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How to Ace Reading Comprehensions?

Given below are some tips and tricks through which you can easily ace this topic.

Tip 1: Skim through the passage first

Candidates are often remain in one of the biggest dilemmas is whether to read the passage first or questions so here is the answer, read the passage first with no intention of finding the answers Skim through the passage with no intention of answering it, just get a basic idea of it. Now , Read all the questions carefully. Go through the passage again but this time with a lower reading speed and more focus on absorbing the information. Try to find the answers of the questions, go back to the passage again if you have to. This might seems a length process at first but it isn't. once you will get used to it, it will hardly take you 30 seconds to skim the passage and next 15 seconds to go through the questions and next 1 minute to read the passage again. This will increase your accuracy but in order to implement this strategy one needs to have a slightly higher reading speed, which brings me to Tip 2.

Tip 2: How to speed read?

One of the techniques that you can use when practising speed reading include reading blocks of words instead of individual words and breaking the habit of sub-vocalisation.



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Sub-vocalisation refers to the habit of pronouncing each word in your head as you read it. Most people do this to some extent or another. This takes much more time than it is necessary, hence it is important to eliminate it.

Practicing this will expand the number of words that you read at a time for a higher speed.

Tip 3: Analyse the type of questions you are comfortable in through mocks

Yes mock is the best way to learn about your weaknesses as well about your strength hence one can use it to understand that what type of questions usually he/she gets right and try to attempt those questions first in final exam.

Tip 4: Read a lot of books of different genres.

Reading can only be developed by reading daily. Don't just read books or article of your interest. Try to expand your area, this will help you to tackle a wide range of passages from a variety of areas.

Tip 5: How to eliminate options?

No one can master English or any literature because it is so much in depth and there are so many exceptions but you don't have to learn everything either. All you have to do is to learn the art of elimination. Once you have understood the question, start comparing the options and you will see that one or two options can be ruled out easily.

The wrong answer will usually contain some distorted fact or opinion not mentioned in passage.

The wrong answer will reach a conclusion easily, inference or decision which is not given in the passage nor suggested.

The right answer will usually resonate with the overall theme of the passage and convey a overall message.



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Tip 6: One of the most important tip is, just because you read the entire passage does not mean that you have to answer all the questions in it (silly).

Direction (1-5): Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. There are some blanks given in the passage based on which some questions are framed, and some words are highlighted as well to help you answer some of the questions.

(A) Covid-19 caused a widespread and substantial disruption to migrant workers, _____. Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand launched schemes to encourage reverse migration of workforce. Further, 11 states relaxed their labour laws, hoping to generate local jobs and boost investment. Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh exempted industries from labour law provisions with exceptions of varying degrees. (B) Madhya Pradesh fast-tracked **providing (1)** of registrations and licenses, **initiating (2)** single-day clearance while also **issuance(3)** businesses the **flexibility(4)** to hire and fire. Rajasthan, Assam, and Odisha were among seven states to extend labour working hours.

Migration of rural workforce from cities to their homes in rural India propelled agriculture into the mainstream discourse. (C) In recognising the urgent to resurrect the rural economy, /six states were prompt in following/ the Narendra Modi government's advisory/ relating to making amendments to the APMC Act./ Separately, Rajasthan announced an innovative financing scheme for farmers while Punjab offered 50 per cent subsidy on agriculture machinery.

Multiple states unveiled MSME packages to support small enterprises survive the economic lockdown. While Kerala offered interest subvention on term loans, Haryana allowed 100 per cent interest benefit on loans availed for wages. To catalyse the revival of businesses, states offered multiple incentives. While Uttar Pradesh and Haryana waived interest payments, Bihar provided tax exemptions. (D) Karnataka amended the Industries Act to allow setting up of manufacturing units _____. Delhi, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh resorted to waiver of fixed or variable electricity charges. Also, states were quick in taking advantage of the unprecedented trading conditions. Tamil Nadu offered a 30 per cent capital subsidy on production of personal protective equipment, or PPEs. Uttar Pradesh and Mizoram granted industry status to warehousing and sports respectively.



