

## READING COMPREHENSION

### PASSAGE - 1

Gregory is about forty-five and his hair is starting to go grey. Everybody knows Gregory because he reads the news on television. He has done this for ten years and enjoys it very much. He likes it when people stop him in the street or when they point at him and whisper to their friends.

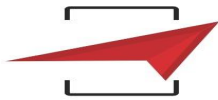
Yesterday his boss suggested that Gregory change his job. Gregory knows his boss wants a younger man to take his place and doesn't care what happens to Gregory. The new job could never be as good as his old one. He has no-one to discuss the problem with at home and this makes it worse.

01. People are familiar with Gregory because
  - (a) they can stop him in the street
  - (b) he is on TV every day at news time
  - (c) he lives in the neighborhood
  - (d) he is happy when people talk about him
02. Gregory feels flattered when people
  - (a) cajole him for his news reading
  - (b) ignore all his drawbacks
  - (c) approach him to seek favours
  - (d) talk about him in appreciation
03. Gregory is likely to lose his job because
  - (a) he is not as popular as he used to be
  - (b) he has become very conceited
  - (c) television companies prefer younger people as news readers
  - (d) his boss does not like his work
04. Gregory is dissatisfied with his lot because
  - (a) boss is unhappy with him
  - (b) he has become very conceited
  - (c) television companies prefer younger people as news readers
  - (d) his boss does not like his work

### PASSAGE - 2

Lunar objects are well suited for observation when the sunlight falls upon them in such a manner as to exhibit strongly contrasted lights and shadows. It is impossible to observe the moon satisfactorily when it is full, for then no conspicuous shadows are cast. The mountain peaks on the moon throw long, well-defined shadows, characterised by a sharpness which we do not find in the shadows of terrestrial objects. The difference between the two arises from the absence of air on the moon. Our atmosphere diffuses a certain amount of light, which mitigates the blackness of terrestrial shadows and tends to soften their outline. No such influences are at work on the moon and the sharpness of the shadows is taken advantage of in our attempts to measure the heights of lunar mountains.

01. Objects on the moon can be observed well
  - (a) when sunlight falls on them
  - (b) at any time of the day
  - (c) when light and shadows create a contrast
  - (d) Only on a full-moon night
02. A comparison between the shadows of lunar objects and those of the earth shows that
  - (a) they are more or less similar
  - (b) the shadows of lunar objects are sharper
  - (c) the shadows of terrestrial objects are sharper
  - (d) the shadows of lunar objects are not well-defined
03. The difference between the two types of shadows is due to the fact that
  - (a) there is no air on the moon
  - (b) air creates sharper shadows of earthly objects
  - (c) the atmosphere of the moon intensifies the shadows of its objects
  - (d) more sunlight reaches the surface of the earth than that of the moon
04. The atmosphere surrounding the earth
  - (a) traps the sunlight thus intensifying its shadows
  - (b) scatters the sunlight thus intensifying its shadows



- (c) dissipates the sunlight thus reducing the darkness of its shadows
- (d) has no distinct function in reducing the darkness of the shadows

### PASSAGE - 3

For generations Charlie Chaplin has been a source of amusement. This hero has to struggle a lot with adversaries which are human as well as non-human. For example, this duel with the revolving door that always turns him into the streets or the rocking chair from which, one seated, he can't escape. This struggle has a deeper meaning. Not only people but even objects defeat him because they are superior to him. His humanity can't adapt itself to their mechanical nature. That is why we find him so close to us.

01. According to the author, Chaplin's hero represents
  - (a) a silly man
  - (b) a funny person
  - (c) the common man
  - (d) the defeated man
02. The Chaplin here cannot adjust himself to other because of their
  - (a) inimical behaviours
  - (b) indifference
  - (c) mechanical behaviours
  - (d) aggressiveness
03. According to the passage, Chaplin's films represent the struggle between
  - (a) good and evil
  - (b) a human being and a hostile world
  - (c) a funny man and cruel machines
  - (d) a same person and a mad world
04. 'The revolving door' and 'the rocking chair' in the passage are illustrations of
  - (a) Chaplin's opponents in his imaginary world
  - (b) natural forces which are hostile
  - (c) forces which curtail our freedom in society
  - (d) Chaplin's comic sense in his films

### PASSAGE - 4

Stress is a twentieth century illness. This is so because of the hectic pace of life and the deadly rate-race around us. Different people react to stress in varied ways. Irritation, worry, depression are all signs of stress. It affects everyone from children to old people. Inability to cope with it results in destructive tendencies. Of course, there is hope, because though some people crack up, a lot of others don't. Hobbies, friends, music can help you reduce it.

