

# READING COMPREHENSION

Read an extract from *A Scandal in Bohemia* by Arthur Conan Doyle:

*"I rang the door-bell and was shown up to the chamber which had formerly been in part my own.*

*With hardly a word spoken, Sherlock Holmes waved me to an armchair. Then he stood before the fire and looked me over in his singular introspective fashion. "Watson, you did not tell me that you intended to go into harness."*

*"Then, how do you know?"*

*"I see it, I deduce it. How do I know that you have been getting yourself very wet lately, and that you have a most clumsy and careless servant girl?"*

*"My dear Holmes," said I, "this is too much. It is true that I had a country walk on Thursday and came home in a dreadful mess, but as I have changed my clothes, I can't imagine how you deduce it. As to Mary Jane, she is incorrigible, but there, again, I fail to see how you work it out."*

*"It is simplicity itself," said he; "my eyes tell me that on the inside of your left shoe, just where the firelight strikes it, the leather is scored by six almost parallel cuts. Obviously, they have been caused by someone who has very carelessly scoured round the edges of the sole in order to remove crusted mud from it. Hence, you see, my double deduction that you had been out in vile weather, and that you had a particularly malignant boot-slitting specimen of the London slavey."*

In fiction, detectives like Holmes are usually portrayed as people with exceptionally brilliant minds. They possess the rare skill to see and analyze what ordinary people can't. They have incredible abilities to infer, deduce, induce and conclude.

Then, there is G.K. Chesterton's fictional catholic priest, Father Brown who relies on his extraordinary power of sympathy and empathy that enable him to imagine and feel as criminals do. He explains, "I had thought out exactly how a thing like that could be done, and in what style or state of mind a man could really do it. And when I was quite sure that I felt exactly like the murderer myself, of course I knew who he was."

Sherlock finds the criminal by starting from the outside. He relies on science, experimental methods and deduction. On the contrary, Father Brown uses varied psychological experiences learned from those who make confessions of crime to him. He relies on introspection, intuition and empathy.

There is yet another set of detectives like those created by writers like Agatha Christie. Her Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot is a story-teller who draws information from the stories that others tell. He patiently listens to numerous accounts of what happened, where it happened and how it happened. He listens

for credibility and ambiguity; he identifies why and how the pieces of the jigsaw don't fit together. Ultimately, he uncovers the truth.

1. From the passage, it can be inferred that
  - (A) Watson is Holmes' mentor.
  - (B) Earlier, Watson used to live with Holmes.
  - (C) Watson is a detective.
  - (D) Watson shares all his personal matters with Holmes.
  
2. It is evident that for solving cases, Father Brown relies largely on
  - (A) His own sympathetic and empathic thought process about criminals.
  - (B) A sympathetic approach towards various people's opinion on the case to be solved.
  - (C) A deductive analysis of the crime and his ability to sympathize.
  - (D) All the above.
  
3. For the three detectives mentioned in the passage, which one of these would be non-essential for solving criminal cases?
  - (A) Forgiving nature
  - (B) Sensitivity
  - (C) Critical thinking
  - (D) Patience
  
4. In order to solve cases, Poirot uses the art of \_\_\_\_\_ the narratives that he has been told.
  - (A) Building a fantasy based on
  - (B) Empathizing with all the characters in
  - (C) Creating new plots for
  - (D) Detecting and analyzing the missing links in

5. The word incorrigible is the antonym of

- (A) Habitual
- (B) Unperformable
- (C) Repentant
- (D) Incurable

Since long, we have witnessed unimaginable levels of success and failure of various projects, businesses, scientific missions and even wars. From such triumphs and defeats emerges the much debatable thought: Is planning and strategy more important than execution?

