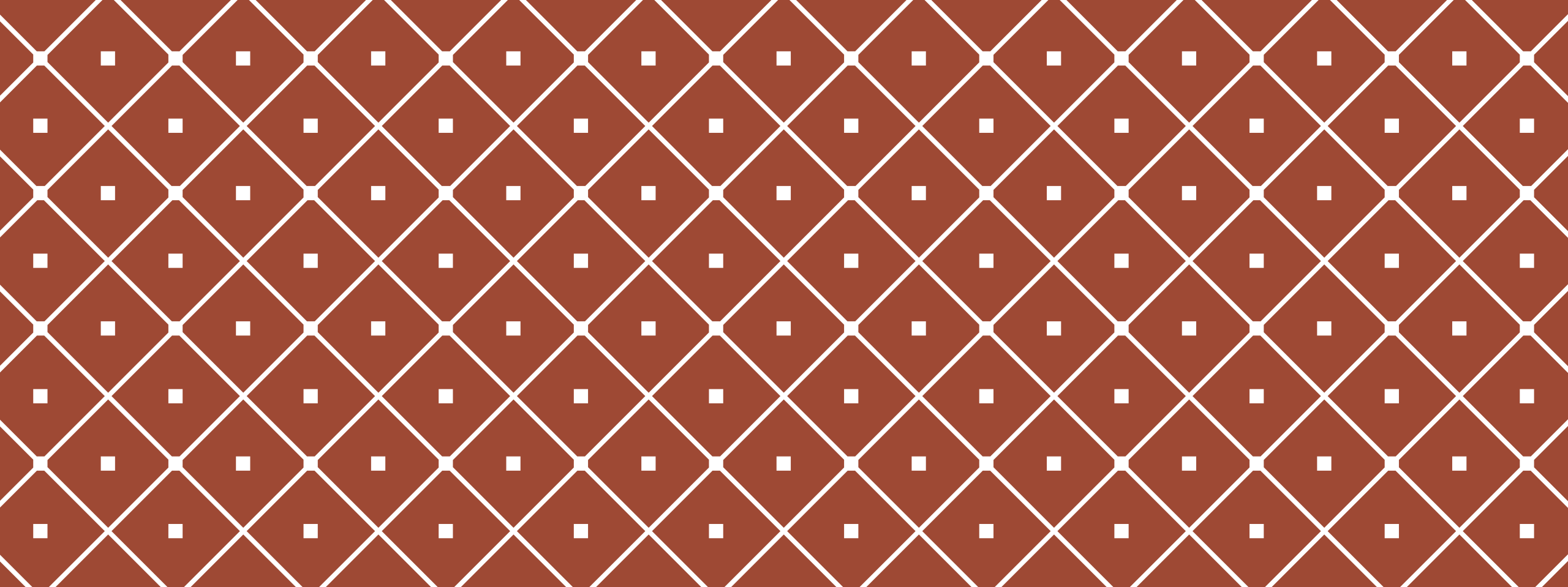




IIT Madras
ONLINE DEGREE



IMPROVE YOUR READING SKILLS

KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN

READING SKILLS

Reading improves your vocabulary. Vocabulary is most important in learning a language.

By actively reading or observing the text (structure of sentences) , you can improve your grammar.

This also leads to better writing and speaking (English for academic and business purposes).

THE RULES FOR COMPREHENSION

Read out loud (at times) – reading and listening

Read a book with a pen.

Do a quick scanning of the book/passage for important key passages/ points.

Read the entire paragraph or the passage before you highlight something.

Pay attention to summary words – therefore, as a result, hence, in short, in conclusion etc.

Circle key words or difficult jargons in a passage.

Paraphrase what you read.

Interact and engage with the text (who is the main character, what issue does this article address? What is the author trying to tell you? Does she make compelling points? Does the author show any bias?) Look for answers while you read.

READING COMPREHENSION FOR TESTS - TIPS

Budget your time

How many passages? How many exercises? How much time?

Less time on short/easy passages and more time on difficult/ longer passages.

Time yourself and stick to the plan.

Reading plan

1. Skim the text : Reading the surface of the text to understand the overall message.

- heading, subheading (subject of the text)
- read the first few sentences of each paragraph.

READING COMPREHENSION FOR TESTS - TIPS

Read the first line (marked in red) of the two paras and try to understand the main topic in each paragraph.

Philosophy of Education is a label applied to the study of the purpose, process, nature and ideals of education. It can be considered a branch of both philosophy and education. Education can be defined as the teaching and learning of specific skills, and the imparting of knowledge, judgment and wisdom, and is something broader than the societal institution of education we often speak of.

