

Reading Comprehension

INTRODUCTION

If one wants to find a success mantra in today's highly competitive world with ever expanding boundaries of knowledge, then it has to be – “know the right thing at the right time, make right use of it in just the right words” – we all, all of us, have our own bank of knowledge, some more than others, but what is the point of knowing if you don't know how to use your knowledge well. It is just like owning a guitar without knowing how to play it. But the good thing is you can easily learn to play it if you are committed and have the right guidance.

Same is the case with reading comprehension, it is all about knowing the right thing, making the right use of it, in the right words. It is the magical guitar on which you can play your success tune. But to learn to play this guitar you need constant effort and a right direction. So, why not begin now?

Why do you think reading comprehension questions are asked from the primary level in school examinations to a level as high as competitive examinations for management or administrative work? Very simply put, in the present era which has a plethora of information, facts, knowledge, it is important for any officer, most of all, for a manager to be able to extract out relevant information from the given draft in minimum possible time and use it for the execution of the assigned project in the best possible way.

And this is what reading comprehension exercises give you a practice in. Therefore, a student must approach this section not only as a preparation exercise but as skill that he/she will use for the rest of his/her life. Having said how important Reading comprehension is, I would like the students to know that the reading comprehension section checks not your IQ rather your ability to analyse data and produce conclusions most useful and tangible for positive results. Every student should therefore, keep in mind that this section demands Aptitude more than Intelligence. So, with right direction and determined practice even an average student can excel in this area. Remember you can play guitar if you want to, hard enough.

Lets proceed with understanding reading comprehension.

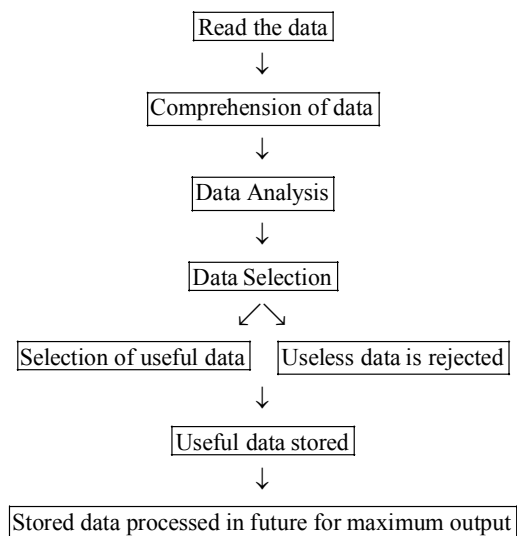
WHAT IS READING COMPREHENSION?

Interestingly, Reading Comprehension is an activity your brain is constantly engaged in. Whatever you do is reading Comprehension for brain. e.g. Reading newspaper, watching billboards on roadside, watching TV, talking with a person, listening to music etc. If I have confused you a bit then let me make some explanations. Reading a newspaper is obviously reading comprehension you would have understood. We read

the news printed on the paper, we understand what it means, we analyse the news for ourselves, by which I mean, sometimes we agree or disagree with the opinion expressed in the newspaper article. If it is a report we select the useful portion of news and store it in our memory to be used later. We like or dislike the subject chosen by the writer, sometimes we are made to think or question our beliefs or mindset by some articles, this is data analysis, then we remember what seems important or useful to us in the newspaper and forget much of the news in the paper everyday.

The same procedure happens even when you are watching hoarding on the roadside. The advertisements are the data for your brain. It is raw information that your brain understands and processes. Remember how many times you say after watching an Ad, “Oh, this is not real”, “Oh! does it happen this way, I didn't know that”, “This is a good Ad”. All of the above reactions when studied closely are a judgment, fact-collection, opinion formation.

You don't remember everything about every Ad, only the part, appealing to you finds a place in your memory. This is Data Selection. Same for watching TV and listening to music, your mind reads information, comprehends it, processes it, selects the useful section and stores it for future, rejects the useless part. So, to make Reading Comprehension easy we can draw a flow chart of the entire process.



The entire process of Reading Comprehension could be divided into 7 simple steps. But here is a need for a reckoner. Though reading comprehension is what our brain practices all the time yet we do not always perform very well when attempting a reading comprehension question, why?

Because what the brain does is at an ordinary simplistic level and we are unaware of even that. But what is required of an aspiring students is a conscious, skilful, determined effort to master the art of reading comprehension.

Lets illustrate all the seven steps involved in Reading Compression describing what we ordinarily do and what are the special concepts a students should keep in mind while attempting the Reading Comprehension section with some useful tips.

Step I

Reading is the obvious important pre requisite of the RC section. How well you read, in what manner do you read a given passage, would determine the level of your comprehension and consequently the analysis of information. Reading in the right way is very important. What do I mean by saying the right way of reading?

WHAT is the RIGHT way of READING?

As I have mentioned before that all of us are constantly engaged in the process of reading information from our surroundings. Only we do not do it skillfully in the right direction. This is what a student has to practice doing to read everything rightly. **HOW?** Even an apparently simple process of reading involves many factors that affect the output of reading. How intelligently can you mould these factors will, in turn, improve the quality of reading. These factors are :

- Subject of data
- Interest areas of the reader
- Concentration span of the reader
- Reading speed
- Retaining capacity
- Reading Aptitude

I. SUBJECT OF DATA

It is proven by research that our brains or brains of different people do not respond to different kinds of data in a similar manner or to a similar extent. Just like we all have our area of expertise, I might know a lot about space science while your knowledge of Automobile may be vast. On the other hand, my idea of latest cars, engines and their power may be meagre and you may find yourself fumbling if questioned about planetary movements, composition of stars etc. This is a reflection of reading habits. Ordinarily, we do selective reading, e.g; while reading a newspaper many students are used to skipping the Business news and jumping straight to sports page while many others simply refuse to look at the editorial page and drool all over the page 3 or entertainment section. Whereas reading has many advantages. It is neither feasible nor advisable for a student to read everything available on all topics under the sun. But it is important, nevertheless, for you to have some basic knowledge about most subjects. This will

- (1) **improve your general awareness,**
- (2) **boost your confidence,**
- (3) **sharpen your analytical skills** because you would be able to use information from different sections and even do a comparative study, if needed, it will also.

- (4) **improve your thinking skills** because as the quantity of facts will increase, you will be pushed to think about all of them. In this manner you will improve many of your skills, not just one. Also, one should not forget that as a manager one needs to know about not just one field but many. Marketing requires more than just the knowledge of specific sector.

So, to begin with a student should open oneself to reading about varied subjects and not just a selected few. Then it becomes important to decide how much to read and from where to read. The best and age old golden option is Newspaper. A good student **MUST** develop a habit of reading a newspaper properly everyday. You would say that you do already. In that case, answer the following questions and check yourself?

- * What is the most influential political news of the last week ?
- * What important discovery or research has been made in the field of science, technology or medicine in the gone month?
- * Which book was released by an Indian or American author in the gone week ?
- * Who is the Chief Minister of Gujarat ?
- * When did Einstein die ?
- * What is article 377 of the Indian constitution?
- * What was Rowlatt Act? Which year was it passed in ?
- * Who is rated the best Badminton player in the world ?
- * Who is playing Danial Pearl's wife in the Hollywood film being made on the Journalist's life and murder by terrorists ?
- * Which film received the National Award this year?

Check your caliber as a reader now on the basis of the following result card.

Correct Answers	Result
0 – 3	Poor Reader
4 – 7	Average Reader
8 – 10	Good Reader

Now, you know yourself and what are your weaknesses. You would have noticed for yourself while answering the questions.

That despite reading the newspaper everyday you are not updated about the ongoing in every field. This is the first step towards becoming a good reader. You should choose wisely what newspaper or magazines you read. Most advisable would be The Hindu, Indian Express, The Times of India. You can choose from the following magazines India Today, Frontline, Outlook, The Economist. You should also read some books on History, Philosophy and literature as and when you have the time. But even wise reading must be done selectively so as not to waste time, don't read all articles and reports in the newspaper but intelligently choose after having read all headlines.

➡ **TIP :** Use this reading habit to improve your vocabulary. Each day list out the new words you come across. Classify them under subjects, eg. Science, Sports, Politics, Literature. Learn their meanings and use them frequently. This will help you understand the jargon of different fields.

Now, let us quickly recall all that we have stated and discussed in this section and list the

MUST DOs FOR A GOOD READER

- * Read about different fields, don't restrict yourself to one.
- * Do intelligent reading, don't waste time reading junk information.
- * Read only from good newspapers and magazines
- * Utilise maximum time, read while traveling, waiting etc.
- * Try to indulge in a discussion everyday about what you read that day
- * Improve your vocabulary alongside reading

II. INTEREST OF READER

This factor is closely connected to the first factor. In fact, it is this factor that chiefly decides the subjects we choose to read about. Just like all fingers in a hand are not of the same size, our interest in every field cannot be of the same level. This is why we choose certain fields and eliminate others. e.g; while walking on the road, if there is a large poster of a bike newly launched in market, it is more likely that a teenage or a young boy would stop by to read the details about the bike rather than a girl who would probably stop by to read information on Jewellery or garments ranges. This is just difference of interests. This is the difference that decides the store of one's knowledge. Ordinarily, it is alright for a person to seek information about one feels drawn to the area of his/her interest. But a student should develop a habit of arousing an interest in different kind of fields equally.

