

Passage 1: The Paradox of Digital Autonomy

In the early decades of the internet, digital autonomy was celebrated as liberation. The network was imagined as a borderless commons where individuals could shed the constraints of geography, hierarchy, and even identity. Yet, as platforms consolidated power and algorithms began to curate reality itself, a quieter paradox emerged: the more connected we became, the less autonomous we felt.

This paradox is not merely psychological; it is structural. Platforms design for engagement, not enlightenment. Every scroll, click, and pause is harvested as data, refined into predictive models, and sold as attention. Users are not customers but products, their behaviour optimised for advertisers. In this architecture, autonomy is an illusion carefully stage-managed by interfaces that simulate choice while narrowing possibility.

Critics argue that this is not freedom but a new form of enclosure. The digital commons has been fenced, privatised, and monetised. What was once a space of experimentation is now a marketplace of micro-transactions, where even dissent is packaged and sold as content. The result is a peculiar alienation: we speak loudly, yet feel unheard; we connect constantly, yet feel isolated.

Defenders counter that platforms merely reflect human nature. If users crave validation, algorithms will supply it. If outrage drives engagement, then outrage will be amplified. To blame the platform, they argue, is to absolve ourselves of responsibility. We are not victims of technology but its architects, complicit in the systems we claim to resist.

Yet this defence overlooks a crucial asymmetry. While users may choose to engage, they do not choose the rules of engagement. The terms of service are non-negotiable; the algorithms are opaque; the exits are illusory. To speak of consent in such a context is to ignore the power imbalance that defines the relationship.

The path forward requires more than individual restraint. It demands structural reform: transparency in algorithmic design, data sovereignty for users, and antitrust enforcement to break monopolistic control. Without such measures, digital autonomy will remain a mirage, promising freedom while delivering dependency.

1. Which of the following best captures the central paradox discussed in the passage?

- (A) The internet empowers individuals but also isolates them socially.
- (B) Increased connectivity has led to a perceived reduction in personal autonomy.
- (C) Digital platforms are both liberating and oppressive depending on user intent.
- (D) Technological progress inevitably leads to psychological alienation.

2. The author's attitude toward the defenders of digital platforms can best be described as:

- (A) Sympathetic but cautious
- (B) Dismissive and scornful
- (C) Respectful but unconvinced
- (D) Critical and skeptical

3. Which inference is most strongly supported by the passage?

- (A) Users are fully aware of how their data is being used by platforms.
- (B) Algorithmic curation is designed primarily to maximise user engagement.

- (C) Digital autonomy can be restored through individual self-discipline alone.
- (D) Platforms are legally required to disclose their algorithmic processes.

4. In the context of the passage, the phrase "new form of enclosure" most nearly means:

- (A) A physical restriction of internet access
- (B) The privatisation and control of previously open digital spaces
- (C) A metaphor for social isolation caused by technology
- (D) The enclosure of data centres by corporate entities

5. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's call for structural reform?

- (A) Users report feeling more autonomous when using decentralised platforms.
- (B) Algorithmic transparency has been shown to reduce user engagement significantly.
- (C) Most users are indifferent to how their data is used.
- (D) Antitrust enforcement has historically failed to break up tech monopolies.

Passage 2: Literature and the Architecture of Empathy

Literature has long been defended as a moral technology—a machine for building empathy. By inhabiting the minds of others, readers are said to transcend their own experience, cultivating a capacity for understanding that might otherwise remain dormant. This claim, however, is not without its critics.

Some argue that literature does not necessarily produce empathy; it may instead reinforce prejudice. A reader may identify with a protagonist not because of their humanity, but because of their similarity. In such cases, literature becomes a mirror rather than a window, confirming biases rather than challenging them. The result is not expansion but entrenchment.

Others contend that empathy itself is an unreliable moral guide. To feel for another is not necessarily to act for them. Empathy can be selective, fleeting, or even manipulative. A novel may move us to tears, yet leave our behaviour unchanged. In this view, literature risks becoming a substitute for action, a way of feeling virtuous without being so.