Many educationalists consider it a weak and woolly field, too far removed from the practical applications of the real world to be useful. But philosophers dating back to Plato and the Ancient Greeks have given the area much thought and emphasis, and there is little doubt that their work has helped shape the practice of education over the millennia.

READING COMPREHENSION FOR TESTS - TIPS

2. Go ahead with the easiest exercises :

- read the questions and fully understand them.
- understand the keywords or their synonyms (help you identify the answers).

According to the passage given below, is the following statement True or False

a) Educationists consider philosophy a 'weak and woolly' field.

Philosophy of Education is a label applied to the study of the purpose, process, nature and ideals of education. It can be considered a branch of both philosophy and education. Education can be defined as the teaching and learning of specific skills, and the imparting of knowledge, judgment and wisdom, and is something broader than the societal institution of education we often speak of. Many educationalists consider it a weak and woolly field, too far removed from the practical applications of the real world to be useful. But philosophers dating back to Plato and the Ancient Greeks have given the area much thought and emphasis, and there is little doubt that their work has helped shape the practice of education over the millennia.

READING COMPREHENSION FOR TESTS - TIPS

3. Read the text and find the answers.

4. Move on to the next exercise.

Challenges while reading – Lack of rich vocabulary and practise.

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR READING SKILLS?

Read more and read widely

Read and read as much as possible – newspapers, magazines, books, articles etc.

Read something you like in the beginning) – history, films, sports, editorials etc.

Read something different everyday (different themes and genres).

Note down and review new vocabulary.

Keep a notebook and pen handy while you read.

Practise makes reading perfect – read it more than once.

CRITICAL READING

1. Separating facts from opinion.

Facts: information that can be proved true through objective evidence. Facts can be checked for accuracy and thus proved true. Here is a fact: China is the most populous country in the world.

Opinion: belief, judgement or conclusion that cannot be objectively proved true. Here is an opinion: the best treatment for thyroid is homeopathy. (There is no consensus in the scientific community that it is true)

Note: Much of what we read is a mixture of fact and opinion.

CRITICAL READING

2. Detecting propaganda.

Propaganda – information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view. (politicians and advertising agencies) Part of being a critical reader is also to recognise propaganda techniques for the emotional fluff they are.

The most common type of propaganda technique is transfer, in which products or candidates try to associate themselves with something that people admire or love. Politicians trying to use a) national symbols (flag for example to invoke patriotism) or b) famous film actors (our love and liking for the actor) to promote their political campaign – our feelings we have towards the actor and the patriotism stirred in us by the national flag will get transferred to the politicians, who gets us to vote for him.

CRITICAL READING

Recognizing errors in reasoning.

Valid point – supported by rocklike foundation of solid support.

Fallacious point - based on a house of cards that offers no real support at all.

One common fallacy is circular reasoning – the supporting reasoning is really the same as the conclusion. It is illogical. For example: Mahesh is a great swimmer, because he is so wonderful at swimming. Supporting reason: he is so wonderful at swimming; Conclusion: Mahesh is a great swimmer. We still do not know why he is a great swimmer. No real reasons have been given.

False cause – a fallacy that oversimplifies the issue. That is, to assume that because event B follows event A, event B was caused by event A. For example: Every day, I eat parata for breakfast. One time, I had a dosa instead, and there was a major earthquake in my city.

EXERCISE — READ THE RHYME AND THINK CRITICALLY

*Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water;
Jack fell down and broke his crown,
And Jill came tumbling after.*

Questions to ponder.

Who is Jack? Who is Jill? Is Jill a boy or a girl? Are they kids? Teenagers? Adults? How is Jack and Jill related? Are they friends? Are they siblings? Are they lovers? Have you ever imagined them as an old grandpa and grandma? Why would anybody go uphill to fetch water? (because natural water sources like rivers and streams flow downhill). What happened after the fall? Did they die?



