

Reading Comprehension

In this section, a passage is given and you are asked to answer questions based on information that is specifically given in the passage. So, do not rely on your own judgement based on matter you are familiar with.

Why do we need to pay specific attention to RC, Reading Comprehension? It is because we are being tested on what we have understood after reading the passage under a time constraint. The reading style for RC varies from the reading style we generally use. We do not read a passage as we read our text books while studying. In a text book we cannot afford to skip a point here or a line there, lest we miss out on that crucial one mark. Nor do we read a passage as we read an Agatha Christie novel, from page to page, word by word, curled up in bed on a nice wintry day.

In RC, we need to finish off our task within the allotted time. So, it is seldom advised to take more than 4 or 5 minutes for a passage— this includes the time to answer the questions. We get marks for answering questions and not for reading the passage. But we must bear in mind that if we read the passage smoothly and speedily, we can answer almost all the questions confidently.

Is it possible for us to answer the questions without reading the passage? Yes. We should just search for the answers if we have just a minute or so to read the passage. But we must understand the importance of reading fast and understanding important points without dilly-dallying.

There are a few techniques that we can apply to read faster and comprehend better:

- Do not regress while reading. Read right the first time round, instead of re-reading and re-re-reading and re-re-... Always move forward while reading, do not look back at all.
- Completely concentrate on what you are reading.
- Read fast, as if you have an express train running after you.
- Place the passage details roughly in your mind so that you can search for the answer quickly instead of going on a treasure hunt.

- Do not read aloud or word-by-word in your mind, this is because there is really no need to read everything, you can skip a point here and there if you feel that it is not important enough.
- Try to have a map of what you read so that you can get the whole picture.
- Try to take in more than one word than at a glance.
- If you can't figure out the meaning of a word, try to guess its contextual meaning by reading the whole sentence.
- Read the editorials in the middle page of your newspaper, they are more or less of the same type as passages and help enhance your general knowledge as well.
- Mark the right answer! Do not answer half-heartedly, verify!

Approaches to Reading Comprehension

There are several methods of attempting a Reading Comprehension passage. They are as given below:

- Read the passage and answer the questions. This is a good method and can help you get all the answers right, or at least help you guess intelligently.
- Take a glance at the questions first, and then read the passage and answer the questions. This is a smart way to work since you can answer questions as you read the passage and not waste time reading unnecessary material.
- Just read the questions and search for the answers. If you do not have any time to read the passage, just go and mark answers to whatever questions you can trace in the passage.
- Read two paragraphs, look up if there are any questions based on it and answer them. Then read two more paragraphs and answer any questions based on them and so on... This is a good method too as whatever you have read remains fresh in your mind and you can immediately answer questions related to it.

There are various methods that help you to improve your reading speed. Some of these are:

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Underlining Hand Method

In this method, we move our finger or pencil in the forward direction under the line that we are reading. This helps us to concentrate and keep reading forward.

Vertical Page Motion

In this method, you get focus and concentration by placing your hands on either side of the passage and moving it down as you read along. This method helps you to read more as compared to the previous method as using this you can take a look at the entire line and the portion below it too.

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The Brush Technique

This is quite an advanced technique. Here you have to brush your hands diagonally from the north-west corner of the page right to the bottom. It requires a lot of concentration and an attention to detail.

The Mapping Technique

Read paragraph by paragraph and make a mental map of what you have read in each paragraph so that you can search in the exact paragraph, should you wish to search for an answer. Also, you must keep in mind how each paragraph links to the previous one and the one after.

Finally, read with enthusiasm, instead of boredom. Positive thinking always leads to outstanding results!



Exercise

Passage-1

San Francisco, America's romantic city by the bay, has always been for the artists, writers and lovers who have left at least part of their hearts there. One of the great American romantics, who wrote in San Francisco, was Jack Kerouac. Kerouac rewrote the history of an entire post-war era in *On the Road*.

Born on March 12, 1922, in Lowell, Massachusetts, to a working class Catholic, French-Canadian family, Kerouac had a typically all American childhood. He played baseball, read Pulp Fiction and became a high school football star. He entered Columbia University on a football scholarship but when a leg injury put him out of action on the grid iron, he chose the literary field of work. American literature would never be the same anymore. His romanticized autobiographical novels and wayward travels, which were often the basis of his work, made him the unquestioned king of the Beat Generation writers.

Before becoming the father of the San Francisco-based Beat Generation, Kerouac was writing in the bars and basement apartments of New York City's Lower East and Lower West sides. Here he met and worked with William S. Burroughs and Allen Ginsberg before they all took their restless spirits West and started a literary and cultural revolution.

Kerouac first landed in the San Francisco Bay area in 1947, hoping to get a berth on a merchant marine ship. Here he soon met his kindred spirit, Neal Cassady, whose frenetic letters and cross-country travels spurred Jack to write *On the Road*, perhaps his pre-eminent work, in one long paragraph during the month of April 1951.

Since the book was written as a simple personal testament "in search of his writing soul", Kerouac had no idea that *On the Road* would spur a generation onto the highways and into the tumultuous activism of the Vietnam era, a decade later.

Almost overnight, Kerouac became a media superstar and even a mythical figure himself. But in the end, he could not live with the myth he created. He split from the ranks of his fellow beat writers, like Ginsberg, and actually voiced support for America's war effort in Vietnam. Later in his life, he moved in back with his mother, drank too much, and became more and more reactionary. His later years were an ironic turn on the

life of freedom he wrote about and lived to a great extent. Still, the stories he created live on within the souls of American youth, the lingering American romantics.

1. Jack Kerouac was born
 - (a) to a working class family in Massachusetts.
 - (b) to a Canadian family.
 - (c) to Irish Catholic parents.
 - (d) in a sandlot.
2. Jack Kerouac relocated to San Francisco in
 - (a) 1922
 - (b) 1951
 - (c) 1947
 - (d) the midst of the Vietnam War
3. Kerouac met Neal Cassady
 - (a) in the French Canadian Massachusetts.
 - (b) in San Francisco.
 - (c) in New York.
 - (d) in Vietnam.
4. *On the Road* was
 - (a) not important to the youth of America.
 - (b) one long paragraph.
 - (c) Alan Ginsberg's poem.
 - (d) Kerouac's autobiography.
5. Which of the following is NOT mentioned about Kerouac's life?
 - (a) His support for the US war effort in Vietnam
 - (b) His French-Canadian upbringing
 - (c) His leading role in the beat generation
 - (d) His unsuccessful marriage
6. The best title for this passage would be
 - (a) *Post-war Literature and a New Beginning*
 - (b) *Kerouac: King of the Beats Opens a New Road*
 - (c) *San Francisco Writers*
 - (d) *Vietnam Protests: The Early Years*

Passage-2

Rock, or rock-and-roll is a form of music that was invented in the United States in the 1950s. It has become popular in the US, Europe, and many other parts of the world. African-American performers like

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Little Richards, Fats Domino, Ray Charles, and Big Joe Turner were among the first people to come up with true rock-and-roll, a combination of various elements from country, western, gospel, rhythm and blues and jazz. The influences of blues man Muddy Waters, gospel performer Ruth Brown, jazz musician Louis Jordan, on rock-and-roll, are still felt today. For example, the songs of early country legend Hank Williams affected musicians ranging from early rock star Buddy Holly to 1980s rocker Bruce Springsteen.

In the segregated 1950s, African-American musical forms were not considered appropriate for White audiences. Much of the US population had not been exposed to them. All that changed, when in 1953, Cleveland based disc jockey Alan Freed began to play rhythm and blues to a largely non African-American audience. Freed was successful and a lot of records were sold. The music spread, and the term that Freed had adopted for the music — rock-and-roll, began to spread as well.

Teenagers and the money they were willing to spend on records provided an impetus for rock-and-roll. On their way to becoming rock stars, many performers copied songs from the original artists. For instance, Pat Boone scored a hit with a toned-down version of Little Richards' song, 'Tutti Frutti', prompting Little Richard to comment, "He goes and outsells me with my song that I wrote." In 1955-56, Chuck Berry, Bill Haley and the Comets, and particularly Elvis Presley became famous for their version of traditional rhythm and blues. Elvis Presley's first television appearance in January 1956 marked rock-and-roll's ascendancy into the world of pop music.

