

Comprehension



Introduction

Comprehension means 'understanding' whatever you read, and answering questions related to it. Answering question to a given passage depends actually on the following abilities of a student:

- (i) How good you are in understanding the meaning of the entire passage;
- (ii) In finding the answer in the passage;
- (iii) Your command on language.



Points to keep in mind while doing Comprehension

- ❖ Read the given paragraph carefully and underline important points.
- ❖ Read the questions one by one and try to find the answers from the passage
- ❖ Write answers in your own words.

Below given are some examples of doing comprehensions. Go through these carefully and note how the answers of the questions asked in a given passage have been answered.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



Read the following paragraph and answer the questions.

Classical Indian dances are among the most graceful and beautiful dances in the world. Dancers use their eyes, hands, arms, legs, hips, knees, waist and feet to express various emotions like love, anger, hatred and amazement. They dance to vocal and instrumental accompaniment.

There are five major styles of Indian classical dance: (1) Bharat Natyam, (2) Kathak, (3) Odissi, (4) Kathakali, and (5) Manipuri. Though these dances were developed in different regions of India, they share the common thread of telling stories of Hindu Gods.

Bharat Natyam is a style of dance from the south of India. It is probably one of the oldest styles of Indian classical dance. A solo dancer performs it. Kathak is a style of dance of north India and was created in the courts of the Mughal rulers. It involves energetic footwork and expressive eye movements. Kathakali comes from the state of Kerala. The entire dance is like a play and the dancers dress themselves in enormous, colourful costumes. They also wear heavy make-up on their faces, which they have to learn to do by themselves, and which takes several hours to get on. There was a time when only men used to perform the Kathakali dance, but now women also perform them. Manipuri dance is a typical style of dance from Manipur in north eastern India. Odissi is from Orissa. It is similar to Bharat Natyam, but the dancer makes a lot of different stunning poses in this dance.



Indian classical dancers dance to_____.

(A) Vocal accompaniment

(B) Instrumental accompaniment

- (C) Emotions
(E) None of these

(D) Both (A) and (B)

Answer: (d)



Dancers express the emotions of _____.

- (A) Love and danger
(C) Anger and hatred
(E) None of these
- (B) Hatred and amazement.
(D) Both (A) and (B)

Answer: (D)



_____ is probably one of the oldest styles of classical dance.

- (A) Kathakali
(C) Manipuri
(E) None of these
- (B) Bharat Natyam
(D) Odissi

Answer (b)



There was a time when only men used to perform _____ dance.

- (A) Kathakali
(C) Bharat Natyam
(E) None of these
- (B) Kathak
(D) Manipuri

Answer (A)

**Illustrative
EXAMPLE**



Read the following paragraph and answer the questions.

Environmental pollution is the biggest danger faced by our planet, the Earth. This danger is posed because of the activities of human beings, which harm our natural environment. Some kind of pollutions are visible, for example, a heap of rubbish, or black smoke being let out from a truck etc. There are also other kinds of pollution which are invisible, for example, noise from traffic or machinery. There are many kinds of environmental pollution. All the components of environment are connected with one another. Therefore, one pollutant, for example, pesticide can damage more than one natural system like sea life, trees, crops and others. This in turn causes the greenhouse effect or warming all over the Earth. Some of the pollutants include untreated sewage, solid wastes, for example, plastics; industrial wastes like harmful chemicals, oils spills into the oceans from sinking oil tankers, pesticides, fuel exhaust from vehicles, indoor pollution etc..These pollutants damage water, soil and the air that we need to live. Some of the things that you can do to save our Earth are recycling as many different materials like paper and glass etc. as possible, not using disposable like plastic containers, using public transport or car pools to reduce car exhaust fumes etc..Also, save electricity and water when and where you can, by using them wisely. So 'do your bit, and save your planet.

Commonly Asked QUESTIONS



Pollution can damage more than one natural system like _____.

- (A) Sea life
- (B) Sea life and trees
- (C) Sea life and crops
- (D) All of the above
- (E) None of these

Answer: (d)



_____ spills from tankers damage ocean life.

- (A) Fuel exhaust
- (B) Oil
- (C) Food
- (D) Sewage
- (E) None of these

Answer: (b)



Industrial waste pollutants are _____.

- (A) Oil
- (B) Fertilizers
- (C) Harmful
- (D) Fuelexhaust
- (E) None of these

Answer: (c)



The biggest danger that faces our planet is _____.

