

General instructions:

- *Write correct Question Number.**
- *Leave a line each after every short answer /MCQ etc.**
- *Quote lines from the text in long answers.**
- *Mention quotes in writing section questions wherever necessary.**

Section - A Reading (26 marks)

Q1) THE ART OF READING RIGHT

(10)

1. Reading Comprehension (RC, as it is normally called) is the most peculiar section in almost all scholastic, entrance and employment tests. The skills in RC make a lot of difference to one's chances of good grades or selection.
2. Most students find it difficult to tackle topics that are diverse from the field they are in or they are comfortable with. So one needs to develop a taste for even the most obscure and boring topic on this planet. For success in RC one should be able to understand. And even with an average speed one can succeed if one implements the strategies.
3. Broadly speaking, RC passages can be classified in a few categories. Fact based RC is the simplest form of RC. These types of passages have a lot of information in the form of names, numbers etc. In this type of passage one should read very fast.
4. Don't try to memorize any facts, numbers or names etc. In fact, there is no need to even remember them. Just make yourself familiar with the structure of the passage. Just see in which paragraph author is talking about what. Mark it. Then when you go to the questions, identify in which paragraph information regarding that question is mentioned. Go to that paragraph, read the numbers, names etc. and mark the answer.
5. Inference based RC is the toughest form of RC. Here the passage is fairly tough to understand. This includes passages on topics like Religion, Spirituality, Philosophy, etc. Most of the students will be comfortable attempting these passages at least in the RC. The reading speed is fairly slow in this type of passage. The way to master this type of passage is to read them again and again while practicing.
6. Topic based RC includes passages on any particular topic like economics, astrology, medical science, etc. Generally, what makes these passages tough is usage of technical terms. If a topic is new to us then presence of technical terms scares us even if they are defined in the passage. For success in this type of passage we need to have a fair understanding of the definition of the term if it is defined in the passage. Read that definition twice if you need to. But don't worry about technical terms if they are not defined in the passage. Assume them to be non-existent and proceed. Key principle in these passages is that don't go to the lines unless the previous line is clear.
7. Reading passage first and then questions is the most popular strategy for RC. While answering the question you may come back to the passage to find the answer as you should not just read the passage initially and not crammed it. But you should not come back to the passage for each and every question. If you come back for majority of questions, then you haven't read the passage properly. The key to success for this strategy is that you should understand the passage very well. We will suggest students to follow this technique from the beginning and work upon this.
8. Reading questions first and then passage is the strategy followed by a few students. They just look at the questions and not options. The objective is that after seeing the questions when you read the passage then you read only that part carefully where the answer is given. The flaw with this is that you will not be able to remember all the questions. Besides this, this strategy fails when there are questions that require understanding of the passage.

A. Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. (Any 10)

1. Most students find Reading Comprehension difficult because_____.
(a) the language is tough (b) the vocabulary is difficult
(c) the style is too involved (d) the topics are unrelated to their interest
2. Fact based RC is the easiest because_____.
(a) it is written in simple language (b) there are no allusions
(c) it contains information (d) it can be memorised easily
3. For answering a question on RC, one should_____.
(a) memorise the facts, figures, etc. (b) mark what the author is talking about in the para
(c) mark the essential details of the passage (d) remember the names, numbers, etc.
4. Topic based RC is tough as_____.
(a) it contains technical terms (b) it is based on different topics
(c) it demands instant understanding (d) one can't read them fast enough
5. Careful reading of the passage is essential for_____.
(a) answering difficult questions (b) saving time and effort
(c) proper understanding and answering correctly (d) selective identification of relevant parts
6. The word 'diverse' in para 2 means
(a) similar (b) same (c) variety (d) different

B. Answer the following questions in brief

7. What should one do for finding the right answers?
8. Why is topic-based RC tough?
9. Which step is considered more essential for finding the right answers? Why?
10. What is the most popular strategy for solving Reading Comprehension (RC)?
11. Find the words similar in meaning from the passage:
(a) Different (para 2)
(b) Accept as true (para 6)

Q2) Read the passage given below and answer the questions.