1. What is the main topic of this passage?
 - (a) American Popular Music
 - (b) The Careers of Successful Rock Musicians
 - (c) The Musical Elements that Distinguish Pop from Classical Music
 - (d) The Origins of the Music that Came to be Called Rock-and-Roll
2. Who is NOT mentioned as an African-American performer who was amongst the first to come out with rock-and-roll?
 - (a) Fats Domino
 - (b) Little Richards
 - (c) Elvis Presley
 - (d) Ray Charles
3. According to the passage, true rock-and-roll is characterized by a combination of which of the following?
 - (a) The music of Bruce Springsteen and Hank Williams

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- (b) Musical influences from Europe and Asia
 - (c) Forms of music heard on most radio stations in the early 1950s
 - (d) Country, western, gospel, rhythm and blues and jazz
4. In the 1950s rock-and-roll
 - (a) was invented.
 - (b) was not considered appropriate for White audiences.
 - (c) sold few records.
 - (d) was the property of Buddy Holly.
 5. Many performers copied songs from
 - (a) classical music
 - (b) Pat Boone
 - (c) original artists
 - (d) 'Tutti Frutti'
 6. Which of the following is not mentioned in the passage as being a factor in the commercial success of early rock-and-roll?
 - (a) The purchasing power of early rock enthusiasts.
 - (b) The charismatic personality of disc jockey Alan Freed.
 - (c) The exposure of a non African-American audience to African-American musical forms.
 - (d) Rock's popularity with teenage audiences

Passage-3

Primitive mammals called monotremes are the only living representatives of the subclass Prototheria. This makes them the most likely living representatives of the creatures that were part of the evolutionary transition from reptiles to mammals. They share some qualities with reptiles and birds, but are nevertheless true mammals. Like birds and reptiles, monotremes lay eggs rather than give birth. But like other mammals, they have hair, large brains and mammary glands that produce milk to nourish their offspring.

Their primitive organization and close relation to reptiles is manifested in their uncomplicated brain structure, egg-laying habits and cloaca. (A cloaca is found in amphibians, reptiles, birds, certain fish and monotremes, but not in placental mammals or most bony fishes. The animal's intestinal, urinary and genital tracts open into this common cavity, which also functions as an outlet.)

Another feature that indicates they may be related to reptiles is their egg-laying behaviour. Monotremes lay shelled eggs, which are predominantly yolk, like those of reptiles and birds. The young are born in a relatively early stage of development and remain dependent

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upon the parents. The females have no teats; the milk that they secrete from their mammary glands passes directly through their skin.

There are only three types of monotremes in existence: the duck-billed platypus and two species of spiny echidna or anteater. The platypus has webbed feet, a flat tail, and a 'bill' like a duck's. The short and the long-nosed echidnas have spines and tube-like noses. The female echidna lays one egg at a time into a pouch that she develops in her abdomen. Her young will hatch in it and develop for several months.

1. The passage focuses on which of the following aspects of monotremes?
 - (a) The food they eat and their behaviour in the wild.
 - (b) The times of day when they are most active.
 - (c) Their relationship to both reptiles and mammals.
 - (d) Their mating behaviour and reproductive organs.
2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a quality that monotremes share with other mammals?
 - (a) Hair on the body
 - (b) Development of mammary glands
 - (c) Egg-laying
 - (d) A large brain
3. The passage states that monotremes are
 - (a) extinct
 - (b) reptiles and birds
 - (c) egg-laying mammals that are related to reptiles and birds
 - (d) highly intelligent
4. Monotreme babies are born
 - (a) in the early stages of development and must rely on their mothers.
 - (b) fully developed and quickly become independent.
 - (c) live like the babies of other mammals.
 - (d) without mammary glands.
5. The duck-billed platypus is
 - (a) the tube-like nose of a monotreme.
 - (b) a subspecies of anteater.
 - (c) a portion of the monotreme reproductive system.
 - (d) one of the few surviving species of monotreme.

6. According to the passage, where do young echidnas live right after they are hatched?
 - (a) In a pouch on their mother's abdomen
 - (b) In their mother's cloaca
 - (c) In amphibians, birds, reptiles, and certain fish
 - (d) In an egg that has a shell and that is predominantly yolk

Passage-4

Asteroids are rocky, metallic objects that orbit around the sun, but are too small to be considered planets. The largest known asteroid, Ceres, has a diameter of about 1,000 kilometres. The smallest asteroids are the size of pebbles. Millions are the size of boulders. Most are irregularly shaped — only a few are large enough for gravity to have made them into spheres. About 250 asteroids in the solar system are 100 kilometres in diameter, and at least 16 have a diameter of 240 kilometres or greater. Their orbits lie in a range that stretches from earth's orbit to beyond Saturn's orbit. Tens of thousands of asteroids exist in a belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. An asteroid that hits earth's atmosphere is called a meteor or shooting star, because it burns and gives off a bright flash of light. Whatever does not completely burn falls to earth as a meteorite. Between 1,000 and 10,000 tonnes of this material fall to earth daily. Much is in the form of small grains of dust, but about 1,000 metallic or rocky bits fall to earth each year.

There has been much speculation about large meteors hitting the earth. A large asteroid or comet is thought to have landed in Mexico about 65 million years ago. The impact may have led to the extinction of many species, including the dinosaurs, by throwing dust into the atmosphere, blocking the sunlight, and causing a climate change. The period of time between such a large meteor impacts is probably in the millions of years, but smaller meteors such as the one that caused the Meteor Crater in Arizona (about 1.2 kilometres in diameter), may hit the earth every 50,000 to 100,000 years. There's no historical record of a person being killed by a meteorite. The only reported injury occurred on November 30, 1954, when an Alabama woman was bruised by an eight-pound meteorite that fell through the roof of her house.

1. The millions of asteroids are
 - (a) the size of boulders
 - (b) symmetrical
 - (c) about 1,000 kilometres in diameter
 - (d) regular in shape

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2. Which of the following explains why a meteor is called a shooting star?
 - (a) It may have caused the extinction of dinosaurs.
 - (b) No one is known to have been killed by one.
 - (c) It burns in a flash of light.
 - (d) It can be rocky or metallic.
3. In the passage, why does the author mention the Metro's Crater in Arizona?
 - (a) To give an example of the impact of a smaller meteor.
 - (b) To increase interest in astronomy.
 - (c) To close the passage on an interesting note.
 - (d) To show how meteors can wipe out animal species.
4. The Alabama woman in the passage is mentioned to
 - (a) show that meteorites can kill.
 - (b) illustrate the only documented injury of a human being by a meteorite.
 - (c) show that meteorites can damage homes.
 - (d) summarize the historical records.

Passage-5

A highly-acclaimed motion picture of 1979 concerned a nearly disastrous accident at a nuclear power plant. Within a few weeks of the film's release, in a chilling coincidence, a real-life accident startlingly similar to the fictitious one occurred at the Three Mile Island plant near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The two incidents even corresponded in certain details, for instance, both in the film and in real life, one cause of the mishap was a false metre reading caused by a jammed needle.

Such similarities led many to wonder whether the fictional movie plot had been prophetic in other ways. The movie depicted officials of the power industry as seriously corrupt, willing to lie, bribe, and even kill to conceal their culpability in the accident. Did a similar cover-up occur in the Three Mile Island accident? Perhaps we will never know. We do know that, despite the endeavours of reporters and citizen groups to uncover the cause of the accident, many of the facts remain unknown. Although they declare that the public is entitled to the truth, many of the power industry leaders responsible have been reluctant to cooperate with independent, impartial investigators.

1. The nuclear accident described in the movie
 - (a) was successfully concealed by power industry leaders and officials.

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- (b) was caused by a series of coincidences.
 - (c) was a surprisingly accurate foreshadowing of actual events.
 - (d) took place at the Three Mile Island.
2. Officials of the nuclear power industry
 - (a) have committed murders to make possible a cover-up of the incident at Harrisburg.
 - (b) had predicted that nuclear accidents were likely to occur.
 - (c) have been reluctant to reveal the full story about the Three Mile Island incident.
 - (d) have tried to make all the facts freely accessible to those concerned.
3. According to the passage, public concern over the accident near Harrisburg
 - (a) had no effect on the subsequent investigation.
 - (b) was lessened by the quick response of industry leaders and officials.
 - (c) prompted widespread panic throughout Pennsylvania.
 - (d) persisted as many questions were left unanswered.
4. Reporters looking into the accident at Three Mile Island
 - (a) uncovered more facts than did citizen groups.
 - (b) did not succeed in uncovering all the facts about the cause of the accident.
 - (c) cooperated closely with power industry officials.
 - (d) kept documented information from the public.
5. All of the following are true, except
 - (a) the movie about a nuclear accident had been praised.
 - (b) the press had sought information about the Three Mile Island mishap.
 - (c) a mechanical breakdown was a partial cause of the Harrisburg accident.
 - (d) the release of the movie came only weeks after the Three Mile Island accident.