01. According to the author, it is not the case that
  - (a) stress was known in earlier times
  - (b) one can cope with stress with some effort
  - (c) stress makes no distinction between young and old
  - (d) pleasurable activities help one get over stress
02. The word 'rat-race' in the passage means
  - (a) extreme tension
  - (b) will life
  - (c) mad competition
  - (d) terrible speed
03. The best way to cope with stress is to
  - (a) avoid getting irritated
  - (b) fight destructive tendencies
  - (c) avoid all work and hectic activity
  - (d) cultivate a few hobbies

### PASSAGE - 5

Gautama subjected his body to exhausting fasts and every known form of physical mortification, yet the truth he sought seemed distant as ever until one day, on waking from a fainting fit brought on by his extreme asceticism, light came like a flash to his mind. All his fasting and self-hypnotism was leading him nowhere, was producing nothing but increased enfeeblement of mind and body. To think clearly, a man must have proper food and lead a healthy life.

Thrilled by his discovery, Gautama hastened to share it with his disciples who had been now greatly increased in numbers. But they, when they heard their revered master renounce the ascetic life and demand food, were so shocked and horrified by a suggestion revolting to all their



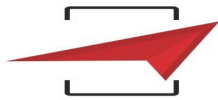
preconceived ideas, that to a man they deserted him. Left to himself, Gautama wandered through the forests of Gaya, after enduring hour upon hour of fiercest mental and spiritual anguish, after ranging through every emotion known to man. Gautama found at last the peace and certainty he sought. Truth was revealed to him; he became Buddha, the 'Enlightened One'.

01. The passage suggests that
  - (a) only by torturing the flesh, one can discover the truth
  - (b) by living a prosperous and luxurious life along, one can attain the power of clear thinking
  - (c) self-inflicted suffering brought about by suppression of physical and mental desires is not conducive to philosophical thoughts
  - (d) starving the body provides nourishment to the mind
02. Gautama wished to share the truth with his disciples, because
  - (a) he wanted to be known far and wide as holy man
  - (b) his disciples had decided to desert him
  - (c) he wished his disciples to propagate his teachings
  - (d) he felt intensely excited about his discovery
03. Gautama became the 'Enlightened One'
  - (a) on his attaining a vision of truth and inner peace after an intense emotional experience
  - (b) on being left to himself after all his disciples had abandoned him
  - (c) after wandering in the woods of Gaya
  - (d) as a result of his going through physical and mental suffering
04. Gautama's disciples decided to desert him because they thought he had
  - (a) fallen in love with worldly pleasures
  - (b) broken his fast
  - (c) asserted that penance does not lead to enlightenment
  - (d) expressed his views against traditional thought and wisdom

Ordinarily good memory is so common that we regard a man who does not possess it as eccentric. I have heard of a father who, having offered to take the baby out in a pram, was tempted by the sunny morning to pause on his journey and slip into a public house for a glass of beer. Leaving the pram outside, he disappeared through the door of the bar. A little later, his wife had to do some shopping which took her past the public house, where to her horror she discovered her sleeping baby. Angry at her husband's behavior she decided to teach him a lesson. She wheeled away the pram, picturing to herself his terror when he would come out and find the baby gone.

How annoyed she was, however, when just before lunch her husband came in smiling cheerfully and asking: "Well, my dear, what's for lunch today?" Having forgotten all about the baby and the fact that he had taken it out with him. How many men below the rank of philosopher would be capable of such absentmindedness as this? Most of us, I fear, are born with prosaically efficient memories. If it were not so, the institution of the family could not survive in any great modern city.