(8 Marks)

Air pollution is a major threat to human health. The United Nations Environment Programme has estimated that, globally, 1.1 billion people breathe in unhealthy air. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated that urban air pollution is responsible for approximately 800,000 deaths and 4.6 million people lose their lives every year around the globe.

Traffic and transportation problems, inadequate drainage facilities, lack of open spaces, carbon emissions and the accumulation of waste aggravate the problem. Air pollution is associated with an

increased risk of acute respiratory infections (ARI), the principal cause of infant and child mortality in developing countries.

Urban air quality in most megacities has been found to be critical and Kolkata is no exception to this. An analysis of ambient air quality in Kolkata was done by applying the Exceedance Factor (EF) method, where the presence of listed pollutants (RPM, SPM, NO₂, and SO₂), and annual average concentration are classified into four different categories; namely critical, high, moderate and low pollution. Out of a total of 17 ambient air quality monitoring stations operating in Kolkata, five fall under the critical category, and the remaining 12 locations fall under the high category of NO₂ concentration, while for RPM, four are record critical and 13 come under the high pollution category. The causes of high concentration of pollutants in the form of NO₂ and RPM have been identified in earlier studies as vehicular emission (51.4%), followed by industrial sources (24.5%) and dust particles (21.1%).

Later, a health assessment was undertaken with a structured questionnaire at some nearby dispensaries which fall under areas with different ambient air pollution levels. Three dispensaries have been surveyed with 100 participants. It shows that respondents with respiratory diseases (85.1%) have outnumbered waterborne diseases (14.9%) and include acute respiratory infections (ARI) (60%), chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) (7.8%), upper track respiratory infection (UTRI) (1.2%), influenza (12.7%) and acid-fast bacillus (AFB) (3.4%).

To live a healthy life and have better well-being, practising pollution averting activities in one's day-to-day activities is needed. These pollution-averting practices can only be possible when awareness among the masses is generated that the air they breathe outdoors, is not found to be safe.

Pollution in India

Diffused sources – 22.7%

Transport – 22.5%

Industries – 17.2%

Diesel Generator sets – 12.2%

Dust – 11.5%

Brick kilns – 9.2%

Answer the given questions.

(i) Select the option that highlights the main idea of the passage.

- (A) To educate people about the threat of water pollution.
- (B) To warn people about the threat of air pollution and educate them about the safety measures.
- (C) To discuss the status of pollution in Kolkata and share the details of the study.
- (D) To educate people on the Exceedance Factor method and share the results of the study.

(ii) Select the option that displays the correct cause and effect relationship.

- (A) Cause: Traffic and transportation problem; Effect: 4.6 million deaths
- (B) Cause: Lack of open spaces; Effect: Mega cities
- (C) Cause: Air pollution; Effect: Respiratory diseases
- (D) Cause: Air quality monitoring stations; Effect: Emission of NO₂

(iii) Read the following statements:

1. Air pollution kills 4.6 million people every year in India.
2. Air pollution is causing health hazards to more people than water pollution.

- (A) (1) is true and (2) is false.
(B) (1) is false and (2) is true.
(C) (1) is true and is responsible for (2).
(D) Both (1) and (2) are false.

(iv) Complete the given statement with an appropriate inference with respect to the following:

The author's opinion on the development of Mega cities is _____.

(v) Select the option that lists the author's recommendation to the people.

1. He wants people to be aware that air pollution is a major threat.
2. He urges people not to live in mega cities.
3. He advises people to follow pollution averting activities seriously.
4. He wants people to reduce vehicular emissions.

- (A) 1 and 2 (B) 2 and 3 (C) 1 and 3 (D) 3 and 4

(vi) Select the option that displays the true statement as per the given figure.

- (A) Dust and power plants are the causes for maximum pollution.
(B) Pollution caused by transport is much more than the pollution caused by industries.
(C) The use of diesel generators is responsible for more than 50% of air pollution.
(D) Dust stands fourth in the list that causes air pollution.

(vii) Read the following statement:

1. Air quality in Kolkata is less than critical.
2. 12 locations were selected for measuring ambient air quality.
3. Most of the mega cities are suffering from the problem of poor air quality.