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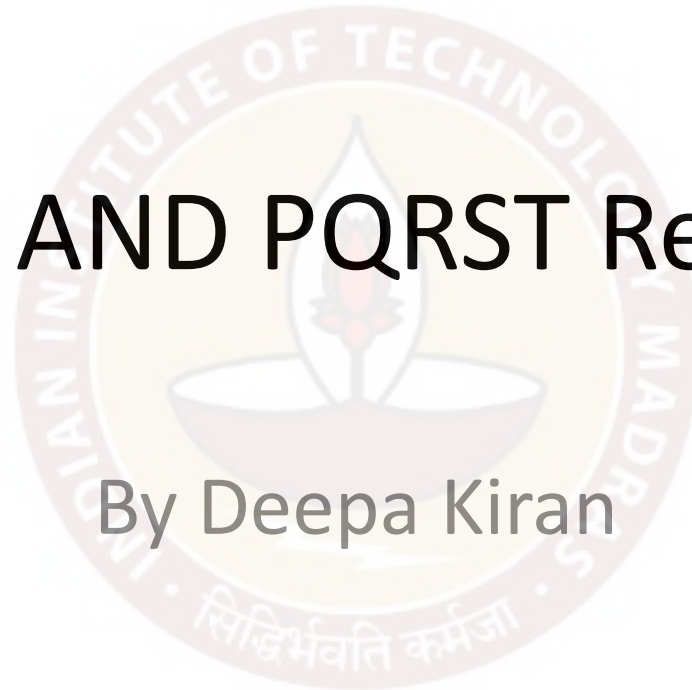
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SQ3R AND PQRST Reading

By Deepa Kiran



SQ3R Reading

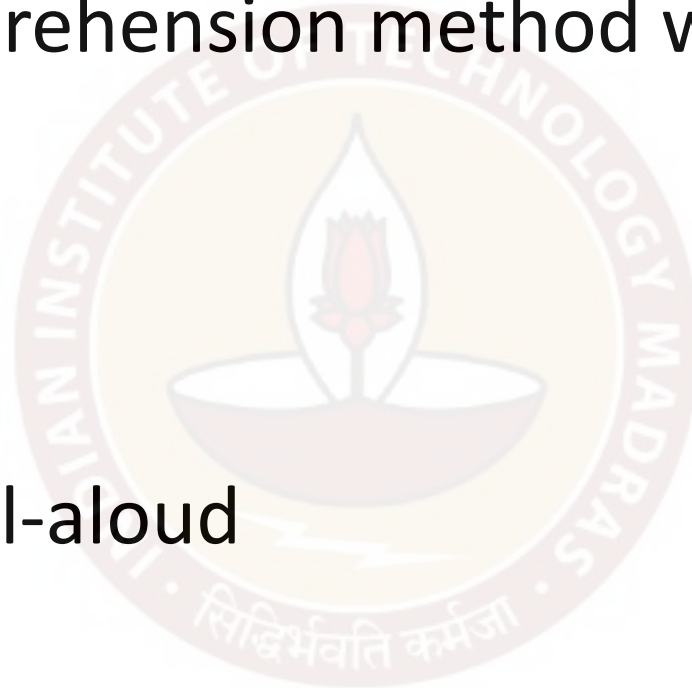
The information we collect from a written text is important

The SQ3R reading method helps to gain as much as information and as deeply and clearly as possible in the process of reading

SQ3R Reading

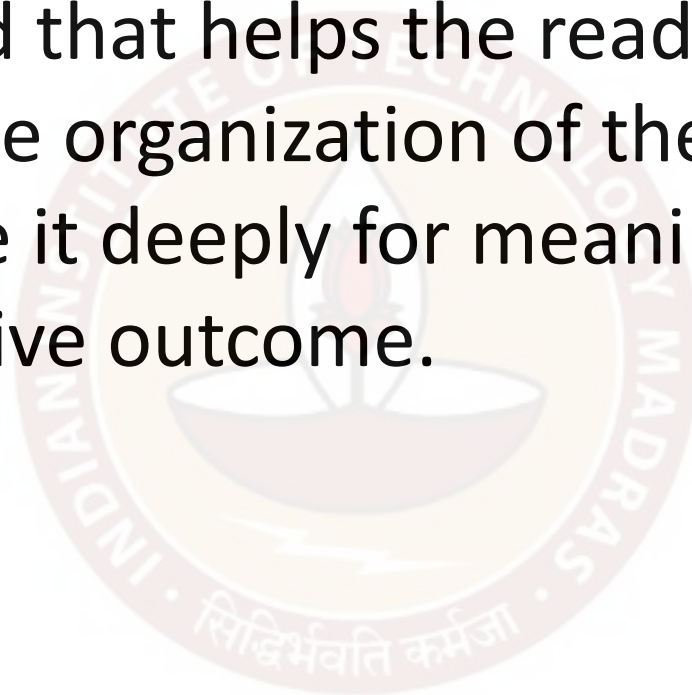
Reading comprehension method with 5 steps

