Instructions

For Questions 1–10, read the article carefully and determine the meaning of each bolded and underlined word based on its context. Match the correct definition from the list provided.

Cashless Society and Digital Payments

A growing number of countries are moving toward a cashless society, where people rely primarily on electronic transactions instead of physical currency. Whether purchasing groceries, paying utility bills, or booking transport services, consumers increasingly use digital payment methods because they are quick and convenient. As this trend continues, digital payments have become **1. ubiquitous** in many aspects of daily life.

One reason for their popularity is accessibility. Mobile payment applications can be used in a wide range of locations, from large shopping centres to small street markets. In some cities, commuters can pay bus fares, parking fees, and vending machine purchases using a single application. These examples demonstrate how digital payment services have become **2. entrenched** in ordinary routines.

The rapid expansion of these systems has generated vast amounts of transaction information. Banks and financial institutions store records of purchases, transfers, and accounting activities over long periods. Through years of operation, this information has been **3. amassed**, allowing organizations to identify consumer trends and improve financial products.

Despite these advantages, experts warn that security should remain the **4. foremost** consideration. Customer confidence may decline if personal information is exposed through cyberattacks or fraudulent activities. For this reason, payment providers continuously invest in security technologies designed to safeguard user data.

Many users, however, find certain financial technologies difficult to grasp. Technical explanations about encryption processes and data storage can appear **5. cryptic** rather than straightforward. As a result, some consumers remain uncertain about how their information is managed.

To address this issue, governments have introduced **6. exhaustive** guidelines for digital payment providers. These documents cover a wide range of matters, including data collection, transaction security, customer privacy, and complaint procedures. Because they address nearly every major concern, companies have a clear understanding of what is expected of them.

Another important issue is **7. answerability**. If a payment platform experiences a security breach, the company cannot simply remain silent. It must explain what occurred, inform affected users, and take steps to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Consumer associations, educators, and technology specialists have become active **8. advocates** of financial education. These groups frequently organise workshops, publish online resources, and encourage people to learn about safe online spending practices before adopting new financial technologies.

Meanwhile, some digital currencies operate through **9. dispersed** networks. Rather than depending on one central authority to maintain records, transaction information is stored across numerous connected systems that work together.

Although digital payments dominate many modern transactions, financial technology companies continue to introduce **10. pioneering** solutions. For example, some developers are experimenting with payment systems that use biometric verification and advanced artificial intelligence to improve both convenience and security. These innovations represent approaches that had not previously existed in the financial sector.

Definitions	**Words**
A. Fixed firmly into something	**1. ubiquitous**
B. Never done or known before	**2. entrenched**
C. Clearly stated in detail	**3. amassed**
D. Difficult or impossible to understand	**4. foremost**
E. Obligation to explain and accept consequences	**5. cryptic**
F. Collected or gathered over time	**6. exhaustive**
G. Distributed across multiple nodes without a single center	**7. answerability**
H. Spread throughout every part of	**8. advocates**
I. Most important or supreme	**9. dispersed**
J. People who support something	**10. pioneering**