- (A) (1) is true and (2) and (3) are false. (B) (1) and (2) are true and (3) is false.
(C) (1) and (3) are true and (2) is false. (D) (1) and (2) are false and (3) is true.

(viii) "Accumulation of waste aggravates the problem." Select the option that best describes the problem with reference to the above statement.

- (A) Increase in pollution leads to huge accumulation of waste.
(B) Lack of space for waste disposal.
(C) More developments lead to more waste.
(D) Lack of sustainable and effective waste management.

Q3) Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

(8 Marks)

Parents play a key role in a child's physical, mental and emotional development. Parenting is the way parents nurture or bring up their children. If there is conflict here, children and adolescents may drift into addictions.

But in the present scenario, most parents seem to be confused and in guilt, themselves, as they often feel that their children have gone astray because they have not been good parents. Children, who are unable to cope with their numerous psychological, academic and social problems, drift into the horrifying world of addictions. Parents need to know and adopt the concept of good parenting skills to understand and bond with their children.

Parents feel proud when their children are obedient! But as soon as children enter their teens, all hell seems to break loose. As adolescents, they try to reason and analyse situations and people. They argue as to why they should do exactly what their parents ask them to do. If parents are unable to provide appropriate answers to their queries, children become unsatisfied and unhappy. As parents, we always tell our children to do things, but forget to explain them why they should or should not do so. Instead, we should explain to them the reason why they should not take drugs and cigarettes, or resort to driving fast. The questions in their minds are endless. Parents rarely try to answer the 'why or why not' because either they do not know the right answer themselves or they do not know the right way to answer these tricky questions. Adolescents tend to move away from parents if they are in denial mode, and get attracted towards their peers, where they feel accepted and appreciated. This is called peer pressure and the child will do anything to please or become like his peers whom he considers to be his role models. He starts to mimic their behaviour, because he wants to be appreciated and accepted by them and eventually he does everything his peers tell him to do. And so, he may drift into addictions and other malpractices, merely to win their approval.

To keep our children happy and away from drugs and negative behaviours, the need of the hour is for parents to learn and adopt good, happy and assertive parenting skills. They should learn to communicate and bond strongly with their children, appreciate and guide them and assure them of their unconditional support whenever they falter or fail. Criticism and rebuke from parents lowers a child's self-esteem and makes him withdraw from his parents. Conversely, love, acceptance, appreciation and guidance from parents is the only solution to keep children happy, motivated and confident. Parents should practice what they preach, so that their children can look up to them with admiration and remain in high self-esteem and be assertive and resilient enough to say 'no' to peer pressure and drug abuse.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it, using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary—minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (5)
- (b) Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. (3)

SECTION - B: WRITING & GRAMMAR (23 Marks)

Q4. Complete the following paragraph by filling in the blanks with suitable words. (3)

Plastic waste has become one of the biggest challenges for the environment. It not only (a)----- the soil but also (b)----- the water bodies. If we do not take strict measures now, the situation (c)-----worse in the coming years. Every individual must (d) -----by reducing plastic use in daily life. Governments should also (e)-----strict laws to ban single use plastics so that we (f)----- move towards a cleaner future.

Q5) Rearrange words and phrases into meaningful sentences. (2)

- (a) Of /not /is /the /measured /a man /what /he /wealth /by/has.
(b) The/have /scientists /solution /discovered /not /permanent /yet /a.
(c) Not /circumstances /character /build /reveal /men's /but /do /it.
(d) Future /not /lie /the /discovering /in /in /but /creating /it /does /it.

Q6) Edit the below mentioned paragraph. There is an error in each line. Write the wrong word and the correction. (3)

- (a) Parents plays a very important role in the -----
- (b) Harmonious development of his children -----
- (c) During their formative year. Children love -----
- (d) Picnics and outings of their parents, though -----
- (e) They are equally happier doing their things -----
- (f) By them around the house. -----

Q7) Draft a notice about an Inter-School Theatre Competition being hosted in your school. Include date, venue, eligibility, last date to apply. Invent other necessary details. You are Cultural Secretary, Sun hill Public School, Gurgaon. (50 words) (3)

OR

Prepare a poster on “Say No to Plastic”. Include Slogans, Pictorial presentation, focusing on the harm being caused to mother nature . (50 words)

Q8) Write a speech in 150–200 words on: (6)
 “Students as Agents of Social Change in Today’s World.”