1. Survey
2. Question
3. Read
4. Recite / Tell-aloud
5. Review



PQRST Reading

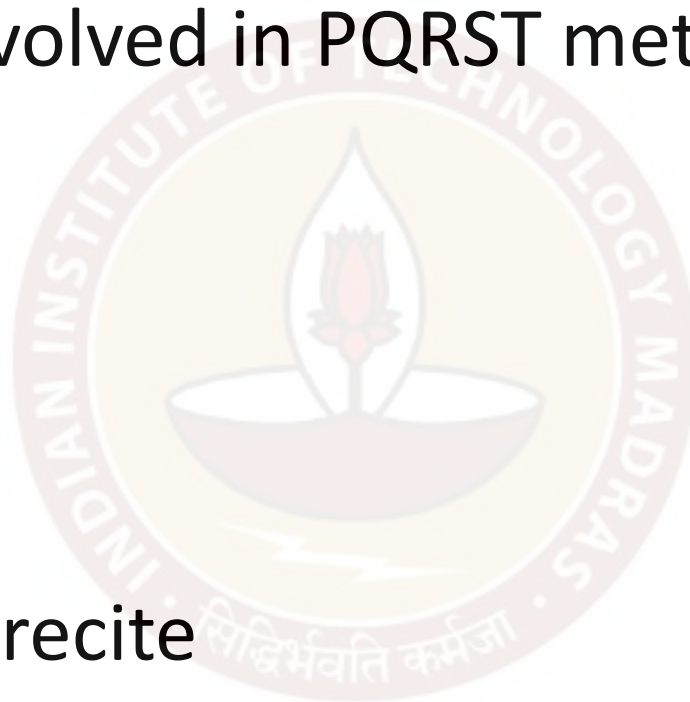
This is method that helps the reader to understand the organization of the written text and to analyze it deeply for meaningful reading with an effective outcome.



PQRST Reading

The 5 steps involved in PQRST method are as follows:

1. Preview
2. Question
3. Read
4. State/ Self-recite
5. Test /evaluate





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Reading Shorter and Longer Texts

By Deepa Kiran



Shorter Texts

Characteristics

1. Can be completed quickly
2. Remembering is more likely
3. One can concentrate and give attention to details

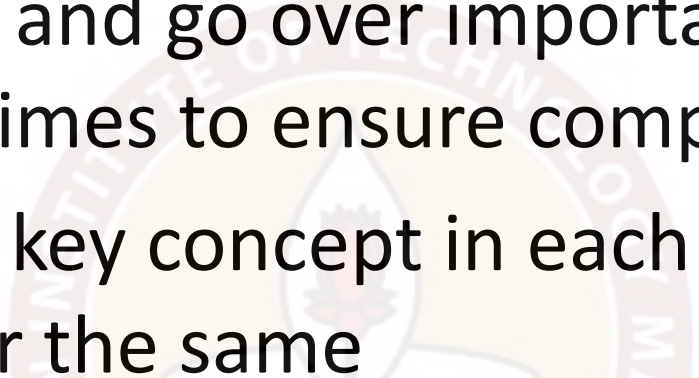
Longer Texts

Characteristics

1. Can be overwhelming in terms of volume
2. Long-drawn process of completion
3. Not easy to recollect
4. Can be more difficult to comprehend

Things to keep in mind while reading longer texts

1. Try to restrain from getting overwhelmed
2. Break it down and chunk it down into bits
3. Plan out a schedule for chapter-wise or number-of-pages-wise reading
4. Make notes, highlight, add comments
5. Identify and note: keywords, difficult vocabulary, important terms and phrases, significant diagrams etc.

- 
- A large, faint watermark of the Anna University logo is centered in the background. It is a circular emblem with a yellow border. Inside, there is a white lotus flower on a green base. The text 'ANNA UNIVERSITY' is written in a semi-circle at the top, and 'CHENNAI' is at the bottom. Below the lotus, there is a Sanskrit motto in Devanagari script.
- 6. Understand and go over important sections of text multiple times to ensure comprehension
 - 7. Pull out the key concept in each chapter and make notes for the same

