

## LOGICAL REASONING QUESTIONS – SAMPLE SET FOR MAY 30, 2020

*Each set of questions in this section is based on a single passage. Please answer each question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage. In some instances, more than one option may be the answer to the question; in such a case, please choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.*

1.

Employers can get into legal trouble if they ask interviewees about their religion, sexual preference, or political affiliation. Yet they can use social media to filter out job applicants based on their beliefs, looks, and habits. Laws forbid lenders from discriminating on the basis of race, gender, and sexuality. Yet they can refuse to give a loan to people whose Facebook friends have bad payment histories, if their work histories on LinkedIn don't match their bios on Facebook, or if a computer algorithm judges them to be socially undesirable.

These regulatory gaps exist because laws have not kept up with advances in technology. The gaps are getting wider as technology advances ever more rapidly. And it's not just in employment and lending—the same is happening in every domain that technology touches.

“That is how it must be, because law is, at its best and most legitimate—in the words of Gandhi—‘codified ethics,’” says Preeta Bansal, a former general counsel in the White House. She explains that effective laws and standards of ethics are guidelines accepted by members of a society, and that these require the development of a social consensus.

Take the development of copyright laws, which followed the creation of the printing press. When first introduced in the 1400s, the printing press was disruptive to political and religious elites because it allowed knowledge to spread and experiments to be shared. It helped spur the decline of the Holy Roman Empire, through the spread of Protestant writings; the rise of nationalism and nation-states, due to rising cultural self-awareness; and eventually the Renaissance. Debates about the ownership of ideas raged for about 300 years before the first copyright laws were enacted by Great Britain.

Our laws and ethical practices have evolved over centuries. Today, technology is on an exponential curve and is touching practically everyone—everywhere. Changes of a magnitude that once took centuries now happen in decades, sometimes in years. We haven't come to grips with what is ethical, let alone with what the laws should be, in relation to technologies such as social media.

Thomas Jefferson said in 1816, “Laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths disclosed, and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also, and keep pace with the times.”

The problem is that the human mind itself can't keep pace with the advances that computers are enabling.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Laws and Ethics Can't Keep Pace with Technology", by Vivek Wadhwa, *MIT Technology Review*, <https://www.technologyreview.com/2014/04/15/172377/laws-and-ethics-cant-keep-pace-with-technology/>]

1.1 Which of the following changes to the law, if brought into effect, would be most likely to solve the problem the author describes in relation to how employers filter out job applicants?

- (a) A law that forces employers to meet in person with job applicants before deciding whether or not to hire them.
- (b) A law that forbids employers from checking job applicants' details on social media.
- (c) A law that forbids job applicants from checking the employers' details on social media.
- (d) A law that requires employers to check job applicants' details on social media.

1.2 Which of the following, if true, would most weaken Preeta Bansal's argument for why laws have not kept up with advances in technology?

- (a) Social consensus leads to effective laws, since people are already in general agreement with laws developed on the basis of such a consensus.
- (b) Laws can only be effective if people in society are generally in agreement with them.
- (c) Effective laws are developed only when people accept the principles and ethics behind them.
- (d) Social consensus and guidelines that are accepted by members of a society are brought about by effective laws, not the other way around.

1.3 Based on the author's description of how the development of copyright laws followed the creation of the printing press, which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?

- (a) The development of the printing press was a direct consequence of the emergence of strong copyright laws in the 1400s.
- (b) The decline of the Holy Roman Empire would have been avoided if strong copyright laws had been in place at the time the printing press was developed.
- (c) The ownership of ideas was not considered important enough to spur debate and the development of copyright laws – the dramatic changes brought about by the printing press spurred this.
- (d) The ownership of ideas had been a matter of much debate in societies for many centuries before the development of the printing press, but people lost interest in the topic after the dramatic changes brought about by the printing press.

1.4 Which of the following best describes why the author thinks the development of laws lags behind the pace of development of technology?

- (a) Laws and ethical practices evolve over a long time, and the human mind cannot keep pace with the advances enabled by computers.
- (b) Technological progress takes a long time, and laws are developed very quickly by human institutions.
- (c) Computers cannot keep pace with social developments and the rate at which humanity is evolving.
- (d) It takes a long time to communicate what the law says to people.

1.5 The author says: (i) that laws and ethical practices take centuries to evolve, and (ii) that today, technology is on an 'exponential curve', and 'changes of a magnitude that once took centuries now happen in decades, sometimes in years'. What role do these statements (i) and (ii) play in relation to the conclusion the author draws about how laws cannot possibly keep up with technological change?

- (a) They contradict the author's conclusion.
- (b) They offer alternative conclusions, which the author rejects.
- (c) They demonstrate that the author's conclusion is a mere assumption, and is not backed by any evidence.
- (d) They act as premises in support of the author's conclusion.

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