III. READING APTITUDE

Reading Aptitude is different from reading skills. The points and factors discussed up till now, constitute reading skill and are regarding the manner you read. Reading Aptitude is what gives an upper edge to a student in the RC section or even otherwise if developed properly.

What is Reading Aptitude?

By reading aptitude, we mean the approach that you take while reading a passage or reading anything. The mindset with which you read it and what is your motive or expectation from the passage. Simply put, Reading aptitude is what do you want from reading. If you approach a reading piece only for the purpose of reading, it to collect facts to add to your existing store of knowledge or only as a practice to improve your reading speed or merely as an examination exercise you would not receive the same results as you will if you read the passage with a different attitude.

Consider every piece of written information as a prospective useful draft.

Begin with the rule of WIIFM - what's in it for me. Once you have used your wisdom to decide if the passage is worth reading. Approach the passage as a mystery novel. There are hidden clues you must look for. From the beginning stay a careful, clever reader. Remember the first reading itself should give you all you may need to have from a passage.

If there are facts in the passage, quickly decide, as you read, which of these are important enough to be memorized and memorize them.

If there is an argument in the passage, keep trail of how the argument proceeds and what are the different evidences offered.

In such a passage, as you read, involve your mind with the passage and form an opinion about the argument.

If a passage is about philosophy offering a philosophical perspective as you read, form a short summary of the philosophical theory in simple words.

If the essay describes a process or an event, then as you read on, form a chain of events in your mind.

Keeping these points in mind, will improve your reading and retaining efficiency greatly. What we have to target and achieve is not GOOD READING rather what we must try and attain is EFFECTIVE READING. A good reader may or may not be just as good at comprehension and analysis but an Effective Reader would definitely perform in comprehension and Analysis of data just as well. So, try and be an EFFECTIVE READER.

TYPE OF QUESTIONS

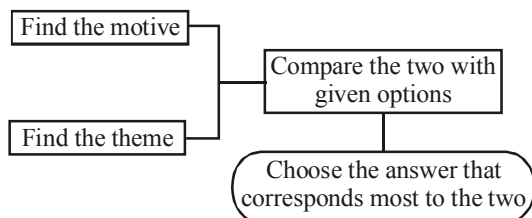
I. THE MAIN IDEA OR THEME BASED QUESTIONS

In this type of questions the passage will be followed by a question with certain statements which may or may not be the central idea of the given passage, you have to choose the statement that will best qualify as the central idea discussed in the passage.

The question can also ask for the most suitable title for the passage. Which will also correspond to the central theme in the passage. Another form in which this type of question can be asked is 'which of the following statement is best supported by the passage'. In this question you may be given statements more than one of which can be inferred from the passage but only one statement will be best supported by the passage, which will be the central theme of the passage.

Even for choosing a title as in Passage, one must compare all the given options with the theme and the option that corresponds best with the theme can be chosen as the title.

This way we reach the **MT - method**, i.e. the motive, theme method.



- II. The second type of questions are the **View Of The Author** regarding the main point discussed in the passage. In this type of questions, the questions will test your understanding of the author's view and opinion stated in passage about the central and even subordinate issue. The question may be about a specific point that author makes or a general stand that author takes. It can question you about writer's attitude towards the central idea whether or not he agrees with it, the question can also be about more than one opinion of the author, The following are the examples of this type of questions.

HOW TO ANSWER QUESTION ABOUT AUTHOR'S VIEWS

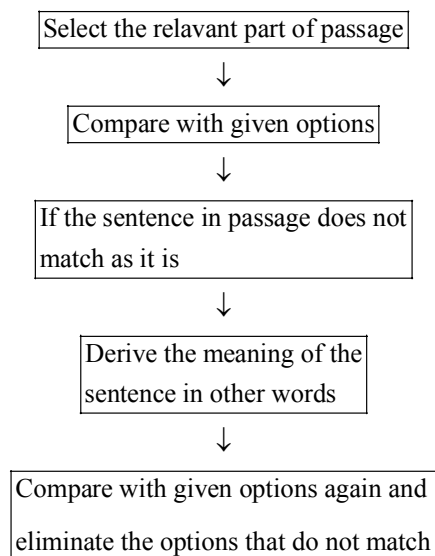
To answer questions about Author's opinions, one should follow the inference technique.

By inference one means understanding the passage and deriving a logical conclusion from it. The questions can be about opinions of author mentioned directly in the passage or views that are indirectly expressed in the passage.

For the views directly mentioned in the passage the reader should locate the relevant part of the passage and choose the right answer.

On the other hand in some questions the opinion of the author may not be directly displayed in the passage and will have to be inferred from some sentences in the passage.

STEPS INVOLVED IN INFERENCE METHOD :



- III. Choosing the Correct or Wrong Statement on the basis of the given passage.

This type of question demands the students to derive conclusions and inferences from the given passage. This type of question will have four statements and of the four options you be asked to choose the correct or the incorrect statement in the context of the passage.

- IV. **Supporting Idea Question** : These type of questions are aimed at measuring a student's capacity to distinguish the main idea from the supporting idea. Also, this type of a question will test your ability to differentiate ideas. That are explicitly stated in a passage from the ideas that are implied by the author.

These type of questions usually focus on a specific paragraph and their meaning as a contribution to the whole passage.

The question may ask you about facts mentioned in the passage or ideas stated or implied in the passage. It may even demand you to draw conclusion from a specific passage.

HOW TO DEAL WITH SUPPORTING IDEA QUESTIONS

Since supporting Idea questions mostly focus on a particular paragraph or a specific section of the passage, the first step of the answering should be locating the relevant section in the passage. Following this the answer could either be supplied by the passage directly or will have to be picked up through inference.

- V. **INFERENCE BASED QUESTION**

By inference, it is meant reaching a logical conclusion after analysis. In questions such as these, the answer would not be available directly in the passage.

- VI. **STYLE AND TONE QUESTIONS**

These questions are about the language of the passage and mostly aimed at testing your language skills. The different type of style and Tone questions are

A. Synonym and Antonym questions

In these you may be given a word from the passage and asked for a synonym or antonym of the given word.

B. Meanings of words and phrases

In this type of question you can be given a word or phrase from the passage and asked to replace them with most suitable word.

C. Tone of the passage

This type of question asks about the tone of the passage, i.e. what is the style of writing of the passage. The following can be some examples of different tones and style of writing a passage.

STYLE

1. Descriptive – When the passage is only describing a situation or process.
2. Illustrative – When the passage gives several examples to explain a particular idea it is describing.
3. Argumentative – When the passage is in form of an argument giving more than one point of view which may differ.
4. Analytical – When the passage, besides giving information or idea, also studies the effects and causes of the idea it is explaining.

TONE

1. Pleading – When the language of the passage is that of request.
2. Prescribing – If the passage is trying to give an advice to the reader.
3. Dogmatic – When the passage takes a strong stand and preaches to the reader that, it is the right stand.
4. Consoling – When the passage tries to give explanations for, and pacify the result if an event or proceed or idea that has caused some harm or grief.

⇒ TIP:

1. To make finding answers easy and quick you can first read the question before reading the passage
2. Retain true-false, short, straight and date based questions in mind.
3. As you read the passage mark the answers for these questions
4. For the longer questions you can use inference.

SAMPLE PASSAGE**ILLUSTRATIVE PASSAGE-1**

Directions : Read the following passages and answer the questions that follows :

As a medium of literary expression, the common language is inadequate. Like the man of letters, the scientist finds it necessary to "give a purer sense to the words of the tribe". But the purity of scientific language is not the same as the purity of literary language. The aim of the scientist is to say only one thing at a time, and to say it unambiguously and with the greatest possible clarity. To achieve this, he simplifies and jargonises. In other words, he uses the vocabulary and syntax of common speech in such a way that each phrase is susceptible to only one interpretation; and when the vocabulary and syntax of common speech are too imprecise for his purpose he invites a new technical language, or jargon specially designed to express the limited meaning with which he is professionally concerned. At its most perfectly pure form, scientific language ceases the matter of words and terms into mathematics.

The literary artist purifies the language of the tribe in a radically different way. The scientist's aim, as we have seen, is to say one thing, and only one thing at a time. This, most emphatically, is not the aim of the literary artist. Human life is lived simultaneously on many levels and has many meanings. Literature is a device for reporting the multifarious facts and expressing their various significances. When the literary artist undertakes to give a pure sense to the words of his tribe, he does so with the express purpose of creating a language capable of conveying, not the single meaning of some particular science, but the multiple significance of human experience, its most private as well as on its more public levels.

1. The passage highlights the difference between:
 - (1) the language of science and of literature
 - (2) the language of the tribe and that of a civilised man.
 - (3) jargon and the language of the common man
 - (4) the central purpose of science and literature

Explanation :

This is a thematic question and regards the basic theme of the given passage. A careful reading of the passage will give you an idea as to what is the central idea in the passage. You can eliminate the wrong answers to reach the right option.