Passage-6

Aristotle Onassis was religious. As a child, he sang in the church choir, learned his catechism, and was drilled in theology at his local church for two hours a week. As a man, he never broke away from the church. He was far from outstanding in school, yet he tried to shine at everything he undertook, whether it was swimming, or water polo, or sailing, or making a fortune. Disaster came to him and his family in 1922, when the Turks ran the Greeks out of Turkey, chased

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them into the sea, and slaughtered them. Thousands of Greek refugees poured into Smyrna ahead of the Turkish army, with dreadful tales of savagery and horror that echoed the bloody history of the Turkish massacres of centuries before. The Turks were taking a horrible revenge for the Greek atrocities of 1919 on the Turkish population. The old and the beautiful city was burned on September 13, 1922. The horror was unbelievable, with a pall of black smoke rising from the ruins, the dreadful smell of burning flesh, and hundreds of men, women and children crowding into every available craft, even small rowing boats, in order to escape. Not least in horror was the cruelty with which the escaping Greeks broke the legs of the mules in order to keep them from being useful to the Turks. When the Greeks had been in power, they had burned the most prosperous towns in the west of Turkey. Now the innocent Greek population of Smyrna were paying with their blood.

Aristotle Onassis's father was thrown into a Turkish prison, and his new wife and three daughters were sent to an evacuation centre, to await transportation from Smyrna to Greece. Only the 16-year-old Aristotle and his grandmother were left at home, but not for long. Soon the Turkish general requisitioned the house and the old lady had to get out. The boy had to grow up overnight — somehow to rescue what was left of the family; somehow to save what was left of the family; somehow to survive against dreadful odds; somehow to get them all out of Turkish Smyrna; and somehow to start again. Almost incredibly, he succeeded in all these aims. He made up to the Turks, and to the Americans, supplying the Turks with information, the Americans with liquor, for he hid bottles of raki, ouzo and even French brandy, and supplied them to the Americans. His commission would be a single bottle, and he would give that to his friend, the Turkish general. From the Americans, he obtained an identification pass to take him in and out of the United States marine zone; and from the Turks, a Turkish army pass to enter and leave the still smoldering city. Now he could operate, but first he must find his family. His grandmother had disappeared, and his father was in a Turkish prison for summary trial as a political offender — his death by hanging dead. His brothers were also arrested, and one of them Alexander had been burned alive in a church.

Miraculously, Aristotle managed to rescue his relatives. Through the American Vice Consul's intercession, he obtained the release of his half-sister and his stepmother from their camp, and they were put on an American ship and dispatched to Lesbos. For his

father, he needed a great deal of money. His father had run a one-man banking business, and at his offices, on Grand Vizier Han Street, there were valuables belonging to Turkish friends in an old-fashioned black safe. Going with a Turkish friend of his father's to retrieve a parcel of papers and valuables left with his father for safe-keeping, Aristotle opened the safe, secured the parcel for his friend and emptied the safe of his father's fortune in Turkish pounds. Next, he organized a march of 50 leading Turkish businessmen waving a banner, shouting against the arrest of Socrates Onassis, and demanding his release. This almost certainly saved his father's life.

1. What was the prime objective of Aristotle Onassis after the Turkish attack?
 - (a) Trying to shine in making a fortune
 - (b) Trying to get his father out on bail
 - (c) Trying to rescue as many relatives as he could
 - (d) Trying to get his family together
2. What led the Greeks to resort to cruelty to the mules?
 - (a) They wanted to ensure that mules could not be used by anyone else.
 - (b) They wanted to ensure that they retaliate to the atrocities of the Turks.
 - (c) They wanted to prove that they could hit back.
 - (d) They could no longer contain their vengeance.
3. What is the meaning of the word catechism?
 - (a) Religious revelatory prophecies
 - (b) A questionnaire based on facts of life
 - (c) A new world order
 - (d) A religious sermon
4. Why was Socrates imprisoned?
 - (a) Because he had led a rebellion.
 - (b) Because he was considered a political offender.
 - (c) Because he had headed a maverick firm.
 - (d) Because he was on good terms with the Americans.
5. What was the probable reason of the Turk rally?
 - (a) It was a step to siege the neighbouring territory.
 - (b) It was a step taken out of revenge.
 - (c) It was done to torture the Greeks for nothing.
 - (d) It was done to pillage the neighbours.

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6. What could be the only solution for Socrates's release?
- (a) To pay the people who had captured him.
 - (b) To escape from the jail and run away from the country.
 - (c) To overthrow the power of the Turks.
 - (d) To befriend the Turkish officers and then ask for a favour.

Passage-7

I am sitting at an airport watching people in the final moments before their loved ones arrive or depart. They are pacing nervously, looking at one another, touching and not touching. The emotion is intense.

A woman, speaking Spanish, is running in circles trying to gather family members together for a goodbye. Her voice is high-pitched. When the final moment comes before boarding, she wraps her arms around her son, giving him a powerful embrace that should protect him until he returns.

A grandmother and grandson stand at the rail where I am waiting; the people who were supposed to pick them up are late. Two ladies, next to them but unrelated, look up and down the corridor as if scanning an open sea. They probably want to help the grandmother. A mother holds a baby as she kisses her husband. Tears dampen her cheeks. The moment is charged.

At Gate 13, the arrivals are just coming in. I see her. There she is. Just as poignant, the arrivals fold into the mix of people as if they have been gone.

I think of other departures and arrivals. I recall seeing my daughter, I am now going to visit, coming down that narrow, portable corridor with her haversack slung on one shoulder, overstuffed carrion bag cradled in her arms, her headphones making her oblivious to the stream of people flowing along with her. She was in her first year at university coming home for holiday in November — the first time since August. I wrapped myself around her as if she had been lost to me.

Today, my flight is two hours late. The book I am reading is not as interesting as the people leaving and coming. A little boy of five is meeting his grandfather for the first time. He looks up and up at the face of a man who is not that tall, except to a child, joy shines and I am wondering how one would capture this moment in words or on film.

When my flight is finally called, I gather my books and carry one bag. Since there is no one to see me off, I do not look back to see where I have come from.

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Instead, I think of my husband at work wondering if he has left yet, and my daughter at the other end wondering the same thing.

As I head towards the plane, I find myself remembering yet another arrival and departure. When I was newly wed, my 91-year-old grandfather died. We had been very close, and one evening, returning from his funeral, I arrived at the airport crying. My husband of only a year was waiting at the gate to take me in his arms. Because of my tears, everyone was looking at us, but I didn't care. Somehow the emotion I felt seemed not at all out of place for the airport.

Life needs to be this important all the time. I wish all the people who went on a journey could come back to find someone waiting for them. I also wish they could leave with someone to see them off. I think of my grandfather and realize that if dying is like this, a passage, then I am not afraid.

1. What is the author doing while sitting at the airport?
 - (a) She is missing her husband and her daughter.
 - (b) She is wondering how one would capture child's the emotional gush in a story or on film.
 - (c) She is thinking about her grandfather who died at 91.
 - (d) She is reading an interesting book.
2. The two ladies at the rail next to the grandmother and her grandson seem to be
 - (a) searching for someone who is lost.
 - (b) impassively talking to each other.
 - (c) looking around for the grandma's folks.
 - (d) in their own thoughts as they are unrelated to the grandmother.
3. What point does the author possibly drive at through the passage?
 - (a) The author has long memories of airports.
 - (b) The author shows how caring people are.
 - (c) The author is lamenting over the loss of her grandfather.
 - (d) The author relates journeys with high emotions.

Passage-8

A final year school student called Mathew stumbled into the science class, late for the seventh time. His teacher, Rebecca Sacra, wondered how such a bright boy could be so irresponsible. She then issued a reminder to her students. "Nine times late to class and you receive a failing grade regardless of your test scores." In the back of the room, Mathew seemed nonplussed.

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Sacra decided to meet Mathew's father to explain the situation to him. She braced herself, though remembering the tough spots he'd bailed Mathew out of before — like the time Mathew was caught smoking in school or when he broke bounds.

But the father's reactions surprised Sacra. "I have been getting that boy out of trouble for years," he began. "May be it's time to demand more - not less - of Mathew. Go ahead and flunk him if that is what it takes to turn him around. What Mathew's dad dreaded even more was about the possibility that Mathew might go off to college before he learned to take responsibility for his own actions.