Thus simplify the process, improve comprehension and increase recall value



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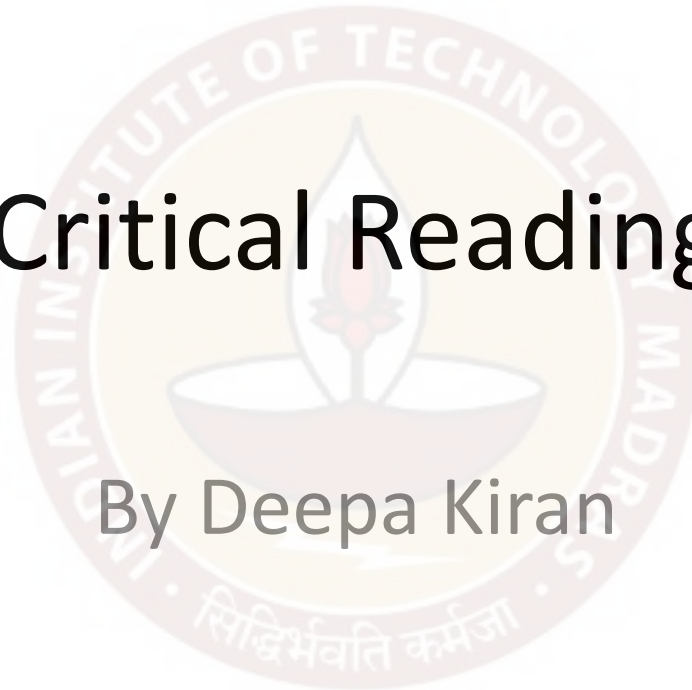
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Critical Reading

By Deepa Kiran



Critical Reading

- Critical Reading involves conscious and focused effort.
- Following certain processes and methods
- A clear intent and determination to understand the text in depth

Things you could to be a critical reader

1. Prepare to receive the written works on this topic and by this author
2. Be open and receptive to 'new' knowledge and repackaged old knowledge
3. Reflect on the title, tag line, index, chapter headings
4. Take help of dictionary and any other technical support

Things you could to be a critical reader

5. Write down notes/points

6. Make connections and references with your own knowledge-base : life experiences, socio-political understanding, technical background in the subject, relations between this and your knowledge in another subject, knowledge of a related subject etc.

7. Read to get not only the eagle's eye view but go deep into the text and the topic



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HOW TO PREPARE FOR READING TEST

KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN

EXAM FORMAT

- 60 minutes and 40 questions
- Academic and general exams
- For academic test, there will be three sections with one long passage per section.
- For general training, usually two passages in the first two sections and one passage in the third section.
- Overall, questions for general training exam is easier compared to academic exam.

IELTS Academic Correct Answers	IELTS Score*
39 - 40	9
37 - 38	8.5
35 - 36	8
33 - 34	7.5
30 - 32	7
27 - 29	6.5
23 - 26	6
19 - 22	5.5
15 - 18	5
13 - 14	4.5
10 - 12	4
8 - 9	3.5
6 - 7	3
4 - 5	2.5

IELTS General Correct Answers	IELTS Score*
40	9
39	8.5
37 - 38	8
36	7.5
34 - 35	7
32 - 33	6.5
30 - 31	6
27 - 29	5.5
23 - 26	5
19 - 22	4.5
15 - 18	4
12 - 14	3.5
9 - 11	3
6 - 8	2.5

**BAND SCORE AND THE
NUMBER OF CORRECT
ANSWERS**

STRATEGIES

- Reading section progresses from simple questions to difficult questions. The further you go, the more difficult the questions become. Go through the easy questions quite quickly to save more time to find answers to the more difficult ones.
- 15 minutes on Section 1 (easy), 20 minutes on section 2 and 25 minutes on section 3 (tough).
- Don't spend too much time on any single question. Mark them to review and come back to them if you have extra time.
- Never read the whole passage in one go. Many questions come in order. Read the first question, then quickly scan and read the passage until you find where the answer is. Then you must slow down, re-read the question/sentence and you find the answer. Then read the second question and repeat the process. This method saves a lot of time.

STRATEGIES

- There are two types of questions : the ones that come in order and the ones that don't come in order.
 - a) Missing words (ordered)
 - b) True/False & Yes/No/Not given type of questions (ordered)
 - c) Yes/No/Not given type of questions in section 3 (not ordered)
 - d) Multiple choice questions (not ordered)
 - e) Match the following (para number will be given)
 - f) Matching paragraphs – which para contains the following information (not in order)
 - g) Sentence completion (not ordered)
 - h) Questions in section 3 (not ordered) – Most difficult ones

STRATEGIES

- Take a lot of practise tests before taking the exam. Accustom yourself with the exam format and question types.
- Identify keywords: While reading a question, identify the keywords. That will help you keep concentrated on what you are looking for. Highlight those keywords. You may also highlight key information like dates and names. Answers to most questions lie in several words. You don't need to understand everything. You just need to find those words.
- The correct answers and the words in the key phrase will be paraphrased. They will not be repeated. But the meaning will be the same. Sometimes you may find words in the text and the same words in one of the options. Most likely that is a trap and is not the correct option. So, check the meaning.