01. The writer is of the view that
  - (a) not many people have exceptional memory
  - (b) compared to women, men have very bad memory
  - (c) married men are often absentminded
  - (d) absentmindedness is a rarity while good memory is very common
02. The mother discovered her sleeping baby
  - (a) when she went out to search for it
  - (b) as she followed her husband knowing that he was absentminded
  - (c) accidentally when she went out shopping
  - (d) in the public house where her pram was left
03. The mother wheeled away the pram without informing her husband because
  - (a) she was upset that he could be so irresponsible and callous
  - (b) she wanted to teach him a lesson
  - (c) she had never entered public houses
  - (d) she lacked presence of mind
04. The institution of the family survives because
  - (a) absentmindedness is a common feature
  - (b) good memory is a rarity



## PASSAGE - 8

- (c) most of us are able to remember our relationships
- (d) mothers are more concerned than fathers

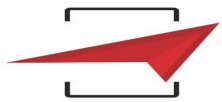
## PASSAGE - 7

For months they had barely kept themselves alive in sort of shelter they built with their own hands amidst the rubble. Then the German Elite Guard established headquarters in Verona and for three dreadful years they ruled the city with ruthless severity. The boys grew to hate those harsh, unwanted masters and when the resistance movement started youths were the first to join their insignificant size and intimate knowledge of the neighboring hills, made them immensely valuable.

1. The German Elite Guard came to be city to
  - (a) protect it from the attack by the enemy
  - (b) provide food and shelter to residents
  - (c) arrest the criminals there
  - (d) rule over the occupied land
2. What the boys joined was
  - (a) an association of gangsters
  - (b) the German Elite Guard
  - (c) a philanthropic organization engaged in relief work in the area
  - (d) a group working against the Germans
3. The boys were a great help to the resistance movement because
  - (a) they were good fighters
  - (b) they had an intimate knowledge of the hilly areas
  - (c) their movements were secret
  - (d) they hated their German masters
4. The passage conveys the impression that the
  - (a) city was ravaged by a war
  - (b) people were celebrating the liberation of the city
  - (c) people of the city had faced oppression
  - (d) young people hated their employers

Not only does the lack of education among women make the dissemination of nutrition education difficult, it appears also to be a major obstacle to campaigns for family planning. It is significant that one of the more successful family planning efforts has been in Korea, where literacy is over 80 per cent. Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan have also had more satisfactory results than, for example, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India or Indonesia, where a large proportion of the female population is illiterate. The education level of women is significant, also because it has a direct impact on their chances of employment; and the number of employed women in a country's total labour force has a direct bearing on both the Gross National Product and the disposable income of the individual family.

1. The passage suggests that Korea has been successful in family planning because Korean women are
  - (a) well employed
  - (b) well educated
  - (c) literate enough to understand its significance
  - (d) exposed to nutrition education
2. Countries where family planning programmes have been satisfactory are
  - (a) Thailand, Singapore, Korea, Hong Kong and India
  - (b) Thailand, Afghanistan, Korea and Pakistan
  - (c) Korea and Indonesia
  - (d) Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea, Thailand and Singapore
3. According to this passage, a women's lack of education has a direct bearing on
  - (a) the GNP of the country
  - (b) her chances of getting a job
  - (c) the total labour force of the country
  - (d) her knowledge of the nutritional value of food
4. One of the main disadvantages of lack of education among women is that they
  - (a) cannot be persuaded to plan their families
  - (b) do not know how to cook nutritious food
  - (c) cannot earn more money
  - (d) cannot communicate well



## PASSAGE - 9

So Tiziano continued to draw. But one thing troubled him greatly—all the pictures he made were black, drawn with his piece of black charcoal. Yet around him glowed a perfect glory of colour—the beautiful blue of the sky; the delicate, changing pink of the great jagged peaks above him; the red, blue and yellow wild flowers; the golden brilliance of sunshine; and the rich, soft, mellowed tints in the old houses of the town. Colour! Tiziano loved it more than anything else in the world. Yet, how was he to reproduce it and get it into his pictures? He had no money to buy paints, and paints were expensive in those days. His father, who was a mountaineer, would never listen to anything so foolish as buying paints for a boy when the family needed food, clothing and fuel to keep them warm.