- (1) This statement is true according to the passage. There is a difference between the language of science and language of literature. This, also, is the central idea in the passage because the focus of the passage in all three paragraphs is to describe the language of science and literature emphasizing the difference between the two.
- (2) This cannot be correct because there is no mention whatsoever of the language of the civilized man and its being different from the language of the tribe.
- (3) This statement is true, the paragraph does talk about jargon and common speech and also mentions the difference between the two but it is not the central theme of the passage. Since the question asks about what is being 'highlighted', this cannot be the correct answer.
- (4) This statement is also true, the passage does bring out certain differences between science and literature. Thus, there can be an ambiguity between option (1) and (4). But the difference between science

and literature as talked about in the passage are differences between the language of science and literature and the aim of a scientist and a literary artist through that. Therefore, (1) will be correct answer.

2. 'Jargon' in the context of the passage means:

- (1) difficult language
- (2) technical language
- (3) language with limited meaning
- (4) mathematical language

Explanation :

'Jargon' in the context of the passage means this question is about language or style of the passage. The meaning of a particular word could be found out in the context of a specific sentence or even with respect to the general idea of the passage as we are asked to do in this question.

In questions like this one should find out the specific sentence or phrase where the word has been used. In this case it is a new technical language or jargon specially designed to express limited meaning."

- (1) This sentence of the passage does not at all give a sense that jargon means difficult language. It is a specially designed language to express the limited meanings a scientist is concerned with. It may not necessarily be difficult. This option can, thus, be eliminated
- (2) This may be the answer because the sentence mentions technical language. In the sense of the sentence the scientist cannot use common speech to explain scientific meanings and, therefore, uses a new technical language or Jargon. This explains that Jargon is technical language. This is the correct answer.
- (3) This option at first thought appears to be the correct answer, because in the sentence 'Jargon' is followed by limited meaning but when studied closely, the sentence says Jargon expresses the limited meaning of the scientific language and is not necessarily a language of limited meaning.
- (4) Mathematical language cannot be the answer because there is no reference to mathematics in the passage with respect to the use of word 'Jargon'

3. The purpose of literature according to the passage is to :

- (1) express views privately as well as publicly
- (2) report multifarious facts of life
- (3) view life from various planes
- (4) none of the above

Explanation :

This is a supportive idea question. The question is not about the central theme of the passage but the supportive idea in the passage. In attempting this, a student should first single out the relevant paragraph and then answer the question

- (1) This is incorrect because no such idea is even mentioned in the passage
- (2) This is the right answer. In the relevant paragraph of the passage, it is mentioned "literature is a device for reporting the multifarious facts.
- (3) This is not necessarily true. Yes, the passage mentions that "life is tired at various planes" but there is no mention of literature and its purpose in relation to this. This option can, therefore, be eliminated.

4. The language of science is :

- (1) precise
- (2) verbose
- (3) ambiguous
- (4) none of these

Explanation :

This is an Inference question. There is no direct mention of what kind of a language is language of science but the answer can be inferred from the aim of the scientist.

- (1) This is a right answer because 'precise' means exact and unambiguous. If a scientist must say only one thing at a time & say it with greatest clarity and unambiguously, then the language should be exact or precise. So, this is the right answer.
- (2) This cannot be the right answer 'verbose' means to use more words than are needed. According to the passage, the opposite will be true. This is incorrect.
- (3) This, also, is wrong. The passage clearly mentions that a scientist must speak unambiguously'. The language of science in that case can never be ambiguous.
- (4) This is not the answer.

5. According to the passage:

- (1) language of science is pure
- (2) language of literature is pure
- (3) the language of science and that of literature, each in its own way, makes for pure expression
- (4) none of the above

Explanation :

This question can be attempted through elimination, checking each option for factual and thematic accuracy.

- (1) The passage does not make such an absolute statement about purity of language but does not say anything like language of science is pure.
- (2) Same as the above option, this cannot be taken as a completely true statement in context of the given passage
- (3) This is the right answer. The second line of the passage talks about the aim of man of letters and scientist, both give a pure sense to the word of the tribe'. Through this sentence we can infer that language of science and literatures both make for purer expression though in ways different from each other as mentioned in the next line.
- (4) This is not the answer

6. The word 'unambiguously' (underlined) can best be replaced by :

- (1) vaguely
- (2) dubiously
- (3) explicitly
- (4) amiably

Explanation :

This is the synonym-antonym type question, find the word that is nearest to the word given in question.

- (1) Vaguely- This is opposite of unambiguously. Hence, not the answer
- (2) Dubiously- This also means not clear or exact, hence wrong answer.
- (3) Explicitly- This word means clearly and, thus, can be used in place of unambiguously. So, this is the answer
- (4) Amiably- This word has no relation with the words unambiguously and, thus, cannot be used in its place.

Exercise

DIRECTIONS: Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions that follow :

PASSAGE - 1

Scarce diamonds are more valuable than the clusters of smaller crystals known as bort and carbonado. These diamonds are large single crystals of genuine crystalline carbon.

Diamonds are found in diamantiferous earth that is located in both open-air pits and underground mines. To retrieve the diamonds, the earth is crushed and concentrated. The concentrated material is then sorted by passing it over streams of water on greased tables. Since diamonds are water repellent 'they will stick to the grease while the other minerals will absorb water and pass over the grease. The diamonds are then removed from the grease and cleaned, examined, sorted and graded. The best diamonds are noted for their cleavage, their translucence and their colour.

All diamonds have a natural line of cleavage along which they may be split and it is essential to split them before they are cut and polished. Before they are cut and polished, they look like tiny blue-grey stones; they do not twinkle or shine yet. A perfectly cut and polished diamond has 58 faces arranged regularly over its surface. It will be translucent and colourless, blue, white, green or yellow. The value of a jewel diamond depends largely on its colour or 'water', as it is called professionally. A stone of the finest water is blue-white.

- Which of the following statements is best supported by this passage?
 - The value of a diamond is in large part dependent on the way it is prepared
 - The natural cleavage will determine the value of a diamond
 - Translucent and transparent diamonds are considered the most valuable
 - It is easy to retrieve diamonds from underground mines.
- Which of the following most probably was the subject of the paragraph preceding the passage?
 - A discussion of scarce diamonds
 - A discussion of bot and carbonado
 - A discussion of various colours of diamonds
 - A discussion of means of mining diamonds
- The relationship between the cleavage and translucence of a diamond most similar in relationship between the style of a car and its:
 - colour
 - size
 - price
 - speed
- The word 'genuine' (underlined) could best be replaced by which of the following?
 - Palpable
 - Spurious
 - Real
 - Accurate
- Which of the following statements best describes the organisation of this passage?
 - Comparison and Contrast
 - Chronological Order
 - Statements and Illustration
 - Cause and Result

PASSAGE - 2

What carmakers often mean when they say a car is well-designed, is that it appeals to men, particularly to their less noble instinct. 'beautiful body'. 'she must move like a dream'. But auto-macho is going out of style. In America, 47% of new private cars are bought by women, up from 36% in 1989. Add the influence women have on a family's car-buying, and it is probable that women are more influential overall in choosing cars than men. So, carmakers are learning to create designs that appeal to them. Women tend to buy cheaper cars, largely because working women tend to have lower income. In America, they buy 55% of the small cars, 44% of medium sized ones, but only 28% of large and luxurious models. They put more store on reliability than men do - probably a hidden reason for the rise in Japanese imports.

American carmakers are now tailoring certain versions of their cars with women in mind. And they are learning that design can sway even normally pragmatic women as a comparison between Ford's Thunderbird and Mercury Cougar demonstrates. The Thunderbird is a high performance car - i.e., it goes fast and is styled to look aggressive. Less than 40% of Thunderbirds are bought by women. But the same car with a more sedate body, a different name (The Cougar) and different advertising is as popular with women as it is with men.

- The cars that are most likely to sell would be:
 - sedate, reliable, less macho
 - reliable, cheaper, less macho
 - sedate, cheaper, less macho
 - smooth, sedate, less macho
- Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
 - Sedate cars with different advertising register more sales
 - Small cars are gaining sales
 - Medium cars are gaining sales
 - Luxurious cars are not selling at all
- Suppose VX 1000 is a new car that is taking away customers from Japanese cars. Our closest hypothesis would be VX 1000:
 - must be less macho
 - might be cheaper
 - might be better advertised
 - might be more reliable
- Which of the following statements is false?
 - Auto macho is passe
 - High performance cars are losing out among women
 - Japanese cars are considered more reliable
 - Japanese imports are rising
- Which of the following statements is true?
 - American working women earns much as men
 - Women as buyers are not as pragmatic as men
 - Thunderbird and Mercury are differently designed
 - Women always buy cars with a sedate body

PASSAGE - 3

One simple physical concept lies behind the formation of the stars: gravitational instability. The concept is not new. Newton first perceived it late in the 17th Century.

