

Sample Questions for the Admission Exam: Text Analysis and Critical Reasoning

Instructions: Read the following text carefully and answer the questions by marking the single correct option for each case.

Text: Energy Transition and Strategic Autonomy

In recent years, the rush to complete the transition toward clean energy has brought to light an uncomfortable contradiction for Western countries. On one hand, they seek to reduce emissions and dependence on oil or gas imported from unstable regions. On the other hand, manufacturing solar panels, wind turbines, and electric vehicle batteries requires highly specific raw materials—such as lithium, cobalt, or nickel—whose extraction and processing are concentrated in a handful of countries.

This situation leaves many economies vulnerable to potential supply disruptions or unilateral price hikes. In response to this scenario, the European Union and other governments have begun promoting reindustrialization strategies and selective trade agreements. The goal is not to resort to protectionism, but rather to diversify the supply in order to avoid repeating the mistakes of traditional energy dependence.

1. According to the text, the "uncomfortable contradiction" of the energy transition consists in the fact that:

- a) Renewable energies pollute more than fossil fuels during their installation.
- b) While attempting to reduce one energy dependence, another one linked to certain key materials is created.
- c) Citizens are not willing to assume the economic cost of clean technology.
- d) Manufacturing countries refuse to sell renewable technology to the West.

2. If a country seeks to increase its "strategic autonomy" in this context, it will mainly attempt to:

- a) Ban the import of any product that has not been manufactured within its own territory.
- b) Guarantee access to key resources and strengthen its productive capacity to reduce external risks.
- c) Set maximum energy prices through weekly decrees.
- d) Abandon environmental goals to lower production costs.

3. When the text points out that the extraction of these minerals is "concentrated in a handful of countries," it can be inferred that the market for these raw materials is:

- a) An environment of perfect free competition with no dominant positions.
- b) A decentralized network where no single actor has the capacity to exert influence.
- c) A scenario of high dependence on a few key suppliers.
- d) A system equitably regulated by international organizations.

4. Which of the following measures would best fit the "reindustrialization" strategy described at the end of the text?

- a) Facilitating the opening of battery recycling and processing plants within the economic bloc itself.
- b) Subsidizing the purchase of vehicles powered exclusively by petroleum derivatives.
- c) Reducing public investment in technological research and industrial development.
- d) Eliminating quality controls on imported products to cheapen the entry of material.