"You wouldn't really flunk me, would you?" incredulous Mathew asked his teacher the next morning. She assured him that she would. Mathew wasn't late ever again. The lesson Mathew's father discovered — that parents who want their kids to excel must choose the best parenting option, not the easiest — is something teachers wish all parents knew. Says Terry Lowe, an award-winning teacher, "Too many parents are quick to back off when kids object or complain. They bail them out of tough spots and make excuses or give in when the going gets tough. Kids are a long-term investment, and parents have to stop making short-term decisions about them."

1. What is the central idea of the passage?
 - (a) The Turning Around of Mathew
 - (b) Lesson on Good Parenting
 - (c) Lesson of Good Teaching
 - (d) Essence of Being Didactic
2. How does the author describe Mathew?
 - (a) Mathew is essentially a burn.
 - (b) Mathew has always tried his tricks in the class.
 - (c) Mathew is a fluke who sometimes got good grades.
 - (d) He is an intelligent kid acting in a weird manner.
3. How did Mathew's father react on the earlier counts?
 - (a) He was very strict and punished the kid rightly.
 - (b) He was short-sighted and he bailed him out.
 - (c) He was unconcerned as Mathew got good grades.
 - (d) He tried to sit down and talk to Mathew.
4. What essentially worked in Mathew's case?
 - (a) The abilities of his father as a glib talker.
 - (b) The fact that he continued getting high grades.

- (c) The fear that he would be reprimanded.
 - (d) The over confidence that he could get away with anything.
5. What was Mathew's father most afraid of when the teacher mentioned of his late-coming in class?
 - (a) He thought his son would flunk.
 - (b) He was afraid that his son would spoil his reputation.
 - (c) He was afraid that this son would get into smoking.
 - (d) He was afraid that his son would remain irresponsible and eventually go off to college.

Passage-9

When Mrs. Gandhi was voted to power, it seemed that she would not be able to take on the formidable task of ruling a nation of 50 crore population with ease and comfort like her predecessors. But from the very beginning, Mrs. Gandhi proved herself to be a veritable member of the Parliament and a charismatic leader for the Congress. Following the footsteps of her father, Mrs. Gandhi stoically challenged the conventional and outdated theories of ruling the country. She spoke like a true politician. That apart, Mrs. Gandhi spoke as a national leader not as a Congress leader. The distinction is not easy to define, but it is there and in her Independence Day address Mrs. Gandhi preserved it. While, for example, she defended the record of her government and met the opposition criticism, she did so soberly without attacking the opposition and the press as she tends to do. She even went to the extent of saying that if she drew attention to activities of hostile external forces, she did not do so with a view to distracting attention from difficulties at home which she knew remained formidable. Similarly, while she emphasized the urgent need for preserving the country's unity and integrity, she did not blame opposition parties or other critics for the challenges facing the nation.

While the situation in Punjab continued to cause anxiety in view of the confrontationist policies of the Akali Dal and the SGPC, Tamils of Indian descent were once again being massacred in Sri Lanka. Mrs. Gandhi spoke on both these issues with great care as befits a person in her position. But no careful listener could miss the point that her statement on recent developments in Sri Lanka reflected a deterioration in India's international position. The ruthless actions of the Sri Lanka armed force have been preceded by the induction of Israeli and British specialists in intelligence and anti-terrorist activities

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and the rejection, in fact, if not in name of India's mediatory services. Naturally, Mrs. Gandhi could not refer to this international consequence of the Akali and extremist activities in Punjab. But connection between Colombo's behaviour and the recent upheaval in Punjab is too obvious to have been missed by her. Sri Lankan authorities no longer regard it necessary to show any regard for this country's susceptibilities and interests and they feel free to butcher Tamils.

1. Mrs. Gandhi
 - (a) is more of a national leader than a Congress leader.
 - (b) is only a national leader.
 - (c) is both a national and Congress leader.
 - (d) made no distinction between a national leader and a Congress leader.
2. Which of the following is true?
 - (a) Mrs. Gandhi blamed the opposition for the nation's plight.
 - (b) Mrs. Gandhi was ruthless about the way she spoke about Sri Lanka.
 - (c) Mrs. Gandhi felt that India's international position has deteriorated.
 - (d) Mrs. Gandhi ignored the formidable difficulties at home.
3. Punjab situation
 - (a) caused Mrs. Gandhi to blame the Akali Dal and the SGPC.
 - (b) is the result of a defiant posture adopted by Mrs. Gandhi's government.
 - (c) was condemned by Mrs. Gandhi as the result of hostile opposition shown by the Akali Dal and the SGPC.
 - (d) was spoken of by Mrs. Gandhi while exercising great care.
4. The author views Mrs. Gandhi as
 - (a) a connoisseur
 - (b) a smart prime minister
 - (c) an unequivocal speaker
 - (d) a diplomatic politician

Passage-10

When I am told by people that sports is just for fun and exercise, I really wonder whether they believe what they are saying. These very people who 'enjoy sports just for the sake of it', have also displayed belligerent emotions during a match played by their favourite sportsmen. A sportsground has been turned into a

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political issue. I am always amazed when I hear people saying that sport creates goodwill between nations, and that if only the common people of the world could meet one another at football or cricket, they would have no inclination to meet on the battlefield. Even if one didn't know from concrete examples (the 1936 Olympic Games, for instance) that international sporting contests lead to orgies of hatred, one could deduce it from general principles. Very often, the fiercest instinct of individuals raises its ugly head and thus ruins the show.

Nearly all the sports practised nowadays are competitive. You play to win, and the game has little meaning unless you do your utmost to win. On the village green, where you pick up sides and no feeling of local patriotism is involved, it is possible to play simply for the fun and exercise, but as soon as the question of prestige arises, as soon as you feel that you and some larger unit will be disgraced if you lose, the most savage combative instincts are aroused. Anyone who has played even in a school football match knows this. At the international level sport is frankly mimic warfare. But the significant thing is not the behaviour of the players but the attitude of the spectators; and behind the spectators, of the nations who work themselves into furies over these absurd contests, and seriously believe — at any rate for short periods — that running, jumping and kicking a ball are tests of national virtue.

Even a leisurely game like cricket, demanding grace rather than strength, can cause much ill-will, as we saw in the controversy over body-line bowling and rough tactics of the Australian team that visited England in 1921. Football, a game in which everyone gets hurt and every nation has its own style of play, which seems unfair to foreigners, is far worse. Worst of all is boxing. One of the most horrible sights in the world is a fight between white and coloured boxers before a mixed audience. But the boxing audience is always disgusting and the behaviour of the women, in particular, is such that the army, I believe, does not allow them to attend its contests. Two of three years ago, when Home Guards and regular troops were holding boxing tournaments, I was placed on guard at the door of the hall, with orders to keep the women out at any rate.

In England, the obsession with sport is bad enough, but even fiercer passions are aroused in young countries where games-playing and nationalism are both recent developments. In countries like India or Burma, it is necessary to have strong cordons of police to keep the crowd from invading the field in football

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matches. In Burma, I have seen the supporters of one side break through the police and disable the goalkeeper of the opposing side at a critical moment. The first big football match that was played in Spain about 15 years ago led to an uncontrollable riot. As soon as strong feelings of rivalry are aroused, the notion of playing the game according to the rules always vanishes.

1. The author believes that
 - (a) sport creates goodwill between the nations.
 - (b) sportsmen will not be inclined to confront each other on the battle field.
 - (c) international sporting contests lead to riotous outbursts of hatred.
 - (d) the 1936 Olympic Games were the only instance of sporting contests leading to hatred.
2. Which of the following is correct?
 - (a) Sports are played for fun and exercise.
 - (b) The feeling of being disgraced arouses the worst fighting animal instincts.
 - (c) Sports have the quality of making better international relations.
 - (d) The behaviour of players is significant.
3. Which of the following is true?
 - (a) Nations believe that display of sporting skills as a test of national virtue.
 - (b) At the international level, sport is nothing more than a competitive game.
 - (c) Spectator's attitude determines the tempo of the game.
 - (d) A school football match is played with a feeling of local patriotism.
4. The author has suggested which of the following?
 - (a) The game of cricket causes much ill-will.
 - (b) Women spectators are the worst.
 - (c) Because of their behaviour, women are kept out of the boxing audience of some matches.
 - (d) The fight between a white and a black boxer is fascinating.