Yet there is a third position, more nuanced than either defence or dismissal. Literature does not guarantee empathy, but it creates the conditions for it. It offers a space in which difference can be encountered without consequence, where the unfamiliar can be explored without fear. Whether this leads to moral growth depends not on the text alone, but on the reader's willingness to be changed by it.

This willingness is not innate; it is cultivated. It requires what might be called a "discipline of reading"—a commitment to engage with discomfort, to resist the urge to judge prematurely, and to sit with ambiguity. Without such discipline, literature may indeed become a mirror. With it, it can become a window, and perhaps even a door.

The question, then, is not whether literature builds empathy, but under what conditions it might do so. The answer lies not in the text, but in the encounter between text and reader—a dynamic, unstable, and profoundly human process.

6. The primary purpose of the passage is to:

- (A) Defend literature as an indispensable tool for moral education
- (B) Critique the claim that literature necessarily fosters empathy

- (C) Explore the conditions under which literature may cultivate empathy
- (D) Argue that empathy is an unreliable basis for moral action

7. Which of the following best describes the author's view of the "discipline of reading"?

- (A) A natural ability that some readers possess and others do not
- (B) A set of techniques for analysing literary texts more effectively
- (C) A cultivated habit of engaging with discomfort and ambiguity
- (D) A method for ensuring that literature produces moral action

8. The passage suggests that critics who claim literature reinforces prejudice believe that:

- (A) Readers are incapable of identifying with characters different from themselves
- (B) Literature is inherently biased and cannot be read objectively
- (C) Readers often identify with characters who reflect their own biases
- (D) Empathy is a selective emotion that cannot be reliably cultivated

9. In the context of the passage, the phrase "mirror rather than a window" is used to suggest that literature can:

- (A) Reflect the reader's own biases instead of exposing them to new perspectives
- (B) Provide a clear view of the author's intentions
- (C) Serve as a tool for self-reflection and personal growth
- (D) Distort reality in a way that misleads the reader

10. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument?

- (A) Studies show that reading literary fiction increases scores on empathy tests.
- (B) Readers who engage with challenging texts report greater moral uncertainty.
- (C) Empathy measured immediately after reading does not correlate with long-term behaviour change.
- (D) Most readers prefer texts that confirm their existing beliefs.

Passage 3: The Platform Economy and the Illusion of Choice

The platform economy promises freedom: work when you want, earn what you can, be your own boss. Yet beneath this rhetoric lies a more complex reality. Platforms do not employ workers; they algorithmically manage them. The result is a form of control that is both pervasive and invisible.

Consider the ride-hail driver. On the surface, they are independent contractors, free to log in and out at will. In practice, their earnings are determined by opaque pricing algorithms, their routes by GPS directives, and their behaviour by rating systems that can deactivate them without appeal. The platform does not tell them what to do; it makes certain choices more attractive than others.

This is not coercion in the traditional sense. There is no boss, no schedule, no explicit command. Yet the effect is similar: workers are nudged, guided, and constrained by a system they cannot see and do not control. The illusion of choice masks the reality of dependency.

Defenders argue that this model offers flexibility that traditional employment cannot. For some, this is true. A student may drive between classes; a parent may work around childcare.

But flexibility is not freedom. To be free is to have control over the terms of one's labour, not merely the timing.

Critics counter that the platform economy is a step backward, a return to piecework and precariousness. They point to the erosion of labour rights, the absence of benefits, and the psychological toll of algorithmic management. In this view, the platform is not an innovator but a regressor, dressing old exploitations in new technology.

The truth may lie somewhere in between. The platform economy is neither liberation nor enslavement, but a new configuration of power. It offers real benefits to some, real harms to others, and real challenges to all. To navigate it wisely, we must see through the illusion of choice and confront the architecture of control beneath.