Imagine a uniform, static cloud of gas in space. Imagine then that the gas is somehow disturbed so that one small spherical region becomes a little denser than the gas around it so that the small region's gravitational field becomes slightly stronger. It now attracts more matter to it and its gravity increases further, causing it to begin to contract. As it contracts its density increases which increases its gravity even more so that it picks up even more matter and contracts even further. The process continues until the small region of gas finally forms a gravitationally bound object.

11. The primary purpose of the passage is to:
 - (1) describe a static condition
 - (2) support a theory considered outmoded
 - (3) depict the successive stages of a phenomenon
 - (4) demonstrate the evolution of the meaning of a term
12. It can be inferred from this passage that the author views the information contained within it as :
 - (1) lacking in elaboration
 - (2) original but obscure
 - (3) speculative and unprofitable
 - (4) uncomplicated and traditional
13. With which of the following words can you replace the word uniform as given in this passage?
 - (1) Uniting (2) Varying
 - (3) Gaseous (4) Unvarying
14. What does the underlined word 'it' stand for in the passage?
 - (1) Gravitational instability
 - (2) Cloud of gas
 - (3) Small spherical denser region
 - (4) Matter.
15. The author provides information that answers which of following questions?
 - A. What causes the disturbances that changes the cloud from its original static condition?
 - B. How does this small region's increasing density affect its gravitational field?
 - C. What is the end result of the gradually increasing concentration of the small region of gas?
 - (1) A only (2) B only
 - (3) B and C only (4) A, B and C

PASSAGE - 4

Of the many aspects of public administration, the ethical aspect is perhaps the most important but the least codified. While administrative rules and procedures have been codified in various public documents and manuals, there is no manual for the ethics of public servants.

While organisational behaviour analyses the factors which influence the behaviour of individuals in an organisation, ethics refers to those norms and standards which behaviour of the people in an organisation must conform to. While behaviour analysis deals with factual aspects, ethics relates to the normative aspects of administration. The normative aspects are of the greatest significance. Just as for an individual if character is lost,

everything is lost, so also for an administration if the ethics is lost, everything is lost. Neither efficiency nor loyalty could be substitute for high ethical standards. In India, though there is no ethical code for public administrators, there are what are called, the Government Servants' Conduct Rules. These rules lay down what constitutes misconduct for the public servants. It is apparently implied that such misconduct, which is not permitted, is also unethical conduct.

16. As per the passage, organisational behaviour is:
 - (1) same as ethics in organisations
 - (2) different from ethics in organisations
 - (3) human behaviour in organisations including ethics
 - (4) none of these
17. Ethics is to an administration, what character is for:
 - (1) an administrator (2) an official
 - (3) an individual (4) none of these
18. Government Servants' Conduct Rules are meant for :
 - (1) guiding the ethical conduct of government servants
 - (2) guiding what constitutes misconduct for public
 - (3) guiding what constitutes misconduct for government servants
 - (4) none of these
19. The underlined word 'manual' in the context of the given passage means:
 - (1) hand operated (2) physical
 - (3) guide book (4) none of these

PASSAGE - 5

It is difficult to reconcile the ideas of different schools of thought on the question of education. Some people maintain that pupils of school should concentrate on a narrow range of subjects which will benefit them directly in their subsequent careers. Others contend that they should study a wide range of subjects so that they not only have the specialized knowledge necessary for their chosen careers but also sound general knowledge about the world they will have to work and live in. Supporters of the first theory state that the greatest contributions to civilization are made by those who are expert in their trade or profession. Those on the other side say that, unless they have a broad general education, the experts will be too narrow in their outlook to have sympathy with their fellows or a proper sense of responsibility towards humanity as a whole.

20. What is the passage about?
 - (1) Reconciliation of two different ideas about education
 - (2) Projecting two different ideas about education
 - (3) Career-oriented education
 - (4) Broad-based education
21. According to the passage which one of the following statements is true about broad general knowledge?
 - (1) Without it no one would get a job
 - (2) Specialization is incomplete without it
 - (3) It teaches us about different things
 - (4) It broadens one's outlook
22. Supporters of the first theory would not agree with:
 - (1) experts have contributed most to the progress in the modern world
 - (2) students should study a few subjects that will help them in their profession
 - (3) people with broad general education have not contributed much to civilization
 - (4) students should not undertake any specialised work

23. "School of thought" can best be explained as :
- (1) groups of people who are schooled to think
 - (2) groups of people having different perception on a particular subject
 - (3) groups of people belonging to different schools
 - (4) groups of people whose job is to think .
24. According to the second school of thought education will not be very effective, if students:
- (1) do not have a wide general education
 - (2) have inadequate knowledge of their own work
 - (3) ignore the study of fine arts
 - (4) concentrate on only a few subjects

PASSAGE - 6

As heart disease continues to be the number one killer in the United States, researchers have become increasingly interested in identifying the potential risk factors that trigger heart attacks. High-fat diets and "life in the fast lane" have long been known to contribute to the high incidence of heart failure.

But according to new studies, the list of risk factors may be significantly longer and quite surprising.

Heart failure, for example, appears to have seasonal and temporal patterns. A higher percentage of heart attacks occur in cold weather and more people experience heart failure on Monday than on any other day of the week. In addition, people are more susceptible to heart attacks in the first few hours after waking. Cardiologists first observed this morning phenomenon in the mid-1980 and have since discovered a number of possible causes. An early-morning rise in blood pressure, heart rate and concentration of heart stimulating hormones, plus a reduction of blood flow to the heart, may all contribute to the higher incidence of heart attacks between the hours of 8.00 A.M. and 10.00 A.M.

In other studies, both birthday and bachelorhood have been implicated as risk factors. Statistics reveal that heart attack rates increase significantly for both females and males in the few days immediately preceding and following their birthdays. And unmarried men are more at risk for heart attacks than their married counterparts. Though stress is thought to be linked in some way to all of the aforementioned risk factors, intense research continues in the hope of future comprehending why and how heart failure is triggered.

25. What does the passage mainly discuss?
- (1) Cardiology
 - (2) Diet and stress as factors in heart attacks
 - (3) Seasonal and temporal patterns of heart attacks
 - (4) Risk factors in heart attacks
26. The underlined word 'potential' could best be replaced by which of the following ?
- (1) Harmful
 - (2) Possible
 - (3) Unknown
 - (4) Primary
27. According to the passage which of the following is not a possible cause of many heart attacks?
- (1) Decreased blood flow to the heart
 - (2) Increased blood pressure
 - (3) Lower heart rate
 - (4) Increase in hormones
28. Which of the following is cited as a possible risk factor?
- (1) Getting married
 - (2) Rainy weather
 - (3) Eating fatty foods
 - (4) Driving fast

29. As used in the passage, which of the following could best replace the underlined word 'reveal' ?
- (1) Observe
 - (2) Show
 - (3) Explain
 - (4) Mean
30. Which of the following does the passage infer?
- (1) We now fully understand how the risk factors trigger heart attacks
 - (2) We do not fully understand how the risk factors trigger heart attacks
 - (3) We have not identified risk factors associated with heart attacks
 - (4) We have recently begun to study how risk factors trigger heart attacks

PASSAGE - 7

Today every major anthology of nineteenth-century poetry includes examples of the work which Christina Rossetti produced during her long literary career. Born in 1830, she began composing verse at the age of eleven and continued to write for the remaining fifty three years of her life. Her brother Dante Gabriel Rossetti, himself a poet and painter, soon recognised her genius and urged her to publish her poems. By the time of her death in 1894, Christina had written more than eleven hundred poems and had published over nine hundred of them. Although this work has earned her recognition as the greatest woman poet of the Victorian Age, there is still no authoritative edition of her poetry.

31. The word 'anthology' (line 1) probably means :
- (1) writer
 - (2) collection
 - (3) poem
 - (4) poet
32. Christina Rossetti began writing poetry :
- (1) only after her brother urged her to do so
 - (2) when she was fifty three years old
 - (3) when she was very young
 - (4) when her genius was recognised
33. Christina's brother was probably a good judge of her work because :
- (1) he loved his sister very much
 - (2) he himself published poems
 - (3) he was a poet
 - (4) he was a famous painter
34. By 1894, Christina had :
- (1) published only a few of the many poems she had written
 - (2) published all the poems she had written
 - (3) published all the poems she had written
 - (4) published over nine hundred poems
35. At the time passage was written, Christina Rossetti's poetry :
- (1) was almost unknown
 - (2) was rarely published
 - (3) has made her known as the greatest woman poet of the eighteenth century
 - (4) had not been collected in an authoritative edition

PASSAGE - 8

Both plants and animals of many sorts show remarkable changes in form, structure, growth habits and even mode of reproduction in becoming adapted to different climatic environment, types of food supply or mode of living. This divergence in response to evolution is commonly expressed by

altering the form and function of some parts of the organism, the original identification of which is clearly discernible. For example, the creeping foot of the snail is seen in related marine pteropods to be modified into flapping organ useful for swimming, and is changed into prehensile arms that bear suckorial disks in the squids and other cephalopods. The limbs of modes of life-for swift running (cursorial) as in the horse and antelope, for swinging in trees (arboreal) as in the monkeys, for digging (fossorial) as in the moles and gophers, for flying (volant) as in the bats, for swimming (aquatic) as in the seals, whales and dolphins and for other adaptations. The structures or organs that show main change in connection with this adaptive divergence are commonly identified readily as homologous, in spite of great alterations. Thus, the finger and wristbones of a bat and whale, for instance, have virtually nothing in common except that they are definitely equivalent elements of the mammalian limb.