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The pandemic also brought the issues of India's creaking electricity sector into sharp focus. **(E)** The State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) **extended(1)** relief measures such as **rebates(2)**, discounted late payment surcharge, and payment **uncertain(3)** to help distribution companies and consumers through an **deferments(4)** period. By implementing the "compensation for power cut" policy, the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission shined the brightest. The commission was the first in the country to enact a rule that compensates consumers in the face of prolonged power cuts – a bold move.

1) Which of the following phrases should fill the blank (A) to make it contextually and grammatically correct and meaningful?

- A) attempting to generate additional revenues by imposing tax hikes on liquor and fuel
- B) compelling states to announce pro-migrant measures
- C) if they will thrive or fail in the next normal
- D) they will need the Modi government's support
- E) None of these

2) The sentence given in (B) has four words given in bold. among the given bold words, which of the following must replace each other to make the sentence grammatically correct and meaningful?

- A) 1-3
- B) 1-4
- C) 2-3
- D) 2-4
- E) 3-4

3) In the above passage, sentence (C) may or may not have an error in one part of the sentence, select the part having error in it as your answer.



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- A) In recognising the urgent to resurrect the rural economy,
- B) six states were prompt in following
- C) the Narendra Modi government's advisory
- D) relating to making amendments to the APMC Act.
- E) No error

4) Which of the following phrases should fill the blank (D) to make it contextually and grammatically correct and meaningful?

- A) to engage in fiscal expansion and tide over the present crisis
- B) besides a 70 per cent extra tax on liquor
- C) to meet the earning gap
- D) without requiring any statutory clearances in first three years
- E) None of these

5) The sentence given in (E) has four words given in bold. amongst the given bold words which of the following must replace each other to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful?

- A) 1-3
- B) 1-4
- C) 2-3
- D) 2-4
- E) 3-4



Answers

1) Answer: B

Before the blank it says 'Covid-19 caused a widespread and substantial disruption to migrant workers' and part B says it compelled states to announce pro-migrant measures. So both are contextually and grammatically fit. 'Compelling' means evoking interest, attention, or admiration in a powerfully irresistible way.

After filling the blank, the correct sentence will be – 'Covid-19 caused a widespread and substantial disruption to migrant workers, compelling states to announce pro-migrant measures.'

2) Answer: A

In (3) position 'issuance businesses the flexibility to' does not make any sense and in part (1) position 'Madhya Pradesh fast-tracked providing of registrations and licenses' does not make grammatical sense. So both must be interchanged.

After the replacement the thus formed sentence is "Madhya Pradesh fast-tracked issuance of registrations and licenses, initiating single-day clearance while also providing businesses the flexibility to hire and fire."

3) Answer: A

In part A after article 'the' we need a noun. But urgent is an adjective. Its noun form will be 'urgency'. So 'the urgency to resurrect' will be the correct choice.

4) Answer: D

Before the blank it says 'Karnataka amended the Industries Act to allow setting up of manufacturing units' and part D says 'without requiring any statutory clearances in first three years'. So both fit grammatically and contextually.

After filling the blank, the correct sentence will be – 'Karnataka amended the Industries Act to allow setting up of manufacturing units without requiring any statutory clearances in first three years.'



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5) Answer: E

'Deferments' means the action or fact of putting something off to a later time; postponement. 'Deferments period' does not make any sense. Instead the correct one will be 'uncertain period'. So 3-4 must be interchanged.

After making the replacements, the thus formed sentence is "The State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) extended relief measures such as rebates, discounted late payment surcharge, and payment deferments to help distribution companies and consumers through an uncertain period."

New Pattern Reading Comprehension (Theme Based)

Directions (1-5): Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

The palette of sights and sounds that reach the conscious mind are not neutral perceptions that people then evaluate: they come with a value already tacked onto them by the brain's processing mechanisms. Testsshow that these evaluations are immediate and unconscious and applied even to things people have never encountered before, like nonsensewords: —juvalamu is intensely pleasing and —bargulum moderately so, but —chakaka is loathed by English-speakers. These conclusion come from psychologists who have developed a test for measuring the likes and dislikes created in the moment of perceiving a word, sound or picture. The findings, if confirmed, have possibly unsettling implications for people's ability to think and behave objectively. This is all part of **preconscious processing**, the mind's perception and organization of information that goes on before it reaches awareness—these judgments are lightning fast in the first moment of contact between the world and the mind.