11. The central argument of the passage is that:

- (A) The platform economy offers genuine freedom to workers.
- (B) Algorithmic management creates a hidden form of control despite apparent flexibility.
- (C) Traditional employment is superior to platform-based work in all respects.
- (D) Workers in the platform economy are fully aware of how algorithms affect them.

12. The author's tone toward defenders of the platform economy can best be described as:

- (A) Sympathetic but critical
- (B) Hostile and dismissive
- (C) Neutral and descriptive
- (D) Enthusiastic and supportive

13. Which of the following inferences is most supported by the passage?

- (A) Ride-hail drivers have more control over their earnings than traditional employees.
- (B) Algorithmic pricing is transparent and easily understood by workers.
- (C) Flexibility in work timing does not equate to control over labour terms.
- (D) Rating systems are designed primarily to improve customer satisfaction.

14. In the context of the passage, the phrase "illusion of choice" refers to:

- (A) The false belief that workers can choose their customers
- (B) The appearance of autonomy despite underlying algorithmic constraints
- (C) The misconception that platforms offer higher wages than traditional jobs
- (D) The idea that workers can easily switch between different platforms

15. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the critics' view of the platform economy?

- (A) Platform workers report higher job satisfaction than traditional employees.
- (B) Algorithms are shown to increase earnings volatility for workers.
- (C) Most platform workers lack access to health benefits.
- (D) Platform companies have lobbied against labour regulations.

Passage 4: Free Speech in the Age of Amplification

Free speech has long been defended as a cornerstone of democracy. The ability to speak without fear of censorship is seen as essential to self-governance, to the pursuit of truth, and to the protection of minority voices. Yet in the age of digital amplification, this ideal faces new challenges.

Platforms do not merely host speech; they amplify it. Algorithms prioritise content that engages, and engagement is often driven by outrage, controversy, or spectacle. The result is a distortion of the public sphere: some voices are magnified far beyond their merit, while others are drowned out by noise.

This is not censorship in the traditional sense. No one is silenced by the state; no law prohibits expression. Yet the effect can be similar: certain ideas dominate, not because they are true or important, but because they are optimised for attention. In this environment, free-speech risks becoming free amplification for the few, and free irrelevance for the many.

Defenders argue that platforms are private companies, not public squares. They have the right to curate content as they see fit. To demand otherwise, they claim, is to impose a form of state control on private enterprise.

Critics counter that when private platforms become the primary infrastructure for public discourse, they assume public responsibilities. To speak of neutrality in such a context is to ignore the power these companies wield over what is seen, heard, and believed.

The path forward requires a reimagining of free speech for the digital age. It is not enough to protect speech from the state; we must also consider how speech is shaped by the systems that carry it. Without such consideration, free speech may remain a right in theory, but a privilege in practice.

16. The passage primarily argues that:

- (A) Free speech is no longer relevant in the digital age.
- (B) Digital amplification distorts the public sphere despite the absence of state censorship.
- (C) Private platforms should be treated as public squares under the law.
- (D) Outrage-driven content is inherently harmful to democracy.

17. The author's attitude toward the defenders of platform curation can best be described as:

- (A) Respectful but unconvinced
- (B) Sympathetic and supportive
- (C) Dismissive and hostile
- (D) Indifferent and neutral

18. Which of the following inferences is most strongly supported by the passage?

- (A) Algorithms are designed to promote truthful and important content.
- (B) State censorship is the primary threat to free speech today.
- (C) Some voices are amplified disproportionately due to engagement optimisation.
- (D) Private platforms have no influence over public discourse.

19. In the context of the passage, the phrase "free amplification for the few" suggests that:

- (A) Only wealthy individuals can afford to speak online.
- (B) A small number of voices are disproportionately magnified by algorithms.
- (C) Free-speech laws protect only certain types of expression.
- (D) Platforms charge fees for promoting content.

20. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the critics' position?

