find themselves in situations where sex goes wrong on a date.
(4) blame being wrongly cast on men for the incidents of rape.

PASSAGE – 2

As the lengthening tentacles of censorship crept down alleys and under back door, civil libertarians did not sleep well. We became increasingly alarmed by the relentless erosion of our intellectual and personal freedoms.

Many of us tried to sound an alarm. "Wake up!" we cried. "We're losing our liberties bit by bit. Look there! The monster is creeping upon us, shrouded in the fog. Can't you see it?"

Most people thought we were alarmists- until recently. Feeding on its many "small" successes, the insidious monster has grown bold and confident, revealing itself for all to see.

No medium is safe. Individuals and groups seeking to restrict the flow of information, images, and ideas are targeting public libraries, school classrooms, and resource centers. Motion pictures and television programs are policed by such groups as the American Family Association. Librarians, educators; school boards, publishers, bookstores, theaters, video stores, artists, musicians, and the electronic media are under persistent and organized attack. Under threats of legal action and boycott, many are capitulating to pressure tactics. America's marketplace of ideas is shrinking on a daily basis.

Artists, previously unconcerned, have been rudely awakened. They no longer believe that censorship only happens to other people. With the visual and performing arts under fire, the National Endowment for the Arts has been forced to implement funding restrictions on "offensive" works. Musicians and music distributors have been arrested and charged with violation of obscenity laws. Record companies have been pressured into censorship and labeling. The government restricts foreign educational films and speakers. The Supreme Court expands the definition of libel. The Freedom of Information Act slowly continues to erode.

Sexually explicit publications and information about sexuality are subject to severe restrictions. Magazines such as Playboy and Penthouse have been pulled from many retail shelves. Public school health and sex education books are being challenged and, all too often, banned. In many school districts, opponents of sex education have succeeded in implementing programs based solely upon abstinence-programs which contain no information on prevention of pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases.

In short, our public schools are under siege and held hostage by those who would impose a narrow view of life on all our children. Orchestrated censorship campaigns by highly organized and well-funded conservative groups are successful in over one-third of reported cases.

As a result of this hysterical climate, many are engaging in self-censorship. Librarians don't order "possibly controversial" books, school administrators censor student publications, and textbook publishers remove "controversial" materials from reading and science texts.

Liberty is like good health: we take it for granted until we lose it. During the past year, scores of "ordinary Americans" have seen the face of the monster. They know that we can't sit around the kitchen table agreeing that censorship is wrong and waiting for someone else to do something about it. We can no longer afford to say we support freedom of expression while maintaining serious reservations about the Larry Flynts and the neo-Nazi skinheads.

It is our responsibility to organize and instruct these newly activated individuals. What we do not understand, we cannot effectively combat. Thus, it is essential that we possess and pass on an understanding of the pro-censorship mindset.

The pro-censorship mindset has remained the same throughout the history of civilization. The censors always aim at protecting us from the perceived harmful effects of what we read, see, and hear.

11. Which of the following best illustrates the author's contention, as gathered from the passage ?
 - (1) America's market place of ideas is shrinking on a daily basis, owing to pressure tactics of threats of legal action and boycott.
 - (2) Unnecessary hue and cry is raised over censorship which if understood correctly, is not harmful.
 - (3) Civil liberties is least affected by censorship.
 - (4) Censorship causes harm to one who sees, reads or hears.
12. All of the following are true, in respect of the passage, except that :
 - (1) liberty is like good health, it is taken for granted until it is lost.
 - (2) artists have welcomed the censorship since it covers all types of people ensuring uniformity and standardisation in performance.
 - (3) possessing and passing on the understanding of the pro-censorship mindset is essential.
 - (4) orchestrated censorship campaigns by well organised and well funded groups have registered success.
13. The act of censoring, as per the passage, is :
 - (1) aimed to assert the dominance and might of the censors.
 - (2) to check the erosion of morality, decency and probity.
 - (3) curtail the unstoppable flow of obscenity and the harmful effects of what is seen, read or heard.
 - (4) All of the above.
14. Which of the following could represent the central idea of the passage ?
 - (1) Censorship, though having a laudable and a noble aim, is not understood properly.
 - (2) Censorship often becomes a pretext for not creating healthy competition and scuttling the talents and skills of the rivals.
 - (3) Artists are not free to display their talents uninhibitedly but land up in compromising situations.
 - (4) None of the above.
15. The passage is dealt with in a manner which is :
 - (1) confusing
 - (2) depressing
 - (3) clarificatory
 - (4) oratorical
16. What could be the reason for the resentment and retaliation towards censorship ?
 - (1) Deprivation of freedom to think, convey and act.
 - (2) Lack of proper education and awareness regarding censorship as an institution meant for the general well being and welfare of society.
 - (3) Wrongful imposition of Censorship Act, used as a measure to kill and suppress genuine talent or to settle political rivalry.
 - (4) All of the above.
17. A suitable title for the passage is :
 - (1) Censorship vs. Freedom
 - (2) Censorship Causes A Rise In Obscenity.
 - (3) Censorship - A Monster To Be Attacked
 - (4) Censorship Is Beneficial For Society's Health.