Passage-11

In today's world matter as we know it, is made up of molecules, each of which is, on an average, roughly 1/125 millionth of an inch. These molecules are to be further broken down into atoms which are so minuscule in size, that almost 15-20 million of them

could be placed in a row within the space of a millimetre and yet the full millimetre would not have been covered. The atom, until Rutherford's revelations in 1911, was relatively unheard of. Many scientists of the caliber of Moseley, Bohr, Compton, Urey and so on have also dwelt upon the complex problem relating to the mysterious architecture of the atom. It was, at the time, believed that voids, rather almost void spaces, actually consisted of particles revolving with a lightning velocity. These particles, whose existence had been proved by a series of ingenious laboratory experiments, were regarded to be so minute in size, that they were or as yet have not been seen or photographed. Thus evolved the concept of the atom, the ultimate and indivisible constituent of matter, as it has long since been regarded. It was believed that the atom was made up of two elements the proton or the positive element of an atomic nucleus and the electrons or the negative elements which revolve around the proton in an atom.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (a) honour the pioneering efforts of Rutherford and his followers.
 - (b) refute the existence of submicroscopic particle.
 - (c) illustrate how scientists measure molecular diameter.
 - (d) summarize the then current findings on the composition of matter.
2. According to the passage, all of the following are true of the centre of the atom except that it
 - (a) has not yet been seen by the naked eye.
 - (b) contains elements that are positively charged.
 - (c) is a little larger than a molecule.
 - (d) follows experimentally determinable processes.
3. By referring to the space in a millimetre, the author intends to point up the atom's
 - (a) density
 - (b) mystery
 - (c) velocity
 - (d) minuteness
4. Which of the following relationships most closely parallels the relationship between the proton and the electrons described in the passage?
 - (a) A hawk to its prey
 - (b) A blueprint to a framework
 - (c) A planet to its satellites
 - (d) A compound to its elements

6.12

Passage-12

As we have seen adaptive divergence is the scientific terminology used when organisms, which are alike in certain aspects, adopt entirely different characters while trying to adapt themselves to new and hostile environment. The opposite of adaptive divergence, that is adaptive convergence, is an interesting yet all too common occurrence in the process of evolution. It is when organisms which totally differ from one another take on similar modes of life or adjust themselves and become suited to survive in special sorts of environments. It is a fairly common phenomenon that invertebrate marine animals living firmly attached to the sea bottom or to some foreign object have tendency to develop a conical or sub-cylindrical form, examples of which are corals and sponges.

A more suited example being the streamlined fitness of most fishes for moving swiftly through water; they have no neck, the contour of the body is smoothly curved so as to give minimum resistance, and the chief propelling organ is a powerful tail fin. That some fossil reptiles (ichthyosaurs) and modern mammals (whales, dolphins) are completely fishlike in form, is illustrative of adaptive convergence, as these air-breathing reptiles and mammals, which are highly efficient swimmers, are in no way closely related to fishes. Unrelated or distantly related organisms that develop similarity of form to suit special environments are sometimes designated as homeomorphs (having the same form).

1. The author mentions ichthyosaurs and dolphins as examples of
 - (a) modern mammalian life forms that are aquatic.
 - (b) species with slightly greater mobility than other fish.
 - (c) air-breathing reptiles closely related to fish.
 - (d) organisms that have evolved into fishlike forms.
2. According to the passage, adaptive convergence and adaptive divergence are
 - (a) manifestations of evolutionary patterns.
 - (b) hypotheses unsupported by biological phenomena.
 - (c) ways in which plants and animals adjust to a common environment.
 - (d) demonstrated by reptiles and mammals.
3. It can be inferred that in the paragraph immediately preceding this passage the author discussed
 - (a) marine intelligence
 - (b) adaptive divergence
 - (c) air-breathing reptiles
 - (d) environmental impacts

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4. The tone used by the author in the passage is one of
 - (a) skepticism
 - (b) explanation
 - (c) admiration
 - (d) disgust
5. According to the passage whales and dolphins may be classified as
 - (a) mammals
 - (b) fossils
 - (c) reptiles
 - (d) homeomorphs

Passage-13

A piece of African artistry when first observed will appear to you as a single unitary object of immense artistic value. You do not tend to perceive it as a collection of myriad shapes and forms, which is essentially proof to the fact that these shapes and forms have been so skillfully moulded together that you, as the viewer, were so emotionally affected that you immediately saw what the artist was trying to convey by his sculpture.

It is quite common to address the reasons behind the achievement of this unique and unified picture, and the question of whether there are a set of fixed rules or plastic language which governs African sculpture so as to give it that powerful sense of communication. Another point of interest is that in the existence of this particular fixed code of operation, whether consciousness or instinct are the governing factors in the production of such high quality.

It is obvious from the study of art history that an intense and unified emotional experience, such as the Christian Credo of the Byzantine or 12th or 13th century Europe, when expressed in art forms, gave great unity, coherence and power to art. But such an integrated feeling was only the inspirational element for the artist, only the starting point of the creative act. The expression of this emotion and its realization in the work could be done only with discipline and thorough knowledge of the craft.

As a child, the African sculptor learns the use and significance of his tools and the various styles of sculpting associated with his tribe under the thorough guidance of his master, so when he grows up carving becomes second nature to him and he does not think of the rules but follows them automatically and instinctively. The fact that such rules have never been translated to words does not mean they do not exist, as such a common style or language of sculpting among all Africans can't be attributed to accident or pure co-incidence. The African carver may have often used these rules along with his individualistic skill and insight into art, but may have been totally oblivious to their existence for such is the consistency of African sculpture. Thus, there exists a great unfathomable

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mystery of such an art, tradition or talent which has been used by certain people, though they themselves are unconscious of this phenomenon, to follow a set style or rule which may later be analysed by someone only after the work of art has been created.

1. The author is primarily concerned with
 - (a) discussing how African sculptors achieve their effects.
 - (b) listing the rules followed in African art.
 - (c) relating African art to the art of 12th or 13th century Europe.
 - (d) integrating emotion and realization.
2. According to the passage, one of the outstanding features of African sculpture is
 - (a) its esoteric subject matter
 - (b) the emotional content of the work
 - (c) the education of training of the artists
 - (d) its 'foreignness' when compared to Western art
3. The author uses the phrase 'plastic language' to refer to African art's
 - (a) mass reproduction
 - (b) unrealistic qualities
 - (c) modernistic orientation
 - (d) sense of communication
4. The information in the passage suggests that an African carver might best be compared to
 - (a) a chef following a recipe
 - (b) a fluent speaker of English who is just beginning to study French
 - (c) a batter who hits a home run in his or her first baseball game
 - (d) a concert pianist performing a well-rehearsed concert
5. Which of the following titles best expresses the content of the passage?
 - (a) *The Apprenticeship of the African Sculptor*
 - (b) *The History of African Sculpture*
 - (c) *How African Art Achieves Unity*
 - (d) *The Unconscious Rules of African Art*

Passage-14

Money changers have many modes or methods of making a profit from their enterprise. Out of these there are two irregular methods used unscrupulously by them to cheat the customers. If they state the correct

price, then the customer may be assured of his being cheated as far as the weights are concerned and if the weights and measures used by these scoundrels are accurate then they will always understate the price of silver in the market. A surprising point to be noticed is that when dealing with Tartars these men, who thrive on cheating, will not only weigh the silver correctly but even allow a little more than the actual weight and even pay more than what is the current market price. You may be under the impression that they are losers in this transaction, and so it might be, if weight and price were the only two parameters. Their advantage is derived when they make their calculations of the net amount. The silver has to be reduced to specks and when it comes to this, these rascals really do reduce it by making the most flagrant miscalculations which the Tartars, who can count absolutely nothing beyond their own beards, are not only incapable of detecting but of which they are blissfully unaware. They are content with knowing that the full weight has been allowed and the correct price given and thus are of the opinion that their bullion was well sold.

1. The primary purpose of this passage appears to be to
 - (a) defend the economic practices of money-changers.
 - (b) compare the character of the Tartars with that of the money-changers.
 - (c) explain the relationship between price and weight.
 - (d) describe the techniques the money-changers use to take advantage of their customers.
2. Which of the following statements about Tartars is supported by the passage?
 - (a) Tartars hide valuables in their beards.
 - (b) Tartars are unaware of miscalculation's made by money changers.
 - (c) Tartars sell specks of silver.
 - (d) Tartars cheat their customers by employing fraudulent methods of weighing their goods.
3. We can infer from this passage that the money-changers
 - (a) are aware that Tartars are poor mathematicians.
 - (b) have fixed prices for their transactions.
 - (c) convert bullion into pure silver.
 - (d) lose their transactions with the Tartars.