- (A) Platforms have been shown to suppress minority voices through algorithmic bias.

- (B) Most users are unaware of how algorithms prioritise content.
- (C) Private companies have a legal right to curate content on their platforms.
- (D) State censorship has decreased in the digital age.

Passage 5: The Ethics of Predictive Policing

Predictive policing promises a future where crime is prevented before it occurs. By analysing historical data, algorithms can identify patterns, forecast hotspots, and direct resources with unprecedented precision. Supporters hail this as a revolution in public safety, a way to make policing more efficient and less biased.

Yet critics warn of a more troubling possibility. If the data used to train these systems reflects past biases, the predictions will too. A neighbourhood over-policed in the past will generate more data, leading to more policing in the future. The result is not objectivity, but a feedback loop of discrimination.

This is not a hypothetical concern. Studies have shown that predictive models can reinforce racial and socioeconomic disparities. A system designed to reduce bias may instead encode it, making discrimination more efficient and less visible. The algorithm does not hate; it simply optimises.

Defenders argue that human officers are far more biased than algorithms. To reject predictive policing, they claim, is to prefer the imperfections of people over the precision of machines. In this view, the solution is not to abandon technology, but to improve it.

Yet improvement requires transparency, and transparency is often lacking. The models are proprietary; the data is opaque; the accountability is unclear. To speak of trust in such a context is to ignore the power imbalance between those who design the systems and those who are affected by them.

TRAIN - ELEVATE - SHINE

The question is not whether technology can reduce bias, but whether it can do so without entrenching it. The answer depends not on the algorithm alone, but on the data it learns from, the incentives that shape it, and the oversight that governs it. Without such safeguards, predictive policing may become not a tool for justice, but an instrument of inequality.

21. The central concern of the passage is that:

- (A) Predictive policing is inherently biased and cannot be improved.
- (B) Algorithms may reinforce existing biases if trained on biased data.
- (C) Human officers are more biased than predictive models.
- (D) Predictive policing is a revolution in public safety.

22. The author's tone toward defenders of predictive policing can best be described as:

- (A) Sympathetic but skeptical
- (B) Hostile and dismissive
- (C) Neutral and descriptive
- (D) Enthusiastic and supportive

23. Which of the following inferences is most supported by the passage?

- (A) Predictive models are transparent and easily audited.
- (B) Historical data used in predictive policing may reflect past discrimination.
- (C) Algorithms are designed to prioritise fairness over efficiency.
- (D) Most communities support the use of predictive policing.

24. In the context of the passage, the phrase “feedback loop of discrimination” refers to:

- (A) A cycle where biased data leads to biased predictions, which lead to more biased data
- (B) A system where citizens report discrimination to improve algorithms
- (C) A process where algorithms are continuously updated to reduce bias
- (D) A method for holding police departments accountable for discrimination

25. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the critics’ argument?

- (A) Predictive models have been shown to reduce crime rates without increasing disparities.
- (B) Most police departments lack the resources to implement predictive policing.
- (C) Algorithms are proprietary and cannot be independently audited.
- (D) Historical crime data is often incomplete and unreliable.

Passage 6: The Myth of Meritocracy

Meritocracy is often celebrated as the fairest system of all: reward the talented, punish the lazy, and let the best rise to the top. Yet beneath this ideal lies a more uncomfortable truth. Merit is not innate; it is cultivated. And cultivation depends on resources that are not equally distributed.

Consider education. A child born into wealth has access to better schools, tutors, and networks. A child born into poverty does not. Both may be equally talented, but their opportunities are not. To speak of merit in such a context is to ignore the role of luck, privilege, and circumstance.

This is not to deny that effort matters. It does. But effort alone is not enough. Without resources, talent may go undeveloped; without networks, achievement may go unnoticed. Meritocracy, in practice, often becomes a justification for inequality, a way of saying that the successful deserve their success, and the unsuccessful deserve their failure.

