Digital Detective Quiz: Navigating the Information Age:

Instructions: Read each scenario carefully and circle the best answer. Think about the intent behind the information and the techniques being used.

Level 1

How to Spot Facts, Fakes, and Feelings

The "Big Three" of False Information

- Misinformation: False info shared unknowingly.
- Disinformation: False info shared deliberately.
- Mal-information: True info used to do harm.

Q 1. A news outlet reports a bridge is closed due to an "emergency" based on a tweet, but it was actually just a scheduled parade. The outlet didn't check the facts. This is:

· A) Disinformation

· B) Misinformation

· C) Mal-information

· D) Propaganda

Ans. B (Misinformation) – It was an accidental error.

2. A group creates a fake "official" candidate website with extreme, made-up policies to trick voters into hating that candidate. This is:

· A) Satire

· B) Misinformation

· C) Disinformation

· D) Parody

Ans. C (Disinformation) – It was a deliberate lie meant to harm.

Real world impacts:

The fake political candidate site was not a joke ... it was a weapon.

If you are with a group...Discuss!

- Why do you think the word weapon is used?
- How would it cause damage?

3. Private, authentic emails from a company are hacked and released to the public specifically to ruin the company's reputation. This is:

· A) Mal-information

· B) Disinformation

· C) Misinformation

· D) Fact-checking

Ans. A (Mal-information) – The info is true, but shared to cause harm.

4. A viral photo of "dolphins in Venice" was shared by thousands of people who thought it was a beautiful sign of nature healing, even though it was fake. This is:

· A) State Propaganda

· B) Disinformation

· C) Misinformation

· D) Censorship

Ans. C (Misinformation) – Shared by users without the intent to lie.

Level 2

Common propaganda techniques:

- Glittering Generalities: Vague, feel-good words
- Bandwagon: Everyone else is doing it
- Card-Stacking: Only showing positive information or opinions
- Name Calling: Attacks the person instead of the argument
- Transfer: Associates with respected symbols

5. A government poster uses the slogan "Unity, Strength, and Progress" over a bright, colourful background. Which technique is this?

· A) Card-stacking

· B) Name-calling

· C) Glittering Generalities

· D) Bandwagon

Ans: C (Glittering Generalities) – Vague, positive-sounding words.

6. An energy drink ad says, "Everyone in the pro leagues is drinking this. Don't be the only one left behind!" Which technique is this?

· A) Bandwagon

· B) Plain Folks

· C) Transfer

· D) Ad Hominem

Ans: A (Bandwagon) – Uses "FOMO" and the idea that "everyone is doing it."

7. A politician calls a reporter "a total loser and a liar" to avoid answering a question about the economy. This is:

· A) Glittering Generalities

· B) Name-calling (Ad Hominem)

· C) Testimonial

· D) Card-stacking

Ans: B (Name-calling) – Attacks the person instead of the argument.

8. A movie review site only displays the 5-star ratings and hides the 500 negative reviews. This is:

· A) Transfer

· B) Card-stacking

· C) Misinformation

· D) Plain Folks

Ans:B (Card-stacking) – Showing only the good data and hiding the bad.

Attacks and Omissions:

1. Attacks happen when someone targets a person instead of their argument.
2. Omissions happen when important information is deliberately left out.

Level 3

Digital Literacy Tools

How do the pros stay from getting fooled? They use these habits:

Lateral Reading: Open new tabs and verify the author, organization, and claims elsewhere.

Check the Source: Watch for fake or misspelled URLs.

Reverse Image Search: See where the image originally came from.

Check the Date: Make sure the news is current, not recycled.

9. You see a "shocking" headline and open three new tabs to see if other reliable news sites are reporting the same thing. This is called:

· A) Vertical Reading

· B) Lateral Reading

· C) Echo Chambering

· D) Deepfaking

Ans: B (Lateral Reading) – Checking multiple sources "sideways."

10. A "Bot Farm" creates 20,000 fake accounts to like and share a false story. What is their main goal?

· A) To provide customer support

· B) To help people find facts

· C) To create a false sense of popularity (Bandwagon effect)

· D) To archive the internet

Ans: C (False popularity) – Tricking people into thinking a view is mainstream.