36. Which is the most appropriate title for the passage based on its content?
- (1) Evolution
 - (2) Our Changing Bodies
 - (3) Adaptive Divergence
 - (4) Changes in Organs
37. The author provides information that would answer which of the following questions:
- A. What factors cause change in organism?
 - B. What is the theory of evolution?
 - C. Could structurally different organs be similar in evolution?
- (1) A only
 - (2) B only
 - (3) A and C only
 - (4) A, B and C
38. The author organises the passage by:
- (1) comparison and contrast
 - (2) general statements followed by examples
 - (3) hypothesis and proof
 - (4) definition of key terms
39. Which of the following words could best be substituted to 'homologous' (underlined) without substantially changing the author's meaning?
- (1) Divergent
 - (2) Corresponding
 - (3) Altered
 - (4) Tactile
40. The author's style can best be described as :
- (1) objective
 - (2) humorous
 - (3) esoteric
 - (4) patronising

PASSAGE - 9

Every survey ever held has shown that the image of an attractive woman is the most effective advertising gimmick. She may sit astride the mudguard of a new car, or step into it ablaze with jewels, she may lie at the man's feet stroking his new socks, she may hold the petrol pump in a Challenging pose, or dance through woodland glades in slow motion in all the glory of new shampoo. Whatever she does her image sells. The gynolatry of our civilisation is written large upon her face, upon hoardings, cinema screens, television, newspapers, magazines, tins, packets, cartons, bottles, all consecrated to the reigning deity, the female fetish. (Her dominion must not be thought to entail the rule of women, for she is not a woman. Her glossy lips and matt complexion, her unfocussed eyes and flawless fingers, her extraordinary hair all floating and shining, curling and gleaming, reveal the inhuman triumph of cosmetics, lighting, focussing and printing). She sleeps unruffled, her lips red and juicy and closed,

her eyes as crisp and black as if newly painted, and her false lashes immaculately curled. Even when she washes her face with a new and creamier toilet soap, her expression is as tranquil and vacant and her paint as flawless as ever. If ever she should appear tousled and troubled, her features are miraculously smoothed to their proper veneer by a new washing powder on a bouillon cube. For she is a doll: weeping, pouting or sinking, running or reclaiming, she is a doll.

41. What point is the writer trying to make when he says "She may lie at a man's feet stroking his new socks" ?
- (1) Women like being subservient
 - (2) Women are observed with clothes
 - (3) This is typical posture of women in advertising
 - (4) Women enjoy this kind of intimacy
42. The 'gynolatry' of one civilisation would suggest all the , following except that:
- (1) women enjoy immense power in modern society
 - (2) the image of women boost sales as few other things can
 - (3) women worship is all pervasive in advertising
 - (4) glamorous and attractive women rare the forte of modern advertising
43. By saying that women depicted in an advertisement is "not a woman" the author implies that:
- (1) in real life women are less attractive
 - (2) the depiction of women in advertisement is grossly artificial and unreal
 - (3) in real life women are more dominant
 - (4) in advertisement, a woman is a mere commercial symbol
44. The author's primary purpose in this passage is :
- (1) to ridicule women
 - (2) to show the dominance of women in advertising
 - (3) to portray the obsession of women with trivial thing
 - (4) to depict the emancipation of women
45. In the last sentence of the paragraph, the word 'doll' is meant to express:
- (1) tenderness
 - (2) delicacy
 - (3) contempt
 - (4) beauty

PASSAGE - 10

A jolly musicologist by the entirely unobjectionable name of Henry Pleasants has written a book called "The Agony of Modern Music". That word 'agony' is right. Much of it is just not written down but improvised. Much of what passes for music of these times is raucous noise and the excuse for persisting with it is that every common youngster understands and likes it. The pleasant fellow concedes that "serious" music is virtually dead. This may be dismissed as yet another pleasantry which the undirected young indulge in. Paul Hindesmith, possibly one of the last of the classical giants, once said that some composers tended to develop an oversublimated technique which produces images of emotions that are far removed from any emotional experience a relatively normal human being ever has. That is just the point. High art can never be totally democratised. There is a barrier between the egghead and the hoipolloi and it would be lazy idealism to ignore this. When Bach played and Beethoven roared, who was then the gentleman? The pity of it is that while talking music to the masses, all known rules are broken and **improvisation** becomes king. That, roughly speaking, is how jazz

was born; by dropping discipline, inspiration, deep personal emotions and every element of creative art, and adopting improvisation as its main rationale. Why, they even tried to smuggle bits of jazz into serious music so that the composers could somehow survive. Now they are going one step further: learn it by ear, don't write down the stuff, make it up as you go along and hope, by these shoddy techniques, that everyone present will applaud and, thus, provide the composer and the performers with their daily bread.

46. The author uses the word 'improvisation' to suggest:
 - (1) making the original more sublime
 - (2) tampering with the original
 - (3) rendering the original more popular
 - (4) simplifying the original
47. According to the author high art cannot be democratised because:
 - (1) high art is over sublimated
 - (2) people differ in their emotional experience
 - (3) masses cannot be expected to appreciate what only the few intelligent can
 - (4) democratising necessarily involved improvisation
48. They tried to introduce bits of jazz in serious music so that:
 - (1) music might survive
 - (2) the masses could take to serious music
 - (3) the new composers might survive
 - (4) music is democratised
49. Which of the following words can best replace the word raucous in the paragraph?
 - (1) Shrill
 - (2) Soothing
 - (3) Pleasant
 - (4) Popular
50. Speaking of the techniques of some composers Paul Hindesmith said that they evoked image of emotions:
 - (1) not experienced by normal people
 - (2) felt only by subnormal people
 - (3) never felt by masses
 - (4) not experienced by eggheads

PASSAGE - 11

If life exists on Mars, it is most likely to be in the form of bacteria buried deep in the planet's permafrost or lichens growing within rocks, say scientists from NASA. There might even be fossilized Martian algae locked up in ancient lake beds, waiting to be found. Christopher McKay of NASA's Ames Research Centre in California told the AAAS that exobiologists, who look for life on other planets, should look for clues among the life forms of the Earth's ultra-cold regions, where conditions are similar to those on Mars.

Lichens, for example, are found within some Antarctic rocks, just beneath the surface where sunlight can still reach them. The rock protects the lichen from cold and absorbs water, providing enough for the lichen's needs, said McKay.

Bacteria have also been found in 3-million-year-old permafrost dug up from Siberia. If there are any bacteria alive on Mars today, they would have to have survived from the time before the planet cooled more than 3 billion years ago. Nevertheless, McKay is optimistic: "It may be possible that bacteria frozen into the permafrost at the Martian South Pole may be viable."

McKay said algae are found in Antarctic lakes with permanently frozen surfaces. Although no lakes are thought to exist on Mars today, they might have existed long ago. If so, the dried-out Martian lake beds may contain the fossilized remains of algae. On Earth, masses of microscopic algae form large, layered structures known as stromatolites, which survive as fossils on lake beds, and the putative Martian algae might have done the same thing, said Jack Farmer, one of McKay's colleagues.

The researchers are compiling a list of promising Martian lake beds to be photographed from spacecraft, said Farmer. Those photographs could help to select sites for landers that would search for signs of life, past or present. "If we find algae on Mars, I would say the Universe is lousy with algae," McKay said. "Intelligence would be another question".

51. The passage is primarily concerned with :
 - (1) the possibility of life on Mars
 - (2) selecting sites for landers on Mars
 - (3) research on Mars
 - (4) findings of Christopher McKay on Mars
52. Lichens survive in the extreme cold conditions of Antarctica on earth for all the following reasons, except :
 - (1) some Antarctic rocks protect lichens beneath their surface
 - (2) bacteria in the Antarctic frost protect lichen from the residual cold after the rock absorbs water
 - (3) sunlight penetrates the surface of the Antarctic rock where lichen grows
 - (4) the Antarctic rocks protect the lichen from cold by absorbing water and leaving enough for the lichen's needs
53. Which of the following statements is not true?
 - (1) If any bacteria are alive today on Mars, they must have survived from the time before the planet cooled
 - (2) Space photographs of Martian craters should reveal to the explorers signs of life there
 - (3) Bacteria frozen into permafrost at the Martian South Pole may be viable
 - (4) On digging up, more than 3 million years old Siberian permafrost has revealed bacteria
54. The most primitive forms of life likely to exist on Mars are all the following, except:
 - (1) villus and spore
 - (2) bacteria
 - (3) algae
 - (4) lichen
55. Exobiologists might find on Mars algae similar to stromatolites on earth because:
 - (1) on our planet stromatolites are formed by microscopic algae
 - (2) martian lake beds may contain fossilized remains of algae similar to stromatolites on earth
 - (3) there is evidence that photosynthesis which takes place in earth's algae can be found in Martian algae too
 - (4) all of the above

PASSAGE - 12

Are the 1980s and 1990s the era of colour? According to some people, they are. Now you can buy radios and electric fans in lavender and pink. Restaurants have an emphasis on flowers and colourful plates. Cars are coming out in pink and aqua. Even bathroom fixtures are being made in "honeydew" and "blond". Part of the importance of the colour of an object is that the colour affects the way one feels about it. You want a vacuum cleaner to look light and easy, which is why it may be coloured in pastels and light colours. (But gardening equipment you want to look powerful. You would never find a lawn mower in pink" but red would be fine). Not very long ago, sheets were always white and refrigerators commonly came in colours like "old gold" "avocado green" and "coppertone". Now those are thought of as old-fashioned. Popular colours change because fashion influences everything. In fact, new colours often spring from the fashion industry. It's a lot cheaper to make a blouse or skirt than a sofa. After people get used to seeing new colours on clothing or towels, they are ready to accept those colours in carpeting, refrigerators, or cars. Colour-analysis consultants have been very successful in recent years. People want to choose the most flattering colours for make up and clothing. Some car designers are even saying that people may begin buying cars of the colour that goes with their skin colouring. This sounds too extreme. It's hard to believe that people are that impressionable!