Defenders argue that meritocracy is still the best system available. Alternatives, they claim, are worse: nepotism, corruption, or arbitrary selection. In this view, the problem is not meritocracy itself, but its imperfect implementation.

Critics counter that meritocracy is not merely imperfect; it is ideologically loaded. It assumes that success is a sign of virtue, and failure a sign of vice. It ignores the structural barriers that prevent many from succeeding, no matter how hard they try. In this view, meritocracy is not a solution to inequality, but a mask for it.

The path forward requires a more honest conversation about what merit means, and how it is produced. It demands not only equal opportunity, but equal capacity to seize it. Without such measures, meritocracy will remain a myth, promising fairness while delivering privilege.

26. The primary argument of the passage is that:

- (A) Meritocracy is the fairest system available.
- (B) Merit is cultivated through unequal resources, undermining the ideal of meritocracy.
- (C) Effort is the only determinant of success in a meritocratic system.
- (D) Alternatives to meritocracy are worse than its imperfections.

27. The author’s attitude toward defenders of meritocracy can best be described as:

- (A) Sympathetic but critical
- (B) Hostile and dismissive
- (C) Neutral and descriptive
- (D) Enthusiastic and supportive

28. Which of the following inferences is most supported by the passage?

- (A) Talent is evenly distributed across socioeconomic groups.
- (B) Meritocracy ensures that the most virtuous individuals succeed.
- (C) Structural barriers can prevent talented individuals from succeeding.
- (D) Education is equally accessible to all children.

29. In the context of the passage, the phrase “mask for inequality” suggests that meritocracy:

- (A) Hides the true causes of success and failure
- (B) Promotes equality of opportunity for all
- (C) Encourages hard work and effort
- (D) Rewards talent regardless of background

30. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the critics’ position?

- (A) Studies show that children from wealthy families are more likely to attend elite universities.
- (B) Meritocratic systems have higher economic growth rates than alternatives.
- (C) Effort is the primary predictor of success in meritocratic societies.
- (D) Most people believe that meritocracy is fair.

Passage 7: The Ambiguity of Progress

Progress is often imagined as a straight line: from ignorance to knowledge, from poverty to wealth, from conflict to peace. Yet history suggests a more complex pattern. Advances in one domain often come at the cost of regress in another.

Consider industrialisation. It brought unprecedented prosperity, but also environmental degradation. It liberated some from manual labour, but enslaved others to the rhythm of the machine. It connected the world, but also made possible new forms of domination.

This is not to reject progress, but to complicate it. To speak of advancement without acknowledging its costs is to indulge in a dangerous naivety. Progress is not a gift; it is a trade-off. And like all trade-offs, it requires careful consideration.

Defenders argue that progress, despite its costs, is still worth pursuing. The alternative, they claim, is stagnation: a world without innovation, without growth, without hope. In this view, the problem is not progress itself, but our failure to manage its consequences.

Critics counter that progress is not neutral; it is directional. It serves some interests more than others. To speak of progress without asking “progress for whom?” is to ignore the power dynamics that shape it. In this view, progress is not a universal good, but a contested ideal.

The path forward requires a more nuanced understanding of what progress means, and who it serves. It demands not only innovation, but reflection; not only growth, but equity. Without such measures, progress may remain a promise, but not a guarantee.

31. The central idea of the passage is that:

- (A) Progress is always beneficial and should be pursued without hesitation.

- (B) Progress involves trade-offs and must be critically evaluated.
- (C) Industrialisation is the best example of human progress.
- (D) Stagnation is preferable to progress with costs.

32. The author's tone toward defenders of progress can best be described as:

- (A) Sympathetic but critical
- (B) Hostile and dismissive
- (C) Neutral and descriptive
- (D) Enthusiastic and supportive

33. Which of the following inferences is most supported by the passage?

- (A) Progress benefits all members of society equally.
- (B) Industrialisation has only positive consequences.
- (C) Progress often serves some interests more than others.
- (D) Stagnation is a viable alternative to progress.