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Passage-15

There exist a few species of mice that demonstrate conditions which are neither complete hibernation nor aestivation. Contrary to hibernation, where they go into a long sleep under adverse conditions or the most unfavourable and severe season, these species become torpid for a couple of hours on a daily basis. The first time I came across this phenomenon was when I was working on the fat mice in Africa. The name is a very appropriate one for these mice, as they tend to resemble furry balls on account of their bodies being so full of fat. One of these mice was, for a period of almost five weeks, kept without food or water as a result of which it lost almost a third of its weight in fat but still appeared quite healthy. But fat storage as a way of surviving has rebounded or, in a certain manner been also to the disadvantage of the fat mice. Many African tribes regard the mice as a delicacy and hunt them with great tenacity. On being captured the mice are generally fried in their own fat, of which there is no scarcity. These mice spend the daytime hours of the dry season in such a deep state of torpor that they can even be manhandled without fear of being awakened. Their body temperature is a few degrees higher than laboratory room temperature and their respiration most irregular, several short pants and then a pause of up to 3 minutes. Just before sunset the mice would rise from their sleep and begin to respire as they normally do when awake. In the above case, the state of torpor was not as a result of shortage of food or abnormal temperatures. The forest dormouse of southern Asia and Europe exhibits periods of torpidity during the day time and has been on record for pausing up to 17 minutes between breaths. The leaf eared mouse of the Peruvian desert becomes torpid under severe or adverse conditions.

1. The primary focus of the passage is to highlight
 - (a) the inhumane treatment of laboratory specimens.
 - (b) the irregularities of respiration in mammals.
 - (c) the conditions that induce rodents to hibernate.
 - (d) the species that exhibit brief periods of dormancy.
2. It can be inferred from the passage that fat storage as a method of survival 'has rebounded' for fat mice for which of the following reasons?
 - (a) It has enabled them to go without food and water for long periods of time.
 - (b) It has made them particularly tempting to human predators.

Reading Comprehension

- (c) It has made them so spherical that they cannot move easily.
 - (d) It has caused them to adopt abnormal patterns of sleep.
3. This passage would most likely appear in which of the following types of publications?
 - (a) A geographical atlas
 - (b) A history of African exploration
 - (c) A textbook on rodent biology
 - (d) A guide to the care of laboratory animals
4. It can be inferred that in the paragraph preceding this passage the author most likely discussed
 - (a) his initial journey to Africa
 - (b) the problem caused by sleep deprivation
 - (c) other types of dormant states
 - (d) the physical appearance of rodents

Passage-16

The father of the nation 'Mahatma Gandhi' was of the opinion that man has always been a social animal whose survival has been credited to his ingenuous ability to create the means by which groups of men remain united and retain their relationships with one another. Congregating under peaceful circumstances is one of the primary requisites of this form of sociability and the history of mankind has always been a movement through the time of human collectivities ranging from small nomadic tribal bands to a large and complex civilization.

The environment in which man strived to survive was never an easy one to adopt to and always posed a challenge to man with every step he took. This coupled with man's undying desire to survive was the driving force behind the introduction of an Orderly State which was governed by a set of rules, which came to be known as the law. Thus over the centuries, since the dawn of civilization, man has successfully spanned the eras of his evolution, and having done so, is now on the verge of exploring the vast and infinite expanse of his own galaxy.

Man may be deemed as the only living organism possessing within him the intellect to interpret his own evolution as a progressive step. The worth and the rights of every individual in complex groups, of which he was a member, increased simultaneously with every change in social life. Contrary to the belief that they would diminish, as civilizations evolved from small tribes, individual values now serve as a guide to the laws governing all men.

Reading Comprehension

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1. Which of the following is the best expression of the main idea of this article?
 - (a) Oppression and Society.
 - (b) The Evolution of Man.
 - (c) Man's Animal Instincts.
 - (d) The Basis for Social Order.
2. According to the article, unique to a man is the fact that he is
 - (a) evolving from a simpler to a more complex being.
 - (b) a social animal.
 - (c) capable of noting his own progress.
 - (d) capable of inflicting injury and causing violence.
3. A suitable title for this passage would be
 - (a) The Evolution of Mankind
 - (b) Mahatma Gandhi's View of Man as a Social Animal
 - (c) Man the Superior Animal
 - (d) The Evolution of Order and its Effect on Society
4. The word 'environment', in the passage is used in context with
 - (a) the natural environment
 - (b) the city life
 - (c) man's relation with the wildlife around him
 - (d) the factors surrounding man in his natural habitat which have a bearing on his behaviour

Passage-17

Since the dawn of civilization mankind has always been plagued by some or the other form of disease. The number of lives accounted for by each disease has, through the decades, varied continually, though none of them can be singled out as the leading cause of death, collectively they are the leading cause of deaths. The origin or evolution of diseases has never been too clearcut a phenomenon, though some wishful dreamers even attribute it to Pandora's box of troubles.

A survey of the five leading causes of deaths during a period from the early 1900s to the mid 1900s shows a distinct and significant trend. In the early 1900s these causes in order of number of death's caused were:

- i. Tuberculosis,
- ii. Pneumonia,
- iii. Intestinal diseases,
- iv. Heart diseases,
- v. and Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis.

A decade later the only change was that heart disease had moved from fourth to fifth place, tuberculosis now being second, and pneumonia third.

Toward the later part of this period, however, the list had changed profoundly. Heart diseases were far out in front; cancer, which had come up from eighth place, was second; and cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis, third. Fatal accidents, which had been well down the list, were now fourth, and nephritis was fifth. All of these are, of course, composites rather than single diseases, and it is significant that, except for accidents, they are characteristic of the advanced rather than the early or middle years of life.

1. On the basis of the passage, which of the following statements is most tenable?
 - (a) A cure for cancer will be found within this decade.
 - (b) Many of the medical problems of today are problems of the gerontologist (specialist in medical problems of old age).
 - (c) Older persons are more accident prone than are younger persons.
 - (d) Tuberculosis has been all but eliminated.
2. Which one of the following trends is least indicated in the passage?
 - (a) As one grows older, one is more subject to debilitating disease.
 - (b) Pneumonia has become less common.
 - (c) Relative to mortality rates for acute intestinal diseases, the mortality rate for cancer has increased.
 - (d) The incidence of heart disease has increased.
3. Which one of the following statements is most nearly correct?
 - (a) Such mortality trends (stated in the passage) are caused by decreased infant mortality.
 - (b) The changes in the data reported are a function of improved diagnosis and reporting.
 - (c) The mortality data are based on the records of physicians who practised continuously from 1900 to 1950.
 - (d) There appears to be a greater change in the mortality patterns from 1910 to 1950 than in the decade ending in 1910.
4. It can be inferred from reading this passage that
 - (a) longevity increased between 1900 and 1915.
 - (b) longevity increased steadily between 1915 and 1950.
 - (c) longevity increased significantly between 1900 and 1950.
 - (d) longevity was not a factor in these findings.

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5. A suitable title for this passage would be
- (a) The Cause of Diseases
 - (b) Old age and its Vulnerability to Diseases
 - (c) Longevity Through the First Half of the 19th Century
 - (d) An Essay on the Hierarchy of Diseases as Causes of Death

Passage-18

When we next saw Miss Charlotte, she had grown fat and her hair was turning grey. During the next few years it grew greyer and greyer until it attained an even pepper-and-salt iron-grey, and up to the day of her death, at 71, it was still that vigorous iron-grey, like the hair of an active man. From that time on, her front door remained closed, save for a period of six or seven years, when she was about forty, during which she gave lessons in China-painting. She fitted up a studio in one of the downstairs rooms, where the daughters and granddaughters of General Braxton's contemporaries were sent to her with the same regularity and in the same spirit that they were sent to church on Sundays with a twenty-five-cent piece for the collection plate. Meanwhile her taxes had been remitted.

Then the newer generation became the backbone and the spirit of the town, and the painting pupils grew up and fell away and did not send their children to her with boxes of colour and tedious brushes and pictures cut from the ladies' magazines. The front door closed on the last one and remained closed for good. When the town got free postal delivery, Miss Charlotte alone refused to let them fasten the metal numbers above her door and attach a mailbox to it. She would not listen to them and was adamant.

