



CLAT 2020

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Reading Comprehension Questions for CLAT Exam.

Passage for CLAT Set 2

Direction: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

We celebrated 'World Environment Day' (June 5) with a critical theme: beat plastic pollution. Since India was the global host of this year's event, and also one of the victims of plastic pollution, we should view this danger seriously. The theme urges governments, industries, communities and individuals to come together and explore sustainable alternatives. It also urges this target group to reduce the production and excessive use of single-use plastics, which are polluting our environment and threatening human health.

Plastics are organic polymers of high molecular mass and often contain other substances. They are usually synthetic, mainly derived from petrochemicals. Due to their low cost, ease of manufacture, versatility, non-corrosiveness and imperviousness to water, plastics are used for multiple purposes at different scales. Plastic was invented in New York in 1907 by Leo Baekeland. Further, many chemists, including Nobel laureate Hermann Staudinger and Herman Mark, have contributed to the materials science of plastics. However, these scientists could not have anticipated such an exponential growth of plastic production.

Plastic has become an indispensable material in modern society. In India, which accounts for almost 18% of the world population in 2.4% of the global land area, the accumulation of plastic waste is huge. An estimate in 2015 revealed that 60 cities across the country generated over 15,000 tonnes of plastic waste every day. Even if plastic is a convenient alternative, it is a difficult substance for nature to digest.

Each year, 13 million tonnes of plastic end up in the oceans. A study revealed that 20 rivers (mostly from Asia) carry two-thirds of plastic waste to the ocean; the Ganga's contribution to this is one of the highest. Researchers exploring the Arctic have found very high levels of microplastics trapped in the ice. Last year, a plastic spoon was found in the remains of a whale shark off Rameswaram. Experts explained that whale sharks are filter feeders and like to swallow everything floating in the sea. The economic impact of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems through fisheries and tourism losses and beach cleaning-up costs is estimated to be around \$13 billion per year.

Plastic disposed of on land degrades slowly and its chemicals leach into the surroundings. Drinking water samples analysed from 14 countries, including India, revealed that 83% have micro-plastics concentrations. According to a United Nations Environment Programme report, the overall annual natural capital cost of plastic use in the consumer goods sector is \$75 billion.

We should act as responsible citizens with a determination towards maintaining cleaner surroundings. Every shopkeeper should go in for and encourage the use of biodegradable packing materials while shoppers should use cloth bags. Mass public awareness on the dangers of plastic hazards is a prerequisite. Eco-friendly substitutes (cloth/paper/jute bags, leaves/areca leaf plates, paper straws) should be developed. For this, scientific and financial support (soft loans and subsidies) is required. Charges for plastic bag use and deposit-refund for plastic bottles may be effective options. The Swachh Bharat Mission should emerge as a platform for plastic waste management.

1. Which of the following is/are true as per the passage?

- I. Plastic pollution has even reached the Arctic.
- II. Plastic pollution has a huge impact on the environment but not so much in economic terms.
- III. The river Ganga carries contributes a lot to the plastic waste in the oceans.

A. Only I B. Only III C. Only II and III D. Only I and III

2. Which of the following is/are true about plastics?

- I. They are organic polymers of high molecular mass.
- II. They are mostly derived from fossil fuels.
- III. It was used for the first time in Germany and used on a mass scale in New York.

A. Only I B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only II and III

3. Which of the following statement strengthens the claim that 'Plastic has become an indispensable material in modern society'?

- I. Worldwide, one million plastic bags and one million plastic bottles are used every minute.
- II. About 50% of our plastic use is single use (disposable) and it constitutes 10% of the total waste generated.
- III. Almost 9 billion tons of plastic waste was generated in the year 2017 alone.

A. Only I B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only I and III

4. What can be some possible steps to tackle the menace of plastic pollution?

- I. Plastic production should be restricted and recycling should be encouraged.
- II. We should aim for behavioral changes with household-wise waste segregation being an example.
- III. We should eliminate plastic from our daily lives.

A. Only II B. Only I and II C. Only II and III D. Only I and III

5. As per the passage, what are some ways in which we can act as responsible citizens?

- I. Use of cloth/jute/paper bags.
- II. Reduce single-use plastic usage.
- III. Organize community based drives on recovering plastic waste in the community.

A. Only II B. Only I and III C. Only I and II D. Only II and III

Correct Answers

1	2	3	4	5
D	A	D	B	C

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Explanations:

1. Refer to: 'A study revealed that 20 rivers (mostly from Asia) carry two-thirds of plastic waste to the ocean; the Ganga's contribution to this is one of the highest. Researchers exploring the Arctic have found very high levels of microplastics trapped in the ice.The economic impact of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems through fisheries and tourism losses and beach cleaning-up costs is estimated to be around \$13 billion per year.'

Statements I and III are correct as per the highlighted fragments while II is incorrect as the economic impact is huge.

Hence, option D is correct.

2. Refer to: 'Plastics are organic polymers of high molecular mass and often contain other substances. They are usually synthetic, mainly derived from petrochemicals. Plastic was invented in New York in 1907 by Leo Baekeland. ...'

Statement I is correct.

Statements II and III are incorrect as can be seen from the fragments highlighted.

Hence, option A is correct.

3. Statement I talks about the huge amount of plastic used and is correct.

Similarly, statement III talks about the huge amount of plastic waste generated which indicates to the huge amount of plastic in use today and is correct.

Statement II is incorrect as it merely talks about the proportion of plastic waste and its composition.

Hence, option D is correct.

4. Statement III is extreme in tone and not practical. Rather than eliminating plastics which is impractical, we should aim for restricting their use and proper waste management. This makes I and II correct.

Hence, option B is correct.

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5. Refer to:

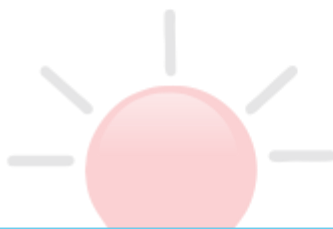
I. 'Every shopkeeper should go in for and encourage the use of biodegradable packing materials while shoppers should use cloth bags'. I is correct.

II. 'It also urges this target group to reduce the production and excessive use of single-use plastics, which are polluting our environment and threatening human health.'

II is correct.

III. This has not been mentioned in the passage and is incorrect.

Hence, option C is correct.



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