56. The main subject of the passage is :
 - (1) popular colours today
 - (2) colour consultants
 - (3) the influence of colour
 - (4) colours that flatter people
57. The word "era" in line 1 could best be replaced by which of the following words?
 - (1) Season (2) Age
 - (3) Epic (4) Generation
58. According to the author which of the following is not popular now?
 - (1) Coppertone (2) Colourful cars
 - (3) Pastels (4) Colourful bathroom fixtures
59. According to the author, why would red be a good colour for a lawn mower?
 - (1) Because it is strong
 - (2) Because it is cheap
 - (3) Because it is light
 - (4) Because it is pastel
60. In this passage which of the following are not used as names for colours?
 - (1) Fruit (2) Hair colour
 - (3) Minerals (4) Drinks

PASSAGE - 13

Economic growth involves both benefits and costs. The desirability of increasing production has frequently been challenged in recent years and some have even mentioned that economic growth is merely a quantitative enlargement that has no human meaning or value:

However, economic growth is an increase in the capacity to produce goods and service that people want. Since the product of economic growth can be measured by its value to someone, it is important to ask whose standard of valuation counts.

In the U.S. the value of a product is what purchasers pay for it. That is determined by the purchaser's preferences combined with condition of supply which in turn reflects various other factors, such as natural and technological circumstances of those who supply capital and labour. The value by which we measure a product, synthesize all these factors. Gross National Product (GNP) is the market value of the nation's total output of goods and service.

GNP is not a perfect measure of all the activities involved in economic output. It does not account for the deterioration or improvement in the environment even when they are incidentally results of the production process. On the other hand, it does not count as "Product", many benefits provided as side effect of the economic process. It does not include productive but unpaid work (such as that done by a home maker) and it does not reckon with such other factor as the burdensomeness of work, the length of the work, week and so forth. Nonetheless the GNP concept makes an important contribution to our understanding of how the economy is working while it is not a complete measure of economic

productivity and even less so of "welfare". The level and rate of the increase of GNP are clearly and positively associated with what most people throughout the world see as an improvement in the quality of life. In the long run, the same factor results in a growing GNP and in other social benefits: size and competence of population, state of knowledge, amount of capital and the effectiveness with those are combined and Utilized.

61. The main purpose of the passage is to :
 - (1) argue for the value of increased economic output
 - (2) explain the disadvantages of measuring the life using a scale of material effluence
 - (3) define GNP
 - (4) contrast the American and European GNP
62. The rhetorical purpose of the fourth para of the passage is to :
 - A. Anticipate objection to what the GNP fails to take into account.
 - B. Cite example of "Products", the GNP ought to include.
 - C. Develop the definition of the GNP with specific details.
 - (1) A only (2) B only
 - (3) A, B and C (4) C only
63. We can infer from the passage that of the following, the factor that does not influence the growth of GNP is :
 - (1) the capital available in the country
 - (2) a dependence on spiritual values
 - (3) the efficiency of the production process
 - (4) the condition of the population
64. The critic of the limitations of the measurement of GNP might cite its failure to consider all of the following except :
 - (1) steady increase in worker's leisure time
 - (2) the widespread existence of chemicals in the rivers
 - (3) the valuation of family household management
 - (4) the value of time a salaried stock broker spends on research

PASSAGE-14

In spring, polar bear mothers emerge from dens with three month old cubs. The mother bear has fasted for as long as eight months but that does not stop the young from demanding full access to her remaining reserves. If there are triplets, the most persistent stands to gain an extra meal and it may have the meal at the expense of others. The smallest of the litter forfeits many meals to stronger siblings. Females are protective of their cubs but tend to ignore family rivalry over food. In 21 years of photographing polar bears, I've only once seen the smallest of triplets survive till autumn.

65. Female polar bears give birth during
 (1) spring (2) summer
 (3) autumn (4) winter
66. Mother bear
 (1) takes sides over cubs
 (2) lets the cubs fend for themselves
 (3) feeds only their favourites
 (4) sees that all cubs get an equal share
67. With reference to the passage, the following assumptions have been made :
 A. Polar bears fast as long as eight months due to non availability of prey.
 B. Polar bears always give birth to triplets.
 Which of the assumptions given above is/are valid ?
 (1) A only (2) B only
 (3) Both A and B (4) Neither A nor B

PASSAGE-15

We should preserve nature to preserve life and beauty. A beautiful landscape, full of green vegetation, will not just attract our attention but will fill us with infinite satisfaction. Unfortunately, because of modernization, much of nature is now yielding to towns, roads and industrial areas. In a few places some Natural reserves are now being carved out to avert the danger of destroying Nature completely. Man will perish without Nature, so modern man should continue this struggle to save plants, which give us oxygen, from extinction. Moreover, Nature is essential to man's health.

68. What does 'nature' in the passage mean?
 (1) Countryside covered with plants and trees
 (2) Physical power that created the world
 (3) Inherent things that determine character
 (4) Practical study of plants and animals
69. Which one of the following is the correct statement? According to the passage,
 (1) beauty is only skin-deep
 (2) everything is beautiful in its natural state
 (3) there is beauty in Nature
 (4) Nature is a moral teacher
70. What does the writer suggest?
 (1) We should not modernize, so that Nature can be preserved
 (2) While modernizing we should be careful not to destroy Nature completely
 (3) All Nature has been destroyed by modern living
 (4) Carving out Natural reserves will hamper the growth of industries

71. What does 'struggle' in the passage mean?
 (1) Man's struggle to exist in the world
 (2) Man's struggle to save Nature
 (3) Man's struggle to catch up with modern trends
 (4) Man's struggle to conserve oxygen
72. Why a beautiful landscape 'will fill us with infinite satisfaction'?
 (1) We love beauty
 (2) It is full of green vegetation
 (3) It will ensure our future existence
 (4) It will show our command over Nature

PASSAGE-16

Finally, there arises the question as to our leadership potential. Although the entire younger generation by the very definition is a potential storehouse of leadership, I feel that our universities provide the richest reservoir from which the future leaders of this country will be forthcoming. I have had occasion to travel fairly extensively and to visit a number of university centres in the country. It is deeply encouraging to see that despite the economic and other difficulties which these young men and women have to face they are full of energy and idealism. The real question is whether we have the ability and imagination to tap this reservoir, to fan the sparks of youthful idealism into bright flames that would illumine the future of India – the India of our dreams for the building of which countless generations have struggled and sacrificed; an India socially emancipated, economically prosperous, politically integrated, militarily strong and spiritually dynamic.