- (A) Noise pollution
- (B) Industrial pollution
- (C) Green house effect
- (D) All of the above
- (E) None of these

Answer: (d)

**Illustrative
EXAMPLE**



Read the following paragraph and answer the questions.

If you think a taxidermist has anything to do with driving a taxi, then you will learn something new by the end of this passage. A taxidermist is a person whose job is to preserve dead animals and to present them with their natural looks. The word taxidermy comes from two Greek words, meaning arrangement and skin. A taxidermist first takes exact measurements of the body of the dead animal. He then carefully removes and cleans the skin with a preservative or a special soap. The taxidermist then makes a drawing of the animal's body structure, including its muscles and bones. By looking at the drawing he goes for making a frame of skeleton of the animal, out of metal or wood. He may also use the real skeleton of the animal, if it is available. The taxidermist then adds clay to the skeleton and completes the animal's shape to make a mould.

Once the shape is ready, it is used to make casting from the mould. Finally the skin of the animal is glued and sewed on to the casting or sculpture of the animal. To become a taxidermist, a person needs to be proficient at natural history, drawing, sculpture, mechanics, and dyeing.

Commonly Asked QUESTIONS



The first thing a taxidermist does is to _____.

- (A) Make mould
- (B) Remove the skin
- (C) Take measurements of the animal
- (D) Both (A) and (B)
- (E) None of these

Answer: (c)



To make a frame, the taxidermist can use _____.

- (A) Metal
- (B) Metal or wood
- (C) The animal's skeleton
- (D) Both (B) and (C)
- (E) None of these

Answer: (d)



To make a mould the taxidermist adds _____ to the skeleton.

- (A) Glue
- (B) Clay
- (C) Metal
- (D) Wood
- (E) None of these

Answer: (b)



The _____ of the animal is glued and _____ to the casting.

- (A) Skin; sewed
- (B) Skin; pasted
- (C) Skeleton; moulded
- (D) Skeleton; sewed
- (E) None of these

Answer: (A)



Practice Exercise

Read the following Passage carefully and answer the following questions. One night a farmer was on his way back home on a boat. He traded far and wide. He was very rich and owned many acres of land. Shortly after the boat set sail, it capsized. He was distressed because he did not know how to swim. At that moment a boatman happened to sail by. The farmer on seeing the boatman begged for saving his life and promised all the land that he had, in reward. Seeing the earnestness, the boatman saved him and they sailed together. As they crossed the middle of the river, the farmer offered half of the land and the rest he said would be a bare necessity against his wife's rebukes. The boatman did not reply. As they reached near the shore, the farmer offered him one fourth of his total land saying that he would require a little for himself as well. As they

reached the bank, the farmer reasoned out and said what could be the use of a land to a boatman who spends most of his time in the river and offered him only a coin worth rupees five. One must never cheat others' toil because the power to pay is a privilege given by God. One must be careful enough to overcome one's greed.

Commonly Asked QUESTIONS



The rich farmer's boat _____.

- (A) Capsized
- (B) Broke down
- (C) Flew away
- (D) Disappeared
- (E) None of these

Answer: (A)



The farmer requested the boatman:

- (A) Painfully
- (B) Eagerly
- (C) Earnestly
- (D) Respectfully
- (E) None of these

Answer: (c)



The farmer gave the boatman _____.

- (A) Whole of his land
- (B) Half of his land
- (C) One-fourth of his land
- (D) Only a five rupee coin
- (E) None of these

Answer: (d)



One must check one's _____.

- (A) Greed
- (B) Fear
- (C) Anger
- (D) Laziness
- (E) None of these

Answer: (A)

**Illustrative
EXAMPLE**



Read the following Passage carefully and answer the following questions.

Prose consists of writing that does not adhere to any particular formal structures (other than simple grammar), "non-poetic" writing, perhaps. The term sometimes appears negatively, but prosaic writing simply says something without necessarily trying to say it in a beautiful way or using beautiful words. Prose writing can of course take beautiful form, but less by virtue of the formal features of words (rhymes,

alliteration/metre) rather by style, placement or inclusion of graphics. But one need not mark the distinction precisely, and perhaps cannot do so. One area of overlap is "prose poetry", which attempts to convey using only prose, the aesthetic richness typical of poetry.



What is prose?

- (A) A formal structure
- (B) An informal structure
- (C) Poetic writing
- (D) All of these
- (E) None of these

Answer: (b)



What does prosaic writing say?

- (A) Artful contents
- (B) Beautifully written content
- (C) Simple content
- (D) All of these
- (E) None of these

Answer: (c)



What makes the prose writing beautiful?