Let Tiziano make shoes! That was a trade for a man! All the same, Tiziano continued to dream of painting, and to wonder if there was not some way he could make a picture in colours.

The day before the festival of flowers, Tiziano chanced to pass the spot where the garlands had been woven the evening before. Suddenly, he noticed stains on the stones of the walk before the inn. They were every colour that a painter needed! In a moment the feast and the fun went out of Tiziano's mind. Catarina saw her brother hastening out of the village. She ran to bring him back and found him in a meadow looking like a variegated quilt from the brilliance of the wild flowers. "Tiziano!".. she called, "Why are you running away from the feast?" The boy did not answer for a moment. Too often he had been teased by his family and the villagers for the crazy dreams in his head. At last he answered bluntly, "I have found that the stains of flowers make colours and I am going to paint a picture."

01. Tiziano's "crazy dreams" that are mentioned in the second paragraph refer to his desire to
  - (a) make the best shoes in the land
  - (b) find a method for recycling the flowers from the feast
  - (c) bring prosperity to his family and his village
  - (d) paint pictures in colour
02. Tiziano's father wanted his son to be a
  - (a) painter
  - (b) cobbler
  - (c) florist
  - (d) mountaineer
03. In the second paragraph, the word "variegated" means
  - (a) marked with patches of different colours
  - (b) having different designs
  - (c) flowery

- (d) of different varieties
04. Which of the following would best describe Tiziano's father?
  - (a) miserly
  - (b) artistic
  - (c) insensitive
  - (d) generous
05. At the end of the passage, it is clear that Tiziano had discovered
  - (a) that he could fulfill his dream of painting with colours obtained from crushed petals
  - (b) that painting was a better profession than making shoes
  - (c) a way to make his sister happy
  - (d) a way to add to the fun of the Festival of Flowers

## PASSAGE - 10

Through the break between the trees, she looked into one of the lighted windows above the shop. She could see the cartons of biscuits neatly piled near the far wall. Against her conscious wishes Cissy's salivary glands started pumping fluid into her mouth. She felt her heart beating strongly, from the top of her throat into the back of her mouth. "There is nobody", she thought. "I can dash in and take a box and dash out again. I know it is a sin but the Lord will not punish us if we are so hungry."

1. Cissy's reaction when she saw the biscuit cartons:
  - (a) she wanted to take all the cartons
  - (b) her mouth started watering
  - (c) she felt hungry
  - (d) she was surprised to see the biscuits
2. The passage describes
  - (a) Cissy's bad habit
  - (b) Cissy's temptation before stealing
  - (c) Cissy's courage to steal
  - (d) the good quality of biscuits
3. How was Cissy able to see the cartons of biscuits?
  - (a) From the flavour of biscuits in the room
  - (b) She saw an opened carton
  - (c) She was aided by a light in the room
  - (d) Because some biscuit cartons were damaged

4. Why did her heart beat strongly?
- (a) She was thinking of stealing the biscuits
  - (b) The flavour of biscuits was tempting
  - (c) She thought nobody was watching her
  - (d) She was eager to eat the biscuits

## **ANSWER OF READING COMPREHENSION**

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**PASSAGE - 1**

- 1. B
- 2. D
- 3. C
- 4. C

**PASSAGE - 2**

- 1. C
- 2. B
- 3. A
- 4. C

**PASSAGE - 3**

- 1. D
- 2. C
- 3. B
- 4. B

**PASSAGE - 4**

- 1. A
- 2. C
- 3. D

**PASSAGE - 5**

- 1. C
- 2. D
- 3. A
- 4. D

**PASSAGE - 6**

- 1. D
- 2. C
- 3. B
- 4. C

**PASSAGE - 7**

- 1. D
- 2. D
- 3. B
- 4. C

**PASSAGE - 8**

- 1. C
- 2. D
- 3. B
- 4. A

**PASSAGE - 9**

- 1. A
- 2. B
- 3. A
- 4. C
- 5. A

**PASSAGE - 10**

- 1. B
- 2. B
- 3. C
- 4. A