34. In the context of the passage, the phrase "progress for whom?" is used to highlight:

- (A) The universal benefits of progress
- (B) The need to consider who benefits from progress
- (C) The inevitability of progress
- (D) The superiority of industrialisation

35. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the critics' argument?

- (A) Technological advances have improved living standards for the majority of the global population.
- (B) Progress has led to increased inequality in some societies.
- (C) Industrialisation has caused significant environmental damage.
- (D) Most people believe that progress is beneficial.

Passage 8: The Burden of Memory

Memory is often celebrated as a moral duty: to remember the past is to honour the victims, to learn from mistakes, to prevent repetition. Yet memory is not neutral; it is selective. What is remembered, and what is forgotten, is shaped by power, politics, and perspective.

Consider the monuments that dot our cities. They do not commemorate all heroes, but only those deemed worthy by those in power. They do not tell all stories, but only those that serve a particular narrative. To speak of memory in such a context is to ignore the role of curation in shaping collective understanding.

This is not to advocate forgetting. It is to complicate remembrance. To remember without reflection is to risk myth-making; to forget without consideration is to risk erasure. Memory, like progress, is a trade-off. And like all trade-offs, it requires careful navigation.

Defenders argue that memory, despite its selectivity, is still essential. Without it, they claim, we lose our moral compass, our sense of identity, our connection to the past. In this view, the problem is not memory itself, but its misuse.

Critics counter that memory is not merely selective; it is instrumental. It is used to justify the present, to legitimise power, to silence dissent. To speak of memory without asking "whose memory?" is to ignore the politics of remembrance. In this view, memory is not a duty, but a battleground.

The path forward requires a more honest conversation about what memory means, and who it serves. It demands not only remembrance, but reflection; not only monuments, but questions. Without such measures, memory may remain a burden, but not a guide.

36. The primary argument of the passage is that:

- (A) Memory is a moral duty that should be upheld without question.
- (B) Memory is selective and shaped by power, requiring critical reflection.
- (C) Monuments are the best way to preserve collective memory.
- (D) Forgetting is preferable to selective remembrance.

37. The author's attitude toward defenders of memory can best be described as:

- (A) Sympathetic but critical
- (B) Hostile and dismissive
- (C) Neutral and descriptive
- (D) Enthusiastic and supportive

38. Which of the following inferences is most supported by the passage?

- (A) All historical events are equally remembered in collective memory.
- (B) Monuments reflect the values of those in power at the time of their construction.
- (C) Memory is a neutral record of the past.
- (D) Forgetting is always harmful to society.

39. In the context of the passage, the phrase "whose memory?" is used to emphasise:

- (A) The universality of memory
- (B) The politics and power dynamics involved in remembrance
- (C) The importance of monuments
- (D) The inevitability of forgetting

40. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the critics' position?

- (A) Governments have used monuments to promote nationalist narratives.
- (B) Most people believe that remembering the past is important.
- (C) Memory helps societies learn from past mistakes.
- (D) Forgetting leads to the repetition of historical errors.

Passage 9:

The fact that superior service can generate a competitive advantage for a company does not mean that every attempt at improving service will create such an advantage. Investments in service, like those in production and distribution, must be balanced against other types of investments on the basis of direct, tangible benefits such as cost reduction and increased revenues. If a company is already effectively on a par with its competitors because it provides service that avoids a damaging reputation and keeps customers from leaving at an unacceptable rate, then investment in higher service levels may be wasted, since service is a deciding factor for customers only in extreme situations.

This truth was not apparent to managers of one regional bank, which failed to improve its competitive position despite its investment in reducing the time a customer had to wait for a teller. The bank managers did not recognize the level of customer inertia in the consumer banking industry that arises from the inconvenience of switching banks. Nor did they

analyze their service improvement to determine whether it would attract new customers by producing a new standard of service that would excite customers or by proving difficult for competitors to copy. The only merit of the improvement was that it could easily be described to customers.

41. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) contrast possible outcomes of a type of business investment
- (B) suggest more careful evaluation of a type of business investment
- (C) illustrate various ways in which a type of business investment could fail to enhance revenues
- (D) trace the general problems of a company to a certain type of business investment

42. According to the passage, investments in service are comparable to investments in production and distribution in terms of the

- (A) tangibility of the benefits that they tend to confer
- (B) increased revenues that they ultimately produce
- (C) basis on which they need to be weighed
- (D) insufficient analysis that managers devote to them

43. The passage suggests which of the following about service provided by the regional bank prior to its investment in enhancing that service?

- (A) It enabled the bank to retain customers at an acceptable rate.
- (B) It threatened to weaken the bank's competitive position with respect to other regional banks.
- (C) It had already been improved after having caused damage to the bank's reputation in the past.
- (D) It was slightly superior to that of the bank's regional competitors.

44. The passage suggests that bank managers failed to consider whether or not the service improvement mentioned in line 9

- (A) was too complicated to be easily described to prospective customers
- (B) made a measurable change in the experiences of customers in the bank's offices
- (C) could be sustained if the number of customers increased significantly
- (D) was an innovation that competing banks could have imitated

45. comparable with that of its competitors the discussion of the regional bank serves which of the following functions within the passage as a whole?

- (A) It describes an exceptional case in which investment in service actually failed to produce a competitive advantage.
- (B) It illustrates the pitfalls of choosing to invest in service at a time when investment is needed more urgently in another area.
- (C) It demonstrates the kind of analysis that managers apply when they choose one kind of service investment over another.
- (D) It provides an example of the point about investment in service made in the first paragraph.

Answer Keys:**Passage 1: The Paradox of Digital Autonomy**

1. **Answer: (B)**
Explanation: The passage opens by stating the paradox: "the more connected we became, the less autonomous we felt." This directly supports (B). (A) is partially true but misses the autonomy focus; (C) and (D) are too broad or not directly stated
2. **Answer: (D)**
Explanation: The author calls defenders' arguments an oversight of "crucial asymmetry" and says they "ignore the power imbalance," indicating skepticism and criticism, not sympathy or respect.
3. **Answer: (B)**
Explanation: The passage states platforms "design for engagement" and that behaviour is "optimised for advertisers," strongly supporting (B). (A), (C), and (D) contradict or go beyond the text.
4. **Answer: (B)**
Explanation: "New form of enclosure" is explained as the digital commons being "fenced, privatised, and monetised," matching (B).
5. **Answer: (D)**
Explanation: If antitrust enforcement has historically failed, the author's call for it as a solution is weakened. (A) and (B) do not directly address structural reform; (C) is irrelevant to the need for reform.

Passage 2: Literature and the Architecture of Empathy

6. **Answer: (C)**
Explanation: The passage explores multiple views and concludes that the key question is "under what conditions" literature may cultivate empathy, aligning with (C).
7. **Answer: (C)**
Explanation: The "discipline of reading" is described as a "cultivated" commitment to "engage with discomfort" and "sit with ambiguity," matching (C).
8. **Answer: (C)**
Explanation: Critics argue readers may identify with protagonists due to similarity, reinforcing biases—directly supporting (C).
9. **Answer: (A)**
Explanation: "Mirror rather than a window" is used to describe literature confirming biases instead of exposing new perspectives, as in (A).
10. **Answer: (B)**
Explanation: If readers of challenging texts report greater moral uncertainty, it supports the idea that literature creates conditions for empathy through engagement with ambiguity, strengthening the author's nuanced position.

Passage 3: The Platform Economy and the Illusion of Choice**11. Answer: (B)**

Explanation: The central argument is that algorithmic management creates hidden control despite apparent flexibility, as stated throughout.

12. Answer: (A)

Explanation: The author acknowledges some truth in defenders' claims ("For some, this is true") but critiques the conflation of flexibility with freedom.