Some project leaders and their teams are of the view that planning leads to clarity of objectives; it helps to set the timeline and the budget. Consequently, when the planning is haphazard and unstructured, the very aims of the projects become hazy. This further leads to unprecedented budget collapses and poor time-management. In some cases, teams have worked relentlessly to complete assignments, but poor planning has invariably led to customer dissatisfaction and at times a complete collapse of the entire project. In the words of Benjamin Franklin, *“Failing to plan is planning to fail.”*

Numerous entrepreneurs have the faith that strategies help to enhance not only speed and quality of production, but also consumer satisfaction. If there are no strategies to tackle unplanned events or unexpected interruptions, there is a possibility of entire projects coming to a grinding halt.

Some of the world’s best airports, bridges and astronomical missions are the result of careful planning and excellent strategies. However, there are some architects, artists and entrepreneurs who prefer to dive straight from the board of ideas into the pool of execution. They believe that suitable strategies are best shaped during the process of execution; great plans and strategies can fail while encountering unexpected situations.

Steve Jobs says, *“To me, ideas are worth nothing unless executed. They are just a multiplier. Execution is worth millions.”*

According to Bill Gates, unhappy customers are the greatest source of learning. Fickle-minded consumers and wavering market trends can mar projects that stand on fixed plans. It is the need-based, flexible and innovative strategies that help to withstand the impact of these vacillating desires and trends.

After rigorous planning and testing a new recipe on two lakh consumers, in 1985, the company Coke brought out the *New Coke*. Much to the company’s dismay, the product did not take off as expected and the financial loss was enormous. The company realized that during the process of data collection, it had not considered the product-loyalty and old-fashioned habits of the consumers.

Hence, a balance of pragmatic planning, effective strategies and efficient execution is likely to ensure the accomplishment of tasks at each stage of a

project. Successful execution is not an easy journey. The road is winding and bumpy. It may require tweaking or at times abandoning the original plan and re-designing it.

Often, we turn to nature for inspiration. Think plans and strategies are the seed; execution is the nourishment; consumer is the capricious weather.

6. The passage can be best termed as
  - (A) Expository
  - (B) Descriptive
  - (C) Abstract
  - (D) Narrative
7. The author's main purpose is to
  - (A) Suggest that people succeed only when they have great strategies.
  - (B) Highlight the fact that execution is as indispensable as planning and strategy.
  - (C) Illustrate the impact of poor planning and weak strategy.
  - (D) Highlight the hurdles that come in the way of execution.
8. From the failure of *New Coke*, the company learnt that
  - (A) Tested and tried strategies are essential for success.
  - (B) Surveys and data calibration are a sheer waste of time.
  - (C) Consumers change brand preferences too frequently.
  - (D) Changes in consumers' habits should not be taken for granted.
9. For the accomplishment of a project, Steve Jobs
  - (A) Propagates an approach that is similar to Benjamin Franklin's.
  - (B) Suggests an approach that is different from Benjamin Franklin's.
  - (C) Believes that the main control is in the hands of consumers.
  - (D) None of the above.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ in 'consumer is the capricious weather' refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ demands of the customers.
  - (A) Onomatopoeia.....stagnant
  - (B) Simile.....unpredictable
  - (C) Metaphor.....wavering
  - (D) Anaphora .....oscillating

Since the worldwide inoculation process is going strong, vaccine diplomacy has become a hot topic. In their quest for ensuring vaccine security, a report by *The New York Times*, based on the data on vaccine contracts compiled by Duke University, shows that the advance purchase contracts made by some advanced countries for potential vaccines would vaccinate their population many times: the European Union, two times, the United States and the United Kingdom, four times, and Canada, six times. The expectation that an early vaccination will bring back normalcy and a required push to economic growth fuelled many advanced countries to engage in vaccine battles. The arguments of public good and global cooperation have gone out of the window now. While advanced countries have turned their back on the need of poor countries to access COVID-19 vaccines, India has displayed empathy to their needs. India has taken a position that a significant percentage of the approved doses will be permitted for exports. While its exports to neighbouring countries will be under grant mode, initial shipment of vaccines to least developed countries will be free of cost. And, shipments of vaccines from India have already started reaching different parts of the developing world. While India is in its first phase of vaccination to cover health-care workers, exports from India are helping other countries also in initiating phase one of their vaccination programme, a gesture well appreciated globally. In a democracy, one can expect the backlash of sending vaccines abroad without vaccinating its population. Nevertheless, India's approach only reinforces the need of having coordinated global efforts in bringing COVID-19 under control. This response manifests India's unstinted commitment to global development and has consolidated its name as the world's pharmacy. The attitude of India towards vaccinating the populations in the poorer countries has generated discussion in the richer countries about the necessity for more proactive measures to roll out vaccines to the developing nations.

