



Reading Comprehension

Comprehension passage is a kind of test through which candidate's ability is evaluated by testing their grammatical vocabulary and reading skills.

A candidate has to extract the answer of the related question on the basis of the comprehension passage only.



Practice Exercise

Directions (Passage Nos. 1-11) *Read the passages given below and answer the questions that follows.*

Passage 1

Issac Newton was a great scientist. He was born in 1642 and died in 1727. He discovered the law of gravitation. It was the falling of an apple in the garden that set him thinking. He was trying to find why the Earth went round the Sun and the Moon round the Earth. He asked himself, "Why does an apple fall to the Earth?" This led him to his discovery. Newton also found out that white light is made up of seven colours. We see these colours in the rainbow. He also made many other discoveries. Newton was a very learned man. But he was very humble. Shortly before his death, he said, "I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore while the great ocean of truth lay undiscovered before me."

1. Issac Newton was a great.
(a) doctor (b) teacher (c) leader (d) scientist
2. He was born.
(a) in 1727 (b) in 1627
(c) in 1642 (d) in 1742

3. colours make the white light.
(a) Five (b) Ten (c) Three (d) Seven
4. Choose the word which means of opposite of 'discovered'.
(a) Found (b) Lost
(c) Searched (d) Started
5. Choose the word that has the same meaning as 'learned'.
(a) Knowledgeable (b) Lazy
(c) Clever (d) Happy

Passage 2

A rich man went for fishing in a lake. When he was standing on a low bridge, his tin of bait fell into the lake. Leaning over the side of the bridge, he tried to catch the tin and pull it out of the lake. As he did so, his car keys fell out of his pocket and disappeared in the water. The man felt annoyed. He leaned over the bridge to try to see where his keys had gone. As he did so, he lost his balance and fell into the lake. He came out of the lake. He was very sad. He walked back home.

- The man tried to pull out
(a) his car keys (b) the tin of bait
(c) a fish (d) himself
- The man felt annoyed when
(a) the tin fell in (b) he fell in
(c) a fish fell in (d) his car keys fell
- The man went to the lake
(a) on a horse (b) in a boat
(c) on foot (d) in a car
- Which of the following is antonym of 'catch'?
(a) Hold (b) Free (c) Chase (d) Run
- is synonym of balance.
(a) Grip (b) Place
(c) Control (d) Situation
- The other people had in their hands
(a) cowries in their hands
(b) the fare in their hands
(c) their luggage in their hands
(d) playcards in their hands
- Choose the opposite word of 'foreign' from the given options.
(a) popular (b) local
(c) famous (d) rely
- Choose the same word of 'Foolishness'.
(a) smartness
(b) cleverness
(c) madness
(d) folly

Passage 3

Having taken leave of his father at last, the young man set-off on a long journey into foreign lands. "When luck does not favour, an artist goes to a place where his name is not known," he said to himself and turned in a direction which led he knew not where. He was footsore and hungry when at last he arrived on the bank of a turbulent river, hindering his further passage until he could, cross it. Espying a boat at a nearby ferry, he went thither. There were other men too, each with his fare ready in his hand. But the young man had not even a broken cowry on him.

'Pay the fare and only then step into the boat,' the boatman told him. The young man was at his wit's end and the other people began to smile at his foolishness of going about without any money on him.

- The young man was going
(a) home
(b) to the market
(c) on a long journey into foreign
(d) abroad for further studies
- When he came to the river bank, he was
(a) footsore and hungry
(b) in a very depressed mood
(c) in a very jovial mood
(d) agitated in his mind, therefore, he was behaving in an abnormal manner

Passage 4

About three hundred and fifty years ago there lived in India an Emperor called 'Shah Jahan'. He had a beautiful and intelligent wife, whom he loved very much. Her name was Mumtaz Mahal; its shortened form, Taj Mahal, means 'pride of the palace'. In the year 1630 this beloved wife of the emperor died. The emperor decided, out of love for his wife, to build her the most beautiful tomb that had ever been seen. Shah Jahan gathered the best artists and architects from India, Turkey, Persia and Arabia to design the building. It took more than 20000 men working over a period of 18 years to build the Taj Mahal, perhaps the most beautiful building in India.