73. Which one of the following is correct? The writer believes that India is
 (1) socially emancipated
 (2) economically prosperous
 (3) spiritually dynamic
 (4) None of the above
74. What is the author's tone in the passage?
 (1) Optimistic (2) Autocratic
 (3) Pessimistic (4) Partisan
75. Where will the future leaders of the country mainly come from?
 (1) The families of present political leaders
 (2) The community of social scientists
 (3) The universities
 (4) The entire younger generation
76. Which one of the following is correct? For realizing the India of our dreams,
 (1) we should have the imagination to exploit our budding leadership potential
 (2) we should admire the sacrifices made by several generations
 (3) we should bring about more technological advancements
 (4) we should provide better facilities for sports

77. Which one of the following is correct? What is deeply encouraging about educated young men and women of India is that
- (1) they come from the richest reservoirs of leaders
 - (2) they are full of energy and idealism because of quality education
 - (3) they are full of youthful idealism and imagination
 - (4) they are full of energy and idealism in spite of economic and other difficulties they face as students
78. The amount of oxygen available in the atmosphere of Mars is
- (1) probably very small
 - (2) none at all
 - (3) a thousand times more than that in the earth's atmosphere
 - (4) about as much as there is in the Moon's atmosphere
79. The reason suggested by the writer for the difference in colour between the rocks on Mars and those on the Moon is that
- (1) Mars is very cold compared to other planets
 - (2) there is no oxygen at all in the atmosphere of the Moon
 - (3) the rocks on Mars have become old
 - (4) the rocks on Mars are unoxidized
80. According to the passage
- (1) the amount of oxygen in Mars has remained constant
 - (2) once there was more oxygen in the atmosphere of Mars than there is now
 - (3) at one time Mars was swept by fire, which turned the rocks into a reddish colour
 - (4) severe storms caused the weathering of rocks
81. The presence of colouration in Mars is quite suggestive of the presence of
- (1) brownish rocks in the atmosphere
 - (2) grey and brown rocks on the moon
 - (3) oxygen in the atmosphere in the past
 - (4) no oxygen at all in the atmosphere

PASSAGE-17

All attempts to detect oxygen in the atmosphere of Mars have been unsuccessful. and it can be concluded that the amount of oxygen is not more than one-thousandth part of the amount in the Earth's atmosphere. Indirect evidence of oxygen is provided by the ruddy colour of Mars, which is unique among the heavenly bodies. This red colour is suggestive of rocks that have been completely oxidized and it may be contrasted with the grey or brownish colour of the rocks on the Moon, which have remained unoxidised because of the absence of oxygen. It appears probable that Mars may be a planet where the weathering of rocks followed by their oxidation, has resulted in the almost complete depletion of oxygen from the atmosphere.

Hints & SOLUTIONS

PASSAGE - 1

1. (3) is the right answer. (4) can be eliminated because it is incorrect factually, the passage suggests the opposite. (1) and (2) could be vaguely inferred from the passage but not clearly so. On the other hand (3) can be inferred with more certainty if we consider the lines, "The best diamonds are noted for their cleavage, their translucence and their colour" and "the value of a jewel diamond depends.... blue white". From both these lines, we can reach the conclusion that (3) is the most appropriate statement.
Tip - In questions such as these, more than one statement may appear correct. To clear the ambiguity, choose true statement which is most certain and more explicitly stated or inferred through the passage.
2. (1) is the right answer. Since the first sentence of the given passage is about Scarce diamond but immediately after the discussion moves to another topic. The previous paragraph must have been about scarce diamond. Only then can the paragraph end talking about scarce diamond and move to the next topic.
3. (1) is the right answer. Translucence of a diamond is the clarity with which are can see through it and it depends on the natural cleavage because if only a diamond is properly cut by the cleavage, it will be translucent. This relationship is most similar to a car's relation with its colour because both include vision. Translucence of a diamond decides its colour also.
4. (3) is the right answer. (1) and (2) can be eliminated because they do not mean anything near genuine. Of (2) and (4), (2) is the more appropriate answer because genuinenity is not so much about accuracy. 'Genuine' means real, not fake.
5. (3) is the right answer. The passage consists of statements and illustrations. There are statements about diamonds, types of diamond, their value and characteristic. And there are illustrations about retrieving of diamonds from mines and the process of cutting and polishing them.

PASSAGE - 2

6. (2) is the right answer. To answer this question one needs to do complex inference. There are these factors, of which, we have to choose the most appropriate combination:
1. Reliable
 2. Cheaper
 3. Less macho
 4. Sedate
 5. Smooth
- Considering the increasing influence of women in car buying decisions and the changing trends of the car-market factor (1) and (2) are very important and must be included. Since factor (3) is included in all option then the correct answer will be reliable, cheaper and less macho-i.e. Option (2).
7. (1) is the right answer. The last line of the passage explains that this is a true statement. But it cannot be inferred from the passage that either of (2), (3) or (4) is true. Though the passage mentions that women buy smaller cars but it does not necessarily mean that sale of small cars is rising.
8. (4) is the right answer. This is an analytical question. The best selling point of a Japanese car is that they are more reliable. If a car is to compete successfully with the Japanese car it should beat it at its selling point, means, it should be more reliable than the Japanese cars. Thus, (4) is the correct answer.
9. (4) is the right answer. (1), (2) and (3) are true statements. (4) is incorrect because it is not the Japanese imports (all products imported by Japan) that are rising but import of Japanese cars.
10. (3) is the right answer. (1) is untrue, first sentence of the second paragraph tells us women tend to earn less than men, (2) is also untrue as the second sentence of second paragraph suggests. (c), on the other hand, is true. Refer to line- "The thunderheads is a high.... as it is with men". This line clearly suggests that difference between the two cars is that of designing.

PASSAGE - 3

11. (3) is the answer. The given passage is describing a process, not a static condition. It gives details about different stages of formation of a star, a phenomenon. It does not talk about any theory or meaning of a word. Its a simple descriptive passage.
12. (4) is answer, from the first sentence, we can make out author's view of the information contained in the passage. He calls it simple and also says that the concept is not new which means he considers it uncomplicated (simple) and traditional (not new).
13. (4) is the right answer. 'Uniform' means same everywhere which is same as unvarying or which means unchanging. Unvarying is a synonym of 'uniform'
14. (3) is the answer. A pronoun always is used in place of the noun used previously immediately before it. One can also check the subject of the previous sentence to find the right noun for a pronoun. Of the given 4 options only spherical denser region figures in the sentence previous to the one in which it appears. So, it will be the right answer.

15. (3) is the answer. The first question is not answered by the text. So, options (1) and (4) can be eliminated because question 2 is in both remaining options, it will be answered by the passage, we should then check for the question 3. It is answered "Constricts even further". Thus, question 2 and 3 are answered by the passage.

PASSAGE - 4

16. (2) from the first two lines of the second paragraph, it can be inferred that organisational behavior is different from ethics and not same. Organisation behavior analyses factors influencing human behavior but it does not include ethic. Therefore, (2) and (3) can be eliminated.
17. (3) Refer to the line "Just as for an individual if character is lost for an administration if the ethics is lost every thing is lost." This line clearly suggests that the relationship between an individual and character is same as that between an administration and ethics.
18. (3) Refer to the line "These rules lay down what constitutes misconduct for public servant". Public servant is same as government servant.
19. (3) 'Manual' means both hand operated and guide book but in the given context it means the latter.

PASSAGE - 5

20. (2) The passage does not try to reconcile the two different ideas. It only projects them, therefore, (1) is eliminated, (3) and (4) are the two different ideas but alone neither of them can be the answer. So, the right answer then is (2).
21. (4) The passage says that unless we have a broad general education, our outlook will remain narrow (last line). This means that general education broadens our outlook. It is not at all suggested that without general education, one cannot get a job or one can't achieve specialization.
22. (4) Supporters of the 'first theory' i.e. pupils should concentrate on a narrow range of subject, will not agree with absence of specialised work. The first theory lays all emphasis on specialised work. The first theory lays all emphasis on specialisation and believes specialised experts have contributed more to the world.
23. (2) By "School of thought", it is meant a particular idea or belief or a perception that is believed by a group of people. It is not a literal school nor does it consist of people of professionally thinkers. Even from the passage one can make out that the people in the two schools will be from various fields like education, social science etc.
24. (1) The second school though believes that a broad general education is very important in a student's education.

PASSAGE - 6

25. (1) The passage talks chiefly about heart attack and not broadly on cardiology, so, (1) is eliminated. The main theme is not risk factors in heart attack although the paragraph mentions the factor very early in the passage because almost 80% of the passage is devoted to discoursing seasonal and temporal patterns of heart attack, therefore, (3) is the answer and not (4).

26. (2) In the context of the passage 'Potential' can only be replaced by 'possible' of the given options. It does not mean 'unknown', so, (3) is eliminated. Potential may seem similar to primary but in the sentence potential does not mean most important but only factors that can possibly cause the risk of a heart attack.
27. (3) The last sentence of the second paragraph gives several factors which may cause an heart attack and its high rate that can cause an attack and not a low heart rate.
28. (3) Refer to second sentence of the first paragraph.
29. (2) 'Show' is a synonym of 'reveal'.
30. (2) The passage concludes on the hope that we will be able to comprehend in future why and how heart attacks are triggered which means we do not now fully understand the risk factors.