13. Answer: (C)

Explanation: The passage explicitly states, "flexibility is not freedom," and defines freedom as control over labour terms, supporting (C).

14. Answer: (B)

Explanation: "Illusion of choice" refers to apparent autonomy masked by algorithmic constraints, as described in the ride-hail example.

15. Answer: (A)

Explanation: If platform workers report higher satisfaction, it weakens the critics' claim that the model is inherently harmful or regressive.

Passage 4: Free Speech in the Age of Amplification**16. Answer: (B)**

Explanation: The passage argues that digital amplification distorts the public sphere even without state censorship, matching (B).

17. Answer: (A)

Explanation: The author presents defenders' view fairly but remains unconvinced, noting it "ignores the power these companies wield."

18. Answer: (C)

Explanation: The passage states algorithms prioritise engagement, leading to some voices being "magnified far beyond their merit," supporting (C).

19. Answer: (B)

Explanation: "Free amplification for the few" refers to disproportionate algorithmic magnification of certain voices.

20. Answer: (A)

Explanation: Evidence of algorithmic bias suppressing minority voices directly supports critics' claim that platforms assume public responsibilities.

Passage 5: The Ethics of Predictive Policing**21. Answer: (B)**

Explanation: The central concern is that biased historical data can lead to biased predictions, reinforcing discrimination.

22. Answer: (A)

Explanation: The author acknowledges defenders' point about human bias but remains skeptical due to lack of transparency.

23. Answer: (B)

Explanation: The passage states that if data reflects past biases, predictions will too, directly supporting (B).

24. Answer: (A)

Explanation: "Feedback loop of discrimination" describes biased data leading to biased policing, generating more biased data.

25. Answer: (A)

Explanation: If predictive models reduce crime without increasing disparities, it weakens the critics' claim that they entrench inequality.

Passage 6: The Myth of Meritocracy**26. Answer: (B)**

Explanation: The passage argues that merit is cultivated through unequal resources, undermining meritocracy's fairness.

27. Answer: (A)

Explanation: The author acknowledges defenders' point about alternatives but critiques meritocracy's ideological assumptions.

28. Answer: (C)

Explanation: The passage emphasises structural barriers that prevent talented individuals from succeeding, supporting (C).

29. Answer: (A)

Explanation: "Mask for inequality" suggests meritocracy hides the true causes (privilege, luck) of success and failure.

30. Answer: (A)

Explanation: Evidence that wealth correlates with elite university attendance supports the claim that resources, not just merit, determine success.

Passage 7: The Ambiguity of Progress**31. Answer: (B)**

Explanation: The central idea is that progress involves trade-offs and must be critically evaluated.

32. Answer: (A)

Explanation: The author acknowledges defenders' point about stagnation but critiques the naivety of ignoring costs.

33. Answer: (C)

Explanation: The passage states progress "serves some interests more than others," supporting (C).

34. Answer: (B)

Explanation: "Progress for whom?" highlights the need to consider beneficiaries of progress.

35. Answer: (A)

Explanation: If progress has improved living standards for most, it weakens the claim that progress is primarily contested or unequal.

Passage 8: The Burden of Memory**36. Answer: (B)**

Explanation: The passage argues memory is selective and shaped by power, requiring reflection.

37. Answer: (A)

Explanation: The author acknowledges defenders' point about memory's importance but critiques its instrumental use.

38. Answer: (B)

Explanation: The passage states monuments commemorate only those "deemed worthy by those in power," supporting (B).

39. Answer: (B)

Explanation: "Whose memory?" emphasises the politics and power dynamics in remembrance.

40. Answer: (A)

Explanation: Evidence of governments using monuments for nationalist narratives supports critics' claim that memory is instrumental and political.

Passage 9:**41. Answer: (B)****42. Answer: (C)****43. Answer: (A)****44. Answer: (D)****45. Answer: (D)**