Some scientists disagree with the claim that virtually every perception carries with it an automatic judgment, though they, too, find that such evaluations are made in many circumstances. These scientists believe that people don't have automatic attitudes for everything, but rather, for areas of interest. In responding to a stimulus, a signal most likely travels first to the verbal cortex, then to the amygdala, where the effect is added, and then back. The circuitry involved can do all this in a matter of a hundred milliseconds or so, long before there is conscious awareness of the word. This



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creates an initial **predisposition** that gets things off on a positive or negative footing. These reactions have the power to largely determine the course of a social interaction by defining the psychological reality of the situation from the start. The —quick-and-dirty judgment tends to be more predictive of how people actually behave than is their conscious reflection on the topic.

This may represent a new, more subtle tool for research on people's attitudes, allowing scientists to **assess** what people feel without their having any idea of what exactly is being tested. You could detect socially sensitive attitudes people are reluctant to admit, like ethnic biases because these automatic judgments occur outside a person's awareness, as part of an initial perception. They are trusted in the same way senses are trusted, not realizing that seemingly neutral first perceptions are already biased. Conclusions from both camps are based on a method that allows them to detect subtle evaluations made within the first 250 milliseconds—a quarter of a second—of perception of words. The measurement of liking can be made outside the person's awareness because if the first word is presented in less than a quarter of a second the reaction to it never registers in consciousness, though it can still be read.

1) According to the passage and with regards to words like *bargul*, *juvalamu*, and *chakaka*, —**preconscious processing** would most influence which of the following?

- A) Subconscious memories concerning traumatic childhood events
- B) Perception of a stranger on first sighting
- C) Formulation of arguments after intense research
- D) Thought processes involved in creating an intricate novel
- E) Reuniting with one's children after a long trip overseas

2) Scientists that disagree with the idea that humans place a value on all perceptions would most likely agree with which of the following statements?

- A) Most perceptions receive a value due to a familiarity with the stimulus.
- B) The mind cannot possibly interpret information in an interval as short as a quarter of a second.



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- C) Preconscious processing would have no effect on behaviour patterns.
- D) The senses are not used when placing a value on stimuli presented during an experiment.
- E) Some perceptions are too valuable to actually put a value on

3) Based on information in the passage, in the author's view, which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A) Information regarding external stimuli is processed so quickly that it does not become part of our conscious awareness.
- B) Automatic judgments occur on stimuli with which there is great familiarity.
- C) Nonsense words have little or no effect on a person's mood.
- D) Ethnic biases may be influenced by attitudes of which we are unaware.
- E) The measurement of liking could be made outside of a person's Awareness

4) What is the meaning of 'predisposition'?

- A) narrow
- B) healthy
- C) affluent
- D) weakness
- E) none of the above

5) What is the antonym of 'assess'?

- A) neglect
- B) appraise



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- C) judge
- D) determine
- E) none of the above

Theme based set

Direction (6-10): In each of the following questions four of the five sentences contribute to the main idea of the paragraph. Find the sentence which does not contribute to the main idea of the paragraph.

6)

- (I) Bedrooms should be devoid of clutter and have adequate lighting.
- (II) Light sensitive night lights can make getting up in the middle of the night safer.
- (III) For electronics such as lights, radios and televisions, remote controls will help you to avoid getting up and down unnecessarily.
- (IV) Minimizing clutter and ensuring ample space around the bed is also important.
- (V) Comforters or blankets should be well fit so they are not dragging on the floor.

- A) I
- B) II
- C) III
- D) IV
- E) V

7)



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(I) The Oregon State permits only assisted suicide -the prescribing doctor cannot even be there when the patient takes the lethal potion, usually barbiturates.

(II) The patient must be adult, mentally competent, and “terminally ill” having a life expectancy of six months or less.

(III) The Bush administration is challenging Oregon’s law, saying it violates federal drug rules.

(IV) There is no requirement of “unbearable suffering”.

(V) Two written requests for assistance must be made, separated by a 15-day interval.

A) I

B) II

C) III

D) IV

E) V

8)

(I) Giacomo Rizzolatti, neuroscientist at the University of Parma in Italy who studies the origins of language, says the game is interesting because it shows the importance of imitation in language development.

(II) The birth of a new language is such a rare event that scientists who want to watch it happen generally have to make do with computer simulations.