11. Which of the following best describes the purpose of this passage?
- (A) To encourage vaccine nationalism, and discourage global cooperation.
  - (B) To discourage vaccine nationalism, and encourage global cooperation.
  - (C) To encourage poor countries and discourage advanced countries.
  - (D) To encourage India to provide vaccines to poor nations.
  - (E)
12. The term 'inoculation process' as used in the passage means
- (A) Production and distribution of vaccines.
  - (B) Global struggle for vaccines.
  - (C) Pharmaceutical production of vaccines.
  - (D) Artificially inducing immunity.

13. Advanced purchase contracts of vaccines by developed countries are premised on hopes that
- (A) Vaccination will restore normalcy and thrust economic recovery.
  - (B) Vaccination will bring back powers to nations.
  - (C) Vaccination will promote global well-being and growth.
  - (D) Vaccination will protect the health of the world population.
14. The author cautions that India's approach in vaccine distribution may have negative repercussions among
- (A) People from advanced countries.
  - (B) People from poor countries.
  - (C) People from developing countries.
  - (D) People from India.
15. Among Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the third goal reads, "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages". Which of the following sentences from the passage reflects the reversal of this SDG?
- (A) The arguments of public good and global cooperation have gone out of the window now.
  - (B) Advanced countries have turned their back on the need of poor countries to access COVID-19 vaccines.
  - (C) The advance purchase contracts made by some advanced countries for potential vaccines would vaccinate their population many times.
  - (D) All the above.

Following the transition to democracy, with the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as president in 1994, South Africa was faced with the task of dealing with its past, as well as undertaking some action to deal with structural social injustice. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), heralded as the most ambitious and organised attempt to deal with crimes of a past regime through a concept of truth, came into force on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1995 in South Africa. Emerging as a political strategy to acknowledge past suffering whilst promoting a future based on the concerns of social justice, the rule of law and reconciliation, the Commission has struggled to fulfil its objectives. Although the TRC incorporated these broader concerns into the mandate of its three sub-committees, they were disregarded in practice. These sub-committees, which reflected concerns for 'human rights violations', 'amnesty' and 'reparation and rehabilitation', were not 'coupled with some form of social transformation'. The public transition from apartheid, established through a negotiated settlement rather than a revolutionary process, framed the Commission's powers. Shaped by the historical context of this particular transition, the TRC was careful not to 'rock the structural boat'. Rather than pursuing truth and justice, as an integrated

feature of social transformation, the Commissioners and, to a greater extent, the government of South Africa, maintained an agenda that avoided a challenge to the status quo. A focus on restorative justice was taken by the Commission with an emphasis placed on mechanisms to restore victims and survivors, through reparations policy, state-led acknowledgement of suffering, and a condemnation, together with the transformation, of the system that implemented such widespread forms of abuse. The priority of changing the apartheid conditions of gross inequality and oppression provided a backdrop to the approval of the TRC by those who had suffered. More difficult to accept was the provision of amnesty to those who had undertaken violations of human rights. The process placed amnesty of violations as a carrot to perpetrators in exchange for a full story, with the stick of prosecutions for those who did not come forward.