PASSAGE - 7

31. This is 'synonym' type question. 'Anthology' means a chronological collection.
(1), (3) & (4) could easily be eliminated from the first read of line 'Anthology of poetry. It can only mean collection of poetry. Thus, (2) is the right answer.
32. This is a factual question. First, locate the relevant lines in the passage. In this case, they are "She begin composing verse at the age of eleven."
(1) Christina Rossetti started publishing her poetry when her brother urged her to do so but she had started writing much earlier. The question asks us about her 'writing' poetry and not 'publishing' poetry this is not right answer, therefore.
(2) This is factually incorrect according to passage and hence not the answer.
(3) This is true. The passage says she stated writing when she was 11 years of age, which is quite young. This is a probable answer.
(4) This cannot be. Her genius was recognise only after she had written poetry. This not the answer.
Thus, (2) is the right answer
33. This is an inference question. The statement are not directly picked from the passage so the accuracy will be judged through inference elimination.
(1) This cannot be the right answer as t passage does not link D.G. Rossetti's 10 for his sister with his judgments of h poetry.
(2) Though he published poems but it is n suggested anywhere that this is the reas why Dante Gabriel Rossetti was able judge the poetic genius of his sister. Thu this cannot be the right answer
(3) If we refer to the line 'Dante Rosseti, himself a poet and a painter soon recognised her genius .. ' then we can infer that Dante could judge the genius of his sister because h himself was a poet and could, therefore recognise the abilities in his sister.
(4) This, obviously, is wrong. His being painter has nothing to do with his judging: Christina Rossetti's poetic genius.
34. This is a factual question. So, locate the relevant line in the passage before answering. "By the time of her death in 1894, Christina had written more than 1100 poems"

- (1) This is incorrect since Christina published 900 of the 1100 poems she had written.
(2) This is untrue because according to the passage, about 200 of her poems remained unpublished
(3) This is untrue again, she published over 900 poems, she had written over 1100 poems although
(4) This is true. Hence, this is the right answer.
35. This is a factual question but not focused on a sing line. Each statement will have to be individually confirmed from the given passage.
(1) This is untrue since the very first sentence of the passage establishes that Christina Rossetti's poetry is included in all major "anthologies of 19th century poetry. This is not the answer.
(2) This, also, is wrong for reasons same as above.
(3) This statement is factually incorrect that Christina Rosseti lived and wrote poetry in the 19th century and not the 18th century. This is, then, not the answer.
(4) This is the right answer because the last sentence of the passage says that "there is still no authoritative edition of her poetry".

PASSAGE - 8

36. (3) is the appropriate choice of a title for the given passage.
(2), (4) could be eliminated because they are too simplistic to be the title for a scientific passage. (1) cannot be the title because this passage does not emphasise 'Evolution' as such but adaptation as a response to evolution. Because Adaptation is the central idea in the passage, so, (3) will be the right title.
Tip: Whenever a question asks you to choose a title for the given passage, always choose the one nearest to the central theme of the passage.
37. (3) is the right answer. Question 1 is answered in the first statement of the passage. But the passage does not answer the second question. The third question on the other hand is answered by inference in the second last line of the passage. In fact all the examples of different limbs given in the passage are the organs structurally different but similar or homologous when seen in the chain of evolution. Thus, the passage answers question (1) and (3), so (3) is the right answer.
38. (2) is the right answer. (1) is incorrect there are no comparison or contracts between different ideas. There are only statements and examples, thus, (2) is the right answer. (3) and (4) are also incorrect because there is no hypothesis or definitions in the passage either.
39. (2) is the right answer. 'Homo' means similar or of the same kind. (1), (3) can be eliminated because they are opposite to similar. (4) has no relation with the meaning, 'similarly' (2) is the correct answer, homologous means corresponding'.
40. (1) is the right answer. Because the passage has only factual statements and examples the style can best be called objective. It is not humorous or patronizing. It cannot even be called esoteric because the passage gives general information without using much jargon.

PASSAGE - 9

41. (3) is the right answer. This is an inference questions. The main theme of the passage is the image of woman as portrayed in the advertising world. The given line is very important to the central idea of the passage and its meaning can also be found in relation to it. Options (1), (2) and (4) have no connection with the theme or the given line. In the question, (3) is nearest to the opinions of the author in making this statement.
42. (1) is the right answer. Option (1) is obviously incorrect. It is not suggested anywhere in the passage least through the phrase gynolatry of one civilization'. Though 'gynolatry' means worship of women, it is in the advertising world. The paragraph suggests clearly that this does not means women have real power. (2), (3) and (4) options are correct statements and are suggested clearly in the passage.
43. (2) is the right answer. For this we should refer to the lines "Her dominions must not be thought ... reveal the inhuman triumph of cosmetics, lighting, focusing and printing." Option (1) and (3) can be easily eliminated because they are untrue. According to the passage, between (2) and (4), both of which are correct, (2) is a more appropriate answer because it expresses the opinion of author in a better way. The mood and tone of the passage is better described by option (2) than (4). Thus, (2) is the appropriate answer.
44. (2) is the right answer. This question can be answered in relation to the main theme of the passage. Main theme of the passage is the role of women in the advertising world. So, (2) will be the right answer option (1), (3) and (4) are simply incorrect and no such idea or intent is there in the passage.
45. (4) is the right answer. (3) can be eliminated because 'doll' cannot mean contempt. Of the given options (1), (2) and (4), (4) is the most suitable answer because in the general sense of the paragraph, it is the 'beauty' of the woman that is used as the advertising gimmick. It not the tenderness or delicacy that receives emphasis but beauty of a woman.

PASSAGE - 10

46. (2) is the answer 'improvisation' means making changes in the original and in the sense of the paragraph, the changes that have been made are not positive, so, (1), (3) and (4) will be eliminated and the right answer will be (2).
47. (3) is the answer. In the line following the one given in the question the author says that "there is a barrier between the egghead and the holli polli by this he means that there is difference of intelligence between intellectuals and common masses and this difference cannot be ignored. Therefore, the masses cannot appreciate the high Art which a few intelligent men can.
48. (3) is the answer. The relevant line in the passage is "they even tend to 'smuggle bits of jazz into serious music so that the compressors could somehow survive"
49. (1) Shrill, from the reading of the passage, one can make out that 'racous' does not mean anything positive. So, (b), (3) and (4) can be eliminated and (1) is the right answer.
50. (1) is the answer. Refer to the phrase "far removed from any emotional experience a relatively normal human being evil has". He does not talk about masses or subnormal people.

PASSAGE - 11

51. (1) is the answer. The primary concern or the central theme of the passage is possibility of life on mass. The other options are all subordinate ideas dealt with in the passage and are included in (1) itself.
52. (2) is the answer. It is a factually incorrect statement. It is the rock and not Bacteria that saves the lichem from residual cold. Refer to the second line of the third paragraph. "The rock protects the lichens from cold and absorbs water". Bacteria play no role in protection of the lichens.
53. (2) This is not possible the space photographs could help to select sites for landers as mentioned in the passage and not reveal signs of life in mass. This is a false statement. So, (2) is the right answer.
54. (1) is the answer. There organisms are not mentioned in the passage as those likely to exist on mass whereas bacteria, algae and lichens are mentioned in the passage.
55. (3) is the answer

PASSAGE - 12

56. (3) The passage talks about colours and how it affects different things and people and their role in fashion. It talks about popular colours and even flattering colour but they are only references and not the main subject. The main concern of the passage is how colours influence the lives of people.
57. (2) Era means 'Age'
58. (1) is the answer. According to the passage "old gold", "avocados green", and "Coppertone" are considered as old-fashioned now.
59. (1) is the answer. The passage says that a gardening equipment should look powerful and, so, red is fine. Which means red is a strong colour.
60. (1) is the answer, 'blond is a hair colour, 'coppertone and old gold' are minerals and 'honeydew' a drink. So, (2), (3) and (4) are eliminated and (1) is the right answer.

PASSAGE - 13

61. (1) While discussing Economic growth, the author is making a case for real value of increased economic input. This value is the human meaning which is not generally included in what is considered as product. GNP in author's opinion is an incomplete measure of economic output.
62. (3) The fourth paragraph cities the lackings in the definition of GNP and mentions factors it does not includes. It also cities examples of "Products" GNP should include like unpaid but productive work of housewives and finally it also develops the definition of GNP by adding certain towards the end of the paragraph.

63. (2) Spiritual values have nothing whatsoever to do with GNP and have not even been mentioned in the passage.
64. (1) We can answer this question by opposite elimination i.e. we will find out which of the given options are not considered by GNP and eliminate them to reach the right answer. The fourth paragraph says GNP does not account for deterioration in environment which means it fails to consider the chemicals in river so, (2) is eliminated. GNP also does not count the productive but unpaid work of a home maker, so, family household management is also not considered by GNP, thus, (3) gets eliminated, the research work done by a stock broker is also productive but unpaid work and, thus, (4) also gets eliminated. So, (1) is our answer.

PASSAGE-14

65. (4) Refer to 1st sentence of the passage (The cubs were already three months means, so the time of their birth falls in winter.)
66. (2) Refer to second last sentence of the passage.
67. (4) Assumptions 1 is not true as reason of their fasting is not given in the passage. Assumption 2 is also not true as the passage says “ if there are triplet

PASSAGE-15

68. (1) Clear from the reading of the passage.
69. (3) Can be inferred from the beginning of the passage.
70. (2) Can be inferred from the second last sentence of the passage.
71. (2) Can be inferred from 'man should continue this struggle to save plants'.
72. (3) Most appropriate from among the given options.

PASSAGE-16

73. (4) Can be inferred from the last sentence of the passage.
74. (1) Clear from the reading of the passage.
75. (3) Clearly stated in the passage.
76. (1) Can be easily inferred from the passage.
77. (4) Clearly given in the passage.

PASSAGE-17

78. (1) Can be inferred from the first sentence of the passage.
79. (2) Clearly stated in the passage.
80. (2) Can be inferred from the last sentence of the passage.
81. (3) Refer to 'Indirect evidence of oxygen