- Taj Mahal was built
(a) out of love for Mumtaz Mahal
(b) because Mumtaz Mahal was intelligent
(c) to let the world know that Mumtaz Mahal was beautiful
(d) to protect Mumtaz Mahal from his enemies
- is the work of an 'architect'.
(a) To advise the king
(b) To build a palace
(c) To design a building
(d) To supervise cooking of meals
- People consider Taj Mahal as
(a) a large river
(b) the most beautiful building in India
(c) a very tall building
(d) a memory of an emperor

4. Which of the following options is the antonym of 'shortened'.
 (a) half (b) divided
 (c) full (d) increased
5. is the synonym of 'period'.
 (a) year (b) deade
 (c) season (d) duration

Passage 5

I felt lonely in a classroom full of boys and girls and a teacher. The teacher walked up to me smiling. She put her hand tenderly on my shoulder and asked—"What is your name?" 'Abhayankar...'— I whispered.

"Say loudly, so I can hear it," she said. I tried but I could not. My lips were dry, perhaps sealed. I could not open my mouth. Then the teacher asked me to write my name on the blackboard. I went up to the blackboard, lifted the white chalk and as I was about to write, my mind went blank. I knew my name, I knew how to write it, but standing in front of so many boys and girls and the teacher made me uncomfortable.

1. What that does not describe the narrator.
 (a) Nervous (b) Uncomfortable
 (c) Confident (d) Timid
2. This opposite of 'sealed' is
 (a) close (b) tight
 (c) open (d) free
3. The word 'whispered' means
 (a) said slowly (b) told loudly
 (c) kept quiet (d) did not speak
4. The boy could not write his name, because he was
 (a) lonely (b) afraid
 (c) sick (d) nervous
5. The teacher was towards the boy.
 (a) sympathetic (b) rude
 (c) unhelpful (d) indifferent

Passage 6

One day Tansen sang one of the songs taught by his master and deliberately introduced a false note. It had almost an electric effect on the saint;

his aesthetic nature received a rude shock. He turned to Tansen and rebuked him, saying, 'What has happened to you, Tansen, that you, a pupil of mine, should commit such a gross blunder?'

He then started singing the piece correctly the mood came upon him and enveloped him, and he forgot himself in the music which filled the Earth and Heaven and Akbar and Tansen themselves in the sheer melody and charm of the music.

It was a unique experience. When the music stopped, Akbar turned to Tansen and said, 'You say you learnt music from this saint and yet you seem to have missed the living charm of it all. Yours seems to be chaff beside this soul stirring music'.

1. 'It had almost an electric effect on the saint'. Here 'saint' refers to
 (a) Akbar
 (b) Tansen
 (c) Tansen's Guru
 (d) Some other courtier
2. Akbar described Tansen's music is
 (a) Charming (b) Thrilling
 (c) Soul stirring (d) Chaff
3. Akbar missed in Tansen's music.
 (a) Chaff (b) Right tunes
 (c) Living charm (d) Inspiration
4. Here 'gross' means
 (a) twelve dozen (b) serious
 (c) chocking (d) melody
5. Opposite of 'forgot' is
 (a) remembered (b) brought
 (c) sold (d) took

Passage 7

I was about six years old. Once I saw a beautiful picture in a book. It was a picture of a dense forest. I thought about the forest and drew a picture of an animal. I showed it to some grown-ups and asked them, 'Are you afraid of it?' But they asked me, "Afraid? Why should one be afraid of a hat?"

My drawing was not of a hat. To me, it was an elephant. But the grown-ups were not able to understand it. One of those grown-ups even advised me, "Stop drawing. Devote yourself

instead to Geography, Arithmetic or Grammar.”
That is why I gave up drawing. That is why I
could not become a great artist.

- The boy drew a picture of
(a) a forest (b) an animal
(c) a girl (d) a hat
- The child wanted to become
(a) a geographer (b) a mathematician
(c) an artist (d) a grammarian
- The child gave up drawing because
(a) he was so advised
(b) he wanted to become a mathematician
(c) he had no time for it
(d) It was very difficult to draw
- The opposite word for ‘beautiful’ is
(a) tidy (b) lovely (c) pretty (d) ugly
- The same word for ‘afraid’
(a) sad (b) feared
(c) surprised (d) disappointed

Passage 8

Sugar comes from a plant which is called sugarcane. The sugarcane grows in the hot countries. When sugarcanes are ripe, they are cut down. Then, their large green leaves are taken off. The canes, then are tied in bundles and sent to the sugar mills. Here they are pressed hard so that all the juice comes out of them. The juice now looks like dirty water. It is, then cleaned and heated in iron pans. All the water goes off, leaving the sugar behind. The sugar is brown in colour. It is heated again and cleaned till it becomes white. This is called cane sugar. In the past all the sugar we used came to India from Java and other countries. Now sugar is made in our own country. There are many sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

- Sugarcanes are grown in
(a) Dry countries (b) Cold countries
(c) Hot countries (d) All types of countries
- are the sugar producing states in India.
(a) Uttar Pradesh and Bihar
(b) Madhya Pradesh and Bihar
(c) Bihar and Andhra Pradesh
(d) Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

- is the first colour of sugar?
(a) White (b) Black
(c) Yellow (d) Brown
- The opposite word for ‘tied’ is
(a) united (b) untied
(c) open (d) clean
- The same word for ‘made’
(a) sold (b) distributed
(c) produced (d) grown

Passage 9

Mr Verma is a typist in the town hospital. He lives near the hospital. He, his wife and their daughter, Leela, are a small and happy family. They are hard-working.