- (A) Style
- (B) Placement
- (C) Inclusion of graphics
- (D) All of these
- (E) None of these

Answer: (d)



What does prose poetry convey?

- (A) Only prose
- (B) The aesthetic richness typical of poetry
- (C) Prose and poetry
- (D) Poetry
- (E) None of these

Answer: (b)

Self Evaluation TEST



Duration
10 Minutes

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions.

Modern – day Easter is derived from two ancient traditions, Judeo-Christian and the pagan both Christian and pagans have celebrated death and resurrection themes following the spring equinox for millennia. Most religious historians believe that many elements of the Christian observance of Easter were derived from earlier pagan celebrations. The equinox occurs each year on March 20, 21, or 22. Both neo-pagans and Christians continue to celebrate religious rituals linked to the Equinox. Wiccans and other neopagans usually hold their celebrations on the day or on the eve of the equinox. Western Christians celebrate Easter on the Sunday, on or after the full moon that follow the nominal date of the equinox –MAR-21. The Eastern orthodox churches follow a different calculation. Their Easter celebration is often many weeks after the date selected by the western churches.



In which of the following religions Easter is celebrated?

- (A) Hinduism
- (B) Parsee
- (C) christianity
- (D) Jewish



What is the belief of religious historians about Easter?

- (A) Elements of Easter were derived from earlier pagan celebrations
- (B) Pagan celebrations is part and parcel of Easter
- (C) Elements of Easter were derived from Judeo-Christian
- (D) All of these
- (E) None of these



When do Western Christians celebrate Easter?

- (A) On the Sunday
- (B) On the Sunday, on or after the full moon that follows the nominal date Of the Equinox - MAR-21
- (C) After the full moon that follows the nominal date of the Equinox —MAR-21
- (D) All of these
- (E) None of these



When do Eastern Christians celebrate Easter?

- (A) Few weeks after western Christians
- (B) Few weeks before western Christians
- (C) Many weeks after western Christians
- (D) All of these
- (E) None of these

Read the following passage and answer the questions.

National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) of India is the central agency established to encourage the good cinema movement in the country. The primary goal of the NFDC is to plan, promote and organize an integrated and efficient development of the Indian film industry and foster excellence in cinema. Over the years NFDC has provided a wide range of services essential to the growth of Indian cinema. The NFDC (and its predecessor the Film Finance Corporation) has so far funded / produced over 300 films. These films, in various Indian languages, have been widely acclaimed and have won many national and international awards.



What is the main motto of NFDC?

- (A) Fostering excellence in cinema
 - (B) Discouraging cinema
 - (C) Encouraging cinema
 - (D) All of these
 - (E) None of these
-



What kind of services does NFDC provide?

- (A) Services for the selection of cinema
 - (B) Services for the fostering of cinema
 - (C) Services for the selections of actors
 - (D) All of these
 - (E) None of these
-



How many films have got financial assistance from NFDC?

- (A) Below 300
 - (B) Over 300
 - (C) 300
 - (D) All of these
 - (E) None of these
-



Which films have won national and international awards?

- (A) Indian films
 - (B) Films financed by NFDC
 - (C) Regional films
 - (D) All of these
 - (E) None of these
-

Read the following passage and answer the questions.

Janakpur in the eastern Terai is one of the oldest and most famous cities of Nepal. Mithila was the capital of the Videha (bodiless) spiritual Janakas, the rulers who were the embodiment of spiritual attainment. Janaki, Sita was born to Siva hwa ga Janaka and was married to Ram, the King of Ayodhya, the legendary hero of the great epic Ramayana. A great centre of learning for scholars in ancient times, Janakpur once had hundreds of sages who contributed substantially to Hindu philosophy. One of their oldest works was the famous Upanisad Brihadar and yaka written in the form of a dialogue, which deals with the Gods, the nature of

Brahma, the supreme reality and the introduction to the self. Predominantly inhabited by Maithilis, it has its own language, script and a rich artistic tradition and culture. The religious Mithila art is well known in the local and International art world.



Which of the following legends was born in Mithila?

- (A) Ram
- (B) Sita
- (C) Lakshaman
- (D) Arjun
- (E) None of these



Which one of the following places was a great centre of learning?

- (A) Janakpur
- (B) Ayodhya
- (C) Nepal
- (D) All of these
- (E) None of these

Answers

1.	C	2.	A	3.	B	4.	C	5.	A	6.	B	7.	B	8.	B	9.	B	10.	A
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