1. The major subject of the passage is
 - (a) Miss Charlotte's attempt to earn a living
 - (b) the mystery of Miss Charlotte's sudden aging
 - (c) the indifference of the town folk
 - (d) Miss Charlotte's changing relationship with the town
2. It can be inferred from the passage that General Braxton's contemporaries sent their daughters to Miss Charlotte because
 - (a) they wanted them to learn China-painting.
 - (b) they wished a tactful way of providing her with money.
 - (c) their daughters lacked ladylike accomplishments.
 - (d) they knew she was offering lessons for a limited time.

Reading Comprehension

Passage-19

As we have seen, generally the male insects are smaller than the female insects of the same species but, however, there are exceptions to this theory which can be understood. Size and strength would be of added advantage to the males as they generally engage in battle over the possession of a female and in the case of stag-beetles (Lucanus), the males are comparatively larger than the females. There are, however, other species of beetles which are known to fight together, where the males exceed the females in size though the relevance of this phenomenon is still unclear, but in some of these cases, as with the huge *Dynastes* and *Megasoma*, we can at least see no necessity for the males to be smaller than the females in order to mature faster as these beetles have a long life span and thus there would be sufficient time for the pairing of the sexes.

1. According to the author, the traits of the male Lucanus include which of the following?
 - I. Belligerence
 - II. Active intelligence
 - III. Superior bulk
 - (a) I only
 - (b) III only
 - (c) I and III only
 - (d) II and III only
2. It can be inferred from the name 'stag-beetles' that the members of this species most likely
 - (a) are warm-blooded mammals.
 - (b) are herbivorous by nature.
 - (c) have appendages that resemble horns.
 - (d) are as short-lived as their namesakes.
3. The paragraph preceding this one probably
 - (a) discusses a generalization about the size of insects.
 - (b) develops the concept that male insects do not live long after maturity.
 - (c) describes the distinguishing marks of female insects.
 - (d) discusses the role of intelligence in male insects.
4. This passage would be most likely to appear in
 - (a) a school textbook
 - (b) a magazine
 - (c) an essay on stag-beetles
 - (d) a book on insects

Reading Comprehension

6.17

Passage-20

Scattered on the surface of the earth, there are about 100 or more regions of isolated volcanic activity known to modern geologists as hot spots. Many of these so called hot spots are found lying deep in the interior of the tectonic plates which drift on the sea of molten rock and are unlike volcanos in the fact that volcanos are found on the boundaries of the great drifting plates. These hot spots move slowly and in certain cases, a trail of extinct volcanos is left as the plates move past them. Thus, they act as milestones along with their volcanic trails, depicting the movement of the tectonic plates.

The fact that the plates are constantly moving is way past any form of dispute. The complementary coastlines of Africa and South America and certain geological features that span the ocean are themselves proof that these two land masses were once joined and are now moving apart as new material is constantly introduced into the sea bed between them. The relative motion of the plates on which the continents lie has been constructed in detail, but this relative motion between the plates cannot be easily translated in to motion with respect to the earth's interior. It is not possible to determine whether both plates are moving in opposite directions or if one is stationary while the other floats away from it. Hot spots provide the instruments needed for measuring this movement and thus answering this question owing to the fact that they are deeply embedded in the earth's lower layers. It was from an examination of the hot spots that it has been deduced that the African plate has not moved, it has remained stationary for the past 30 million years while the other plates are moving away from it.

This is not the only important role that the hot spots have played, as it has now been revealed that they, to a certain extent, influence the geophysical processes that cause the plates to drift over the sea of molten rock that forms the earth's interior. When a tectonic plate rests over a hot spot the molten material coming up from the lower layers creates a broad dome, which as it grows and stretches tends to develop deep fissures, and in a few cases may cause the continent to rupture along the formation of these deep cracks thus forming a new ocean. Thus, as earlier theories provided explanations as to the continental mobility, the hot spots can explain their mutability.

1. According to the passage, which of the following statements indicate that Africa and South America once adjoined one another?
 - I. They share certain common topographic traits
 - II. Their shorelines are physical counterparts
 - III. The African plate has been stable for 30 million years

(a) I only (b) II only
(c) I and II only (d) II and III only
2. According to the passage, the hot spot theory eventually may prove useful in interpreting
 - (a) the boundaries of the plates.
 - (b) the depth of the ocean floor.
 - (c) the relative motion of the plates.
 - (d) major changes in continental shape.
3. The author regards the theory of plate movement as
 - (a) controversial (b) irrefutable
 - (c) tangential (d) dubious



Answer Key

Passage – 1

1. (a) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (d) 6. (a)

Passage – 2

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (a) 5. (c) 6. (b)

Passage – 3

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

Passage – 4

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

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Passage – 5

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

Passage – 6

1. (d) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (b) 6. (a)

Passage – 7

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (d)

Passage – 8

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

Passage – 9

1. (a) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (d)

Passage – 10

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

Passage – 11

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (c)

Passage – 12

1. (d) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (d)

Passage – 13

1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (d) 5. (d)

Passage – 14

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (a)

Passage – 15

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (c)

Passage – 16

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (d)

Passage – 17

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

Passage – 18

1. (d) 2. (a)

Passage – 19

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (d)

Passage – 20

1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (b)



Explanations

Passage-1

1. a Refer to the line "Born on March 12, 1922 typically all American childhood", given in second paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.
2. c Refer to the line "Kerouac first landed in the San.... on a merchant marine ship", given in the third paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.
3. b Refer to the line "Kerouac first landed in the San Francisco Bay area...he soon met his kindred spirit, Neal Cassady", given in the third paragraph. Thus, option (b) is the correct answer.
4. d The passage clearly states that *On the Road* was written as a personal testament which means autobiography. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
5. d Refer to lines "He split from the ranks of his America's was effort in Vietnam.", "Born on March 12, 1922, in Lowell, Massachusetts typically all American childhood" and "Before becoming the father Lower East and Lower West sides" given in paragraphs 5, 2 and 3 respectively. Hence, option (d) is the correct choice.
6. a The most suitable title for the passage is Post-war Literature and a New Beginning.

Passage-2

1. d The whole passage resolves around Rock and roll music and how it came into existence. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
2. c Refer to the line "African-American performers like and blues, and jazz", given in the first paragraph of the passage. All the musicians except Elvis Presley have been stated as African - American performers. Hence, option (c) is the correct choice.
3. d The first paragraph states that true rock-and-roll is a combination of various elements from country, western, gospel, rhythm and blues and jazz. So, option (d) is the correct answer.
4. a The first line clearly states that rock-and-roll was invented in the United States in the 1950s.
5. c The third paragraph states that many performers copied songs from original artists.
6. b All the options, correct (b) can be inferred from the passage. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Passage-3

1. c The passage mostly talks about the monotremes's relation with both reptiles and mammals (refer to the first three paragraphs). Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.
2. c The first paragraph clearly states that monotremes, like other mammals, have hair, large brains and mammary glands. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.
3. c Refer to lines "They share some qualities produce milk to nourish their offspring" given in paragraph 1 of the passage. Hence, option (c) is the correct choice.
4. a The third paragraph states that monotreme babies are born in early stage of development and depend upon their parents. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.
5. d The fourth passage states that the duck-billed platypus is one of the three types of monotremes in existence. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
6. a Refer to line "The female echidna lays one egg at a time into a pouch that she develops in her abdomen", given in fourth paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (a) is the correct choice.

Passage-4

1. a The first paragraph clearly states that millions of asteroids are the size of boulders. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.
2. c Refer to the line "An asteroid that hits a bright flash of light" given in the first paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.
3. a Refer to the line - "smaller meteors such as the one that caused the Meteor Crater in Arizona..." Thus, option (a) is the correct answer.
4. b The second paragraph states that there has not been any historical record of a person being killed by a meteorite. The only reported injury occurred to an Alabama based woman. So, option (b) is the correct answer.

Passage-5

1. c The passage states that within few weeks of the movies release, a surprisingly similar incident occurred at Three Mile Island. So we can say that the nuclear accident in the movie was a foreshadowing of actual events.

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2. c The second paragraph states that nuclear power industry leaders have showed reluctance in cooperating with the investigators of the accident.
3. d Refer to lines "Perhaps we will the facts remain unknown", given in the second paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
4. b Refer to the line "We do know that, despite the facts remain unknown", given in the second paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.
5. d The passage clearly states that a real life nuclear power based accident occurred within few weeks of the movie's release. Hence, option (d) is not true as per the passage.