18. A fallout of the act of censoring, as the passage makes out, is :
- (1) the relentless erosion of intellectual and personal freedom.
 - (2) a persistent and an organised attack on print and electronic media.
 - (3) a hysterical climate generated, whereby 'self censorship is resorted to, out of fear.
 - (4) All of the above.
19. The passage is, at best an extract from :
- (1) the official gazette describing the provision of the Censorship Act.
 - (2) a petition put before the Supreme Court challenging the Censorship Act.
 - (3) a write up criticising the obscene music and literature and making a case for the imposition of the Censorship Act.
 - (4) an article describing the 'gap' between 'aim' and 'effect' in relation to the Censorship Act.
20. The passage describes the act of self-censorship as :
- (1) that done on oneself under the feeling of guilt and remorse.
 - (2) that done on oneself through introspection for self - improvement.
 - (3) an outcome of 'euphoria' caused by the imposition of censorship in an organised and an orchestrated manner.
 - (4) a desire for one to be free from controversies, disputes and unpleasant situations.



Detailed Solutions

1. **Ans.(3).** Options (1) and (2) find their place in the passage, in the fifth and the second paragraphs respectively. Option (3) is the odd one not endorsed by the passage. Option (3) is the sought one.
2. **Ans.(2).** The third last paragraph is about the way a sensitive issue of rape ought to be handled. Option (2) best matches with this and is the selected one. The remaining options are not correct, as the passage does not state them.
3. **Ans.(3).** The third paragraph comes out with date rape being a behaviour of recent origin and which was unidentifiable in the years past. Option (3) best represents this. The remaining options are inaccurate.
4. **Ans.(4).** Each of the options (1), (2) and (3) find their place in the passage. The third and the fifth paragraphs uphold each of these options. Option (4) is refuted as the opening line in the last paragraph states the opposite of it. Option (4) is the one sought.
5. **Ans.(3).** The third paragraph states the flaw in the media coverage. The reliance on surveys is faulty. There is an overstatement and unnecessary bloating of incidents which creates a misleading picture. Option (3) best aligns with this and is the correct one. The rest of the options can be set aside, as they are not correct.
6. **Ans.(1).** The sensitive issue of rape has been sensibly handled. The contents are certainly thought provoking. Option (1) best conforms to this. The remaining options are not correct.
7. **Ans.(4).** The passage has highlighted the incidence of rape but has not singled out men or women. It is a two way problem, for which both men and women ought to take the blame. Option (4) best represents this and is a suitable title for the passage. The remaining options are not apt.
8. **Ans.(1).** Clearly option (1) seems to be the most likely source from where the passage could have been extracted. Options (2), (3) and (4) are not appropriate ones and can be ruled out.
9. **Ans.(3).** The last three paragraphs suggest that constructive, meaningful and open dialogue between men and women is essential for the incidence of rape to be eliminated. Option (3) best conforms to this and is apt. The remaining options are not appropriate and can be rejected.
10. **Ans.(3).** Option (3) is the correct one. The passage, in the first and the second paragraphs, describes date rape different from rape as is understood. It is an 'accident', not pre-meditated and is common in the college campus. Options (1) & (4) find a place in the passage but they are not what the passage would represent. Option (2) is incorrect.
11. **Ans.(1).** The third paragraph upholds option (1), as it states that America's market is starved of ideas owing to pressure tactics employed by the powers-that-be. Options (2), (3) and (4) are not correct as the passage does not state or uphold them.
12. **Ans.(2).** Option (1), (3) and (4) find a place in the passage. The penultimate, last and the sixth paragraphs uphold them. Option (2) is not correct as the fourth paragraph refutes it. Hence option (2) is the sought one.
13. **Ans.(3).** The fourth and the last paragraphs of the passage uphold option (3). Censoring aims at preventing and protecting one from the harmful effects of what is seen, read or heard. The remaining options (1), (2) and (4) are out of place as the passage makes no mention of it.
14. **Ans.(1).** The passage is all about censorship. The effects of censorship are described. It has been likened to a monster, to be feared, dreaded and detested. The passage winds up on what censorship is all about, what are its aims and objectives. Option (1) best synchronises with this view point. It is the sought one, representing well the central idea of the passage. The remaining options are to be sidelined.
15. **Ans.(3).** The passage does not confine merely to describing censorship and the outcry of one and all. It clarifies the necessity of censorship. Option (3) best fits in. The remaining options are not correct.
16. **Ans.(4).** Each of the options (1), (2) and (3) find a place in the passage. They can be inferred from the passage, being implicitly stated. Option (4), their combination, is the perfect pick.
17. **Ans.(1).** Option (1) is the suitable title for the passage, for it represents the differing view points of censorship and freedom which is elaborated well in the passage. Options (3) and (4) are partially correct while option (2) is wrong as the contents of the passage do not suggest this.
18. **Ans.(4).** Each of the options (1), (2) and (3) find their place in the passage. The opening paragraph, the third and the seventh paragraphs all uphold them. Hence option (4), their combination is the perfect pick.
19. **Ans.(4).** Options (1), (2) and (3) are not what the passage has indicated. Option (4) is at best a source from where the passage could have been extracted, for it tellingly describes the objectives and aims of censorship and the wrong effect it has on one and all.
20. **Ans.(3).** The seventh paragraphs describes self- censorship resorted to by librarians in not ordering 'controversial' books, administrators not encouraging student publications which are disputable and publishers removing materials from science and reading text that would generate unpleasantness. Option (4) best represents this, sidelining options (1), (2) and (3), which are not appropriate.

Answer Keys

(3).(3)	(4).(4)	(4).(4)	(1).(1)	(4).(4)	(3).(3)	(1).(1)	(2).(2)	(1).(1)
(3).(3)	(3).(3)	(1).(1)	(4).(4)	(1).(1)	(3).(3)	(4).(4)	(3).(3)	(3).(3)