(III) Bruno Galantucci, a cognitive scientist at Yale University in America, has developed a human alternative, based on the principle that necessity is the mother of invention.

(IV) He asks pairs of strangers to play a computer game in which they have to find one another in a virtual bungalow.



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(V) This requires them to communicate, but the only way they can do so is by inventing a language.

- A) I
- B) II
- C) III
- D) IV
- E) V

9)

(I) "In the future, the only thing that will get read is something that will be online.

(II) MSN is initially scanning only books from the British Library that are out of copyright.

(III) If it isn't online, it doesn't exist", proclaims the director of content partnerships at Google.

(IV) Yet for search companies such as Google, Yahoo! and Microsoft's MSN, digitising books is particularly important because it represents the next critical phase of the industry.

(V) Most of the web has already been scanned and indexed— there are already between 8 billion and 10 billion items online.

- A) I
- B) II
- C) III
- D) IV



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E) V

10)

(I) Despite the fact that it is difficult to study in another language, the rewards will probably last a lifetime.

(II) Studying at an English medium university in countries that are non-English speaking is a good thing if students want to have more job opportunities after graduation,

(III) Many people prefer these universities because the world is becoming a global village and employers are requiring employees to speak more than one language.

(IV) As a result, applicants who don't have enough qualifications are unlikely to have a good future

(V) Furthermore, graduates who communicate well in English will find it easier to get jobs abroad as well as in their own country.

A) I

B) II

C) III

D) IV

E) V

Answers :

Directions (1-5) :

1) Answer: B

From reading the lines,



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“Testsshow that these evaluations are immediate and unconscious and applied even to things people have never encountered before, like nonsensewords: —juvalamu is intensely pleasing and —bargulum moderately so, but —chakaka is loathed by English-speakers. These conclusion come from psychologists who have developed a test for measuring the likes and dislikes created in the moment of perceiving a word, sound or picture. The findings, if confirmed, have possibly unsettling implications for people’s ability to think and behave objectively. This is all part of *preconscious processing*, the mind’s perception and organization of information that goes on before it reaches awareness—these judgments are lightning fast in the first moment of contact between the world and the mind...”

this question can be answered.

2) Answer: A

From the lines,

“Some scientists disagree with the claim that virtually every perception carries with it an automatic judgment, though they, too, find that such evaluations are made in many circumstances. These scientists believe that people don’t have automatic attitudes for everything, but rather, for areas of interest. In responding to a stimulus, a signal most likely travels first to the verbal cortex, then to the amygdala, where the effect is added, and then back...”;

this question can be answered.

3) Answer: C

From the lines,

“Testsshow that these evaluations are immediate and unconscious and applied even to things people have never encountered before, like nonsensewords: —juvalamu is intensely pleasing and —bargulum moderately so, but —chakaka is loathed by English-speakers. These conclusion come from psychologists who have developed a test for measuring the likes and dislikes created in the moment of perceiving a word, sound or picture. The findings, if confirmed, have possibly unsettling implications for people’s ability to think and behave objectively..’.



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this question can be answered.

4) Answer: D

predisposition- a liability or tendency to suffer from a particular condition, hold a particular attitude, or act in a particular way.

5) Answer: A

assess- evaluate or estimate the nature, ability, or quality of.

Directions (6-10) :

6) Answer: C

“For electronics such as lights, radios and televisions, remote controls will help you to avoid getting up and down unnecessarily.” - is the sentence which does not fit into the theme of the given set of sentences.

7) Answer: C

“The Bush administration is challenging Oregon’s law, saying it violates federal drug rules.” - is the sentence which does not fit into the theme of the given set of sentences.

8) Answer: C

“Bruno Gaianucci, a cognitive scientist at Yale University in America, has developed a human alternative, based on the principle that necessity is the mother of invention.” - is the sentence which does not fit into the theme of the given set of sentences.

9) Answer: B

“MSN is initially scanning only books from the British Library that are out of copyright.” - is the sentence which does not fit into the theme of the given set of sentences.

10) Answer: B



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“Studying at an English medium university in countries that are non-English speaking is a good thing if students want to have more job opportunities after graduation.” - is the sentence which does not fit into the theme of the given set of sentences.

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