16. 'The status quo' as used in the passage means
  - (A) Previously popular opinions.
  - (B) Already existing conditions.
  - (C) Strategies of government.
  - (D) Following a set agenda.
17. Which of the following best describes the tone of the author?
  - (A) Optimistic
  - (B) Threatening
  - (C) Compassionate
  - (D) Critical
18. Which of the following is not the broader concern of Truth and Reconciliation Commission(TRC)?
  - (A) To deal with crimes of a past regime through a concept of truth.
  - (B) To acknowledge past suffering.
  - (C) To emerge as a political strategy for reconciliation of rule of law.
  - (D) To promote a future based on the concerns of social justice.
19. Which of the following statements is least likely to be inferred from the passage?
  - (A) The TRC ignored some of the broad concerns.
  - (B) The sub-committees of TRC lacked an agenda of social transformation.
  - (C) The TRC made earnest efforts to protect human rights.
  - (D) The TRC lacked the desire and strength to challenge the prevailing conditions.



20. What does 'amnesty' mean in the context of the passage?

- (A) Severe punishment
- (B) Bring legal action
- (C) Arrest warrants
- (D) Official pardon

### **Logical Reasoning**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the unmatched mental health challenges have made it more crucial than ever that we continue to make strides towards understanding the concept of mental health stigma and how we might tackle it around the world. Graham Thornicroft, a practising psychiatrist, who is extensively and deeply involved in mental health stigma research at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neurosciences at King's College London has divided stigma into three components-knowledge, attitude and behaviour. The last behaviour emerges from social isolation, such as what we are experiencing during the pandemic, as well as exclusion from mainstream activities and citizenship. In higher-income countries, stigma rates may be greater than other countries, perhaps because of the pressure to excel. In low-income countries, one can be unwell and still play an active social and productive role somewhere as there are many such roles to play within the family and in society. Enhancing contact with people who have experienced mental health problems is the best way to reduce stigma. To date, most people with mental illness remain silent about their condition, avoiding discussing their problems for fear of losing face, damaging their reputation or jeopardising their family status. Having a space where they may be welcomed and listened to, rather than judged, will go a long way towards enabling them to share their experiences. In a small part of rural Andhra Pradesh, researchers used posters, pictures, drums, and a short street play, as an intervention technique to reduce mental health stigma. An actor portrayed a person's journey through mental health crises and setbacks before receiving support and showing hope, improvement and recovery. People assembled around the stage, willing to talk about and discuss what they saw, even two to three years after the event.

21. What is the central idea in the passage as conveyed by the author?

- (A) Mental health is not an obstacle for people seeking care.
- (B) Mental health is a domestic phenomenon.
- (C) In low-income countries, mental health does not receive the adequate attention and treatment.
- (D) Mental health issues have only arisen after the COVID-19 pandemic

globally.

22. As per the passage, which of the following approaches can be most effective to curb the issue of mental health?
- (A) Mental health can only be curbed when people will stop sharing their emotions openly.
  - (B) To develop a sense of acceptance among people suffering from mental health and let them heal gradually.
  - (C) Experiences shared and discussed on a larger level is a major hindrance for better mental health conditions globally.
  - (D) A person should not express about his/her failures which enhances the mental health problems.
23. Which of the following notions is expressed in the passage to enunciate the significance of issue of mental health?
- (A) The issue of mental health has received the required recognition and deliberation during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - (B) Mental health will be reduced automatically after the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - (C) Mental health improves when social isolation increases.
  - (D) Mental health is an illusory notion developed during COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen the pharmaceutical industries.
24. “In low-income countries, one can be unwell and still play an active social and productive role somewhere as there are many such roles to play within the family and in society”.

Which of the following conclusions can be drawn from the above statement?

- (A) Stigma rates in lower-income countries are higher as compared to higher income countries.
  - (B) Stigma rates in higher-income countries may be more due to a pressure of performing and to excel.
  - (C) Mental stigma is not related to the economic conditions of a country.
  - (D) Higher-income countries require people to perform multiple roles at their homes.
25. Which of the following weakens the author’s idea of ‘having a space where they may be welcomed and listened to, rather than judged’?
- (A) People who tend to share their emotions tend to have mental peace and happiness.
  - (B) Societal role is massive in embracing people suffering from mental health ailments.
  - (C) People sharing their ideas and expressions publicly is a practice which needs to be promoted.
  - (D) It is a human tendency to form judgments about other people and this being a healthy practice should be encouraged at large scale.