Mr Verma’s wife, Shrimati Aruna, is busy from morning to evening. She has no servant. She gets up before sunrise and begins her work. She sweeps the rooms, washes the vessels and cooks the food.

Leela wakes up before 6 o’clock. She helps her mother with her work in the kitchen. She brings water from the well and washes the clothes. So, she is busy too. She does her homework after breakfast and leaves for school at nine.

- is a typist in the town hospital.
(a) Shrimati Aruna (b) Leela
(c) Mr Verma (d) None of these
- Shrimati Aruna has no
(a) room (b) food
(c) work (d) servant
- Leela gets up
(a) after 6 o’clock
(b) before 6 o’clock
(c) at 6 o’clock
(d) None of the above
- Which of the following is the antonym of ‘hard-working’?
(a) Clever (b) Idle
(c) Intelligent (d) Forgetful
- Which of the following is the synonym of ‘help’?
(a) Assist (b) Disturb
(c) Teach (d) Advise

Passage 10

There was once a boy who would never pay any attention to his studies. His parents sent him to school, but he took to playing on the road and did not care for the opinion of even those friends who helped him in danger. One day a gentleman who was on the look out for a boy-servant, happened to come across him, wandering all alone in the street. He carried him away to a different town and made him work day and night as a servant. Now the boy repented his folly and one day while his master was fall asleep, he slipped away and after a good deal of trouble, reached home. He applied himself hard to his books now and rose, in after life, to be a great man.

1. took to playing on the road.
(a) A servant (b) A boy
(c) Parents (d) A gentleman
2. The gentleman made him day and night.
(a) play (b) study
(c) work (d) sleep
3. "The boy slipped away when the master was".
(a) working
(b) sleeping
(c) playing cards
(d) having lunch
4. The opposite word for 'gentleman' is
(a) gentlewoman
(b) lady
(c) gentlemen
(d) madam
5. The similar word for 'opinion'
(a) advice (b) mistake
(c) help (d) evils

Passage 11

The Earth is known as a 'watery planet' because it is the only planet of the solar system containing water in abundance. The presence of life on our planet is mainly due to water and air. More than two-thirds of the Earth's surface is covered with water. Oceans contain about 97% of the total water available on the Earth's surface. The fresh water found in the form of snow and ice on the ground and water in lakes and rivers accounts for the remaining 3%. Ocean water is always saline. Hence, it is not of direct use to man. It is, however, important as it provides the bulk of water vapour that enters the atmosphere where it forms clouds.

1. The presence of life on our Earth is due to
(a) good food and crops
(b) good roads and motor cars
(c) air and water
(d) sunlight
2. surface of the Earth is covered with water.
(a) More than half
(b) More than two-thirds
(c) Less than half
(d) Less than two-thirds
3. Oceans contain
(a) 55% of the total water
(b) 3% of the total water
(c) 97% of the total water
(d) ice and snow
4. The opposite word for 'watery' is
(a) dried (b) hot
(c) cold (d) wet
5. The same word for 'contain'
(a) consist (b) cover
(c) pread (d) lay

Answers

Passage 1

1	(d)	2	(c)	3	(d)	4	(b)	5	(a)
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Passage 2

1	(b)	2	(d)	3	(d)	4	(b)	5	(c)
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Passage 3

1	(c)	2	(a)	3	(b)	4	(b)	5	(d)
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Passage 4

1	(a)	2	(c)	3	(b)	4	(c)	5	(d)
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Passage 5

1	(c)	2	(c)	3	(a)	4	(d)	5	(a)
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Passage 6

1	(c)	2	(d)	3	(c)	4	(b)	5	(a)
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Passage 7

1	(a)	2	(c)	3	(d)	4	(d)	5	(b)
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Passage 8

1	(c)	2	(a)	3	(d)	4	(b)	5	(c)
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Passage 9

1	(c)	2	(d)	3	(b)	4	(b)	5	(a)
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Passage 10

1	(b)	2	(c)	3	(b)	4	(b)	5	(a)
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Passage 11

1	(c)	2	(b)	3	(c)	4	(a)	5	(a)
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