

CLAT 2020 Test Series Plan

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Reading Comprehension Questions for CLAT Exam.

Passage for CLAT Set 3

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

Many scientists were convinced that there must be a plethora of intelligent civilizations sprinkled across the galaxy. The story goes that in 1950 Enrico Fermi and his colleagues were discussing the existence of alien life over lunch. The question that Fermi asked at the table became infamous in its simplicity: “Where is everybody?” The room fell silent because, well, nobody had an answer. Originally, the question was meant to attack the idea of interstellar travel, the possibility of which Fermi wasn’t confident in. But the question remains: if there were civilizations scattered across the stars by the billions, why haven’t we heard from them? The Milky Way is about 10 billion years old and 100,000 light-years across. If aliens had spaceships that could travel at 1 percent of the speed of light, the galaxy could have already been colonized 1,000 times. Why haven’t we heard from any other life?

That very question is the Fermi paradox. It has sparked numerous explanations for the silence we’ve been experiencing. Some scientists think that the silence is the product of something they’ve coined the Great Filter theory, an evolutionary wall **impermeable** to most life. For these scientists, there are two basic possibilities regarding the Great Filter: it’s either behind us or in front of us. If it’s behind us, scientists have speculated that it may have occurred at the creation of life itself or at the jump from single-cell prokaryotes to multicell eukaryotes. Either way, it implies that we are a rare case and that communication isn’t happening because we’re one of very few, if any, survivors. If the Great Filter is ahead of us, on the other hand, then we’re not receiving communication because advanced civilizations have hit the wall and ceased to exist—implying that we too will hit that wall eventually. Other scientists have come up with other explanations for this literal radio silence. Perhaps most of the universe is colonized and communicating, but we’re stuck in a desolate area far from the action. Or maybe Type III civilizations simply don’t care about communicating with inferior life like us. If they have all the power of an entire galaxy, maybe they can’t be bothered by us and our handheld cell phones. Some scientists even think that the lack of communication might be due to the existence of a predator species of which intelligent civilizations are afraid, and thus they refrain from transmitting so as not to reveal their location. The general consensus, however, is that if there are others out there transmitting signals, we’re probably just listening wrong: we don’t have the appropriate technology or understanding of the universe to receive or decode any messages just yet.

However, there’s still a chance it’s just us. If a civilization could live at least a century after developing transmission technology, there could be 10 civilizations in our galaxy alone. But what if they couldn’t live for 100 years after developing this technology? As we begin to develop our own transmission technology, we also develop nuclear power, advance the warming of the climate, and exhaust our food sources with overpopulation. Is it such a stretch to say that perhaps an intelligent civilization cannot live for 100 years after developing space-penetrating transmission technology? If civilizations can typically survive for only 10 years after developing this technology, meaning that we may be the only intelligent life in our galaxy—or even the entire universe.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from Britannica, article: The Fermi Paradox: Where Are All the Aliens?]

1. Which of the following explains the theory of Great filter being behind us?

- A. The other species other than human are more intelligent and do not want to communicate.
- B. The Milky Way is about 10 billion years old and 100,000 light-years across, which was not possible to be covered.
- C. Many species exist and are co-dependent, since we are far away we are not involve in the process.
- D. Many species have come but unable to survive and we are not receiving any communication as we are the only one existing.

2. Why according to the author we will also hit the wall soon?

- A. As our species surpassed the filter at a very initial level previously
- B. As per a theory the great filter wall is ahead of us, where advanced species have hit already and terminated and we will undergo the same procedure.
- C. As the more intelligent life forms will make us hit the wall so that they dominate
- D. Due to lack of communication we aren't aware about the great filter wall which is ahead of us.

3. Why according to a theory we are not able to receive signals which are transmitted by other species?

- A. As the other civilizations find us less intelligent, so they do not want to communicate with us.
- B. As we have surpassed the great filter wall and there are no other species.
- C. We are not able to interpret any of the signals by other civilizations due to lack of advanced technology and the inability to comprehend it.
- D. None of these

4. Which of the following summarizes the passage?

- A. Being incapable of comprehending, we are unable to locate other species.
- B. We are the only life forms that exist after passing the great filter wall.
- C. If there are other civilizations, why are not they communicating with us?
- D. The isolation from the other civilization has made us isolated.

5. What does the word 'impermeable' as used in the passage mean?

- A. Translucent
- B. Not allowing anything to pass through.
- C. Rigid and stubborn
- D. Flexible and adaptable



Correct Answers

1	2	3	4	5
D	B	C	C	B



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Explanations:

1. Many species have come but unable to survive and we are not receiving any communication as we are the only one existing.

From the second paragraph it can be clearly deduced that there are various aspects of the theory, but if the great filter is behind then we are already filtered and the only species that exists. Since there is no other species left, we are not getting any communication.

Option A and option C are the other aspects of the same theory but irrelevant to what is asked in the question. Option B is also incorrect.

Hence the answer is option D.

2. As per a theory the great filter wall is ahead of us, where advanced species have hit already and terminated and we will undergo the same procedure.

Option C and option D are totally irrelevant and therefore incorrect.

Now between option A and B, option A explains a different aspect of the theory, whereas option B is totally relevant as per what the author has mentioned in the second paragraph that advanced species have already hit the great filter which stopped their further evolution and we are on the way to hit the filter soon.

Hence the answer is option B.

3. We are not able to interpret any of the signals by other civilizations due to lack of advanced technology.

As it is clearly expressed in the last lines of the second paragraph that there might be species sending us signals from a long time but we are unable to receive them as we can't decode them being devoid of required technology and are not equipped enough to understand it

Hence the answer is option C.

4. If there are other civilizations, why are not they communicating with us? According to the author, all the aspects of why we are not receiving any signals from other civilizations are being mentioned in the passage and not just one.

Option C explains them all while Option A, B and D are limited to certain theories only.

Hence the answer is option C.

5. Not allowing anything to pass through.

The author has used the word to describe the Great filter wall which ceases many civilizations to pass through, thus option B explains the word in the most relevant way.

Hence the answer is option B.



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