OR

The Library should be regarded as a temple of learning. But some students visit th school library to tear off pages from the costly books magazines and periodicals They write their names on them and underline pages. Write a speech on “Library -- a place to gain knowledge”

Q9. Write a debate in 150–200 words either FOR or AGAINST on the topic: (6)
 “Artificial Intelligence will eventually replace teachers.”

OR

“The responsibility of Road accidents lies on the Youth and the Teenagers more than any body else”

SECTION - C: LITERATURE (31 Marks)

Q10) Read the extract and answer the questions. (3 Marks)

And the sea, which appears to have changed less,
 Washed their terribly transient feet
 The sea holiday was her past, mine is her laughter.
 Both wry with the laboured ease of loss.”

- (a) Bring out the comparison between the ‘sea’ and the ‘feet’. (2)
- (b) Explain “laboured ease of loss.” (1)

OR

“I do not understand this child
 Though we have lived together now
 In the same house for years. I know
 Nothing of him, so try to build
 Up a relationship from how
 He was when small.”

- (a) What problem does the father face? (1)
- (b) What does the poet bemoan in the above stanza? (1)
- (c) How does the poet plan to renew the old ties with his defiant son? (1)

Q11) “She accepted her seclusion with resignation” (3 marks)

- (a) What did she accept with resignation? Why? (1)
- (b) What does the phrase ‘accepted seclusion with resignation’ suggest about her state of mind? (2)

OR

“Daddy, we are not afraid to die if we can all be together---you and mummy, sue and I”

- (a) What does Jon’s statement reveal about the strength of family bonds during adversity? (1)
(b) Why is the above line considered the most significant and inspiring moment in the chapter? (2)

(Q12) “At the corner of the road I looked up at the name plate. Marconi street, it said. I had been at number 46. The address was correct. But now I didn’t want to remember it any more.” (4)

- (a) Why does the narrator refuse to remember the address even though she had found the correct house? (2)
(b) How does this moment reflect on the narrator’s inner conflict which eventually leads her to her final act of detachment from her lost possessions? (2)

OR

“Why don’t you get off to your club? Special night tonight, isn’t it ? They’ll be waiting for you—wanting to have a good laugh”

- (a) Who is the speaker? Why is the speaker saying this ? (2)
(b) What does this dialogue reveal about George Pearson’s routine and attitude towards his family life? (2)

Q13) Answer the questions briefly. (Any 2) (6)

1. How does Khushwant Singh describe his grandmother’s spirituality in ‘The Portrait of a Lady’?
2. What was the result of the ‘Tremendous Explosion’?
3. In the poem ‘father to Son’ ‘how is alienation between father and son shown?
4. How does the poetess and her mother suffer a sense of loss?

Q14) Answer any one question briefly.(50-80 words) (3)

What emotional conflict does the narrator face in The Address?

OR

How does Mother’s Day highlight women’s unappreciated role in families?

Q15) Imagine you are the son in the poem “Father to Son’. Your father feels a sense of loss and distance in your relationship and wishes to bridge the gap. Express your feelings towards your father in a short letter. Also mention the reasons for this unassailable gap, your emotions about the strained bond and your willingness or reluctance to reconcile. (120 to 150 words) (6)

OR

The chapter ‘The Portrait of a Lady’ displays the sad reality of old age. Old people face the loneliness and seclusion. Its gets you thinking about the pain of old age. Write an article about the ‘Pain of Old age’.

Q16) In Mother’s Day, Mrs. Pearson asserts her individuality and makes her family realise her worth. Discuss how humour and satire are used to convey serious social issues. Quote appropriate lines from the text to substantiate your answer. (120–150 words) (6)

To maintain the honesty and integrity of the Garoghalanian family was the top most priority of Aram and mourad . Explain.