Passage-6

1. d The second paragraph states that Aristole grew overnight trying to rescue and save what was left of his family. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
2. a Refer to the line "Not the least in horror being useful to the Turks", given in the first paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.
3. d 'Catechism' in Roman Catholic use means a summary of religious instruction or doctrine. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
4. b The passage clearly states that Socrates Onassis was in a Turkish prison for trial as a political offender. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.
5. b The first paragraph states that the Turks were taking horrible revenge for the Greek atrocities on Turkish population. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.
6. a The third paragraph states that in order to save his father, Aristole needed a great deal of money. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Passage-7

1. b The sixth paragraph states that while sitting at the airport and waiting for his flight, the author observes a five year old child and his grandfather and wonders how someone would capture the moment share between them.
2. c Refer to the lines "A grandmother and grandson ... to help the grandmother", given in the third paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (c) is the correct choice.

Reading Comprehension

3. d Refer to the line "I am sitting at an airport ... emotion is intense", given in the first paragraph of the passage. This aspect is also mentioned intermittently in other segments of the passage. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Passage-8

1. b The central idea of the passage is especially evident from the lines "The lesson Mathew's father ... short-term decisions about them", given in the third paragraph of the passage. It is quite clear that the central idea of the passage pertains to 'Good Parenting'. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.
2. d Refer to the line "His teacher, Rebecca Sacra wondered how such a bright boy could be so irresponsible", given in the first paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
3. b Refer to the line "She braced herself, though ... or when he broke bounds", given in the second paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.
4. c Refer to the line "You wouldn't really flunk ... wasn't late ever again" given in the third paragraph of the passage. This shows only one possibility, that Mathew feared being reprimanded and thus, started turning up on time. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.
5. d Refer to the line "What Mathew's dad dreaded ... responsibility for his own actions", given in the second paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Passage-9

1. a Refer to the line "That apart Mrs. Gandhi spoke as a national leader not as a congress leader", given in the first paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.
2. c The second passage states that Mrs. Gandhi's statement on recent developments in Sri Lanka reflected a deterioration in India's international position. Thus, option (c) is the correct answer.
3. d Refer to lines "While the situation in Punjab...as befits a person in her position", given in the second paragraph of the passage. Hence option (d) is the correct answer.
4. d The passage gives instances where Mrs. Gandhi exercised tact and sensitivity in dealing with individuals and issues. She never attacked the opposition or press and spoke on the Punjab and Sri Lankan issues with great care. Hence, she can rightfully be labelled a diplomatic politician.

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Passage-10

1. c Throughout the passage, the author states instances which show how international sports lead to orgies of hatred. When played at international scales, they mimic warfare and arouse strong feelings of rivalry. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.
2. b Refer to the second paragraph line 4 - "as soon as the question of prestige arises...the most savage instincts are aroused". Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.
3. a The passage states that nations seriously believe that running, jumping and kicking a ball are a test of national virtue. Thus, option (a) is the correct answer.
4. c In the third paragraph, the author states that women are kept out of the boxing matches held in the army due to their behavior. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Passage-11

1. d Option (d) the correct answer. The other options strike themselves out as the passage does not deal with Rutherford's efforts or refute the existence of a particle, neither does it illustrate the method of measurement or analyse any one theory.
2. c The size of the nucleus (centre) of an atom, though smaller than the molecule of which it is a part, has not been discussed with relation to the molecule itself, i.e. if it is smaller or larger than the molecule. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.
3. d The author wishes to impress upon the reader the 'minuteness' of the size of an atom.
4. c Just as the electrons revolve around a proton, satellites revolve around their planet. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Passage-12

1. d Refer to lines "That some fossil reptiles (ichthyosaurs) and are fish like in form, given in the second paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (d) in the correct choice.
2. a The first paragraph states that adaptive convergence and divergence are part of the process of evolution. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.
3. b The passage starts with the line "As we have seen adaptive divergence..." This shows that the preceding passage dealt with divergence.
4. b The author is trying to provide explanations with suitable examples to illustrate the theories of adaptive divergence of convergence. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

5. d The last few lines state that whales and dolphins adopt fishlike forms to suit special environments. Such organisms are called 'homeomorphs'.

Passage-13

1. a Throughout the passage, the author discusses how African sculptors achieve the effects they desire. He talks of how they practice discipline and have thorough knowledge of their craft. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.
2. b The third passage talks solely about the emotional experience of some African sculptures and how emotions are expressed by them. So option (b) is the answer.
3. d Refer to the line "It is quite common ... powerful sense of communication", given in the second paragraph of the passage. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
4. d At the time of the performance the Pianist does not refer to any rulebook but there are certain unwritten rules that are followed by him. Similarly, an African artist does the carving as a "second nature". Hence, option (d) is the correct choice.
5. d The passage concerns itself with the plastic language or unconscious rules governing African art and thus, option (d) is most suitable.

Passage-14

1. d From the beginning lines of the passage one can easily infer that the primary purpose of the passage is to describe the techniques, modes and methods employed by the money changers to take advantage of their customers.
2. b Refer to the line - "these rascals really also reduce it... they are blissfully unaware." Thus, we can say that option (b) is correct.
3. a The money changers are able to cheat the Tartars only because they are aware that Tartars are incapable of detecting the miscalculations of these money changers. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Passage-15

1. d The primary purpose of this passage is to focus on the species of mice or rodents that exhibit or undergo brief periods of dormancy. Hence, option (d) is the answer.
2. b Refer to the line - "these rascals also it...they are blissfully unaware." These, we can say that option (b) is correct.

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3. c The fact that the passage begins with the line "There exist a few species of mice ..." and then goes on to describe the species which display the tendency to remain torpid for certain periods, is in itself indicative that it may be an excerpt from a book on rodent biology.
4. c The passage starts by saying that there are some species which are neither the hibernating kind nor the aestivating kind, which are both periods during which the mice remain dormant hence we may assume that the previous paragraph dealt with the other types of dormant states.

Passage-16

1. d Options (a) and (c) automatically disqualify themselves as there is no mention of violence or animal instincts in the passage. Option (b) sounds vague as we are not dealing with the evolution of man but rather the evolution of social order and orderly state. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
2. c Options (b) and (d) are disqualified as they have no bearing to the passage. Option (a) deals with the evolution of man and deals with only the first paragraph of the passage. Option (c) has been clearly stated in the third paragraph.
3. d Option (d) is most suitable as it concerns itself with the essence of the passage, i.e. social order.
4. d The environment in the passage is, in totality, everything which is present in the natural habitat of a man and effects his behaviour be it in the city or in the wild.

Passage-17

1. b Towards the end of the passage it is clearly mentioned that with exception to accidents, the other diseases are more prone to advanced years or old age.
2. a Options (b), (c) and (d) can all be clearly deduced from the passage which leaves only option (a) which has not been indicated at all.
3. d As per the passage, during the decade after 1900s (upto 1910 or so) there were 5 main diseases which merely changed in order of importance. However, towards the latter part of the period from 1900 to 1950, the list of main diseases underwent profound change. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
4. c The last few lines of the passage state that diseases that lead to death were predominant amongst elderly people (during the latter part of 1900 - 1950). Thus we can say longevity increased during this period.

Reading Comprehension

5. d Option (d) is a suitable title because the author wishes to depict the changing trend in the order and importance of various diseases as the leading causes of death.

Passage-18

1. d This passage is mainly concerned with how, as time progressed and generations changed, Miss Charlotte's relationship with the town changed.
2. a The passage clearly states that General Braxton's contemporaries send their daughters to Miss Charlotte to learn China-painting.

Passage-19

1. c The passage states that male Lucanus engage in a battle over the possession of a female and are comparatively larger than the females. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer. The word 'belligerence' means warlike attitude.
2. c The other options do not in any way fit as a beetle is an insect. Also stags have antlers (horns), which are probably similar to the appendages of these animals.
3. a The opening line states that "As we have seen, *generally* the male insects are smaller than female insects..." The leads us to believe that the preceding paragraph discussed a generalization about insect size. Thus, option (a) is the correct answer.
4. d The other options are not suitable as (a) and (b) are too vague and (c) concentrates only on the stag beetles. Thus, the correct option is (d).

Passage-20

1. c The author has stated that the similarity between the coastlines and certain geological features that span across the ocean are proof that South America and Africa were once joined.
2. d Towards the end of the passage it has been explained by the author as to how the continental plates may rupture along the fissures created by hot spots and thus result in major changes in the shape of the continents.
3. b The author has clearly stated in the passage that the theory of plate movement is way past any form of dispute hence irrefutable.