

TCS NQT Verbal Ability Test (Sample Passage)

Read the given passage and answer the question that follows:

Gregor Mendel was born in a poor farmer's family in Austria in 1822. He was very fond of studies, but the very thought of examinations made him nervous. He did not have money to study at the University, so he thought of becoming a 'monk' in a monastery. He thought that from there, he would be sent to study further. Which he was. But to become a science teacher, he had to take an exam.

He got so nervous that he kept running away from the exam and kept failing! But he did not stop doing experiments. For seven years, he did experiments on 28,000 plants in the garden of the monastery. He worked hard, collected many observations, and made a new discovery!

Something which scientists at that time could not even understand!

They understood it many years after his death, when other scientists did such experiments and read what Mendel had already written. What did Mendel find in those plants? He found that the pea plant has some traits that come in pairs. Like the seed is either rough or smooth, it is either yellow or green, and the height of the plant is either tall or short. Nothing in between.

The next generation (the children) of the plant that has either rough or smooth seeds will also have seeds that are rough or smooth. There is no seed that is mixed- it is a bit smooth and a bit rough. He found the same with colour. Seeds that are either green or yellow give rise to new seeds that are either green or yellow. The next generation does not have seeds with a mixed new colour made from both green and yellow.

Mendel showed that in the next generation of pea plants, there would be more plants having yellow seeds. He also showed that the next generation will have more plants with smooth seeds. What a discovery!

Q1. Which of the following is the most appropriate title for this passage?

- a. The Colour of Peas
- b. An Amazing Discovery!
- c. A Rare Quality!
- d. Gardening in the Monastery

Q2. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word. Height

- a. Length
- b. Stature
- c. Depth
- d. Figure

Q3. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word. Traits

- a. Actions

- b. Qualities*
- c. Components*
- d. Routines*

Q4. Why did Mendel join a monastery?

- a. Because he was interested in religion*
- b. Because he was too nervous to pass examinations*
- c. Because he wanted to continue his experiments there*
- d. Because he didn't have money to study further*

Q5. Select the statement that is NOT correct.

- a. Mendel conducted experiments for seven years on 28,000 plants.*
- b. Mendel found that every pea has seeds that are either smooth or rough.*
- c. Mendel found that the seeds of the next generation are in mixed new shades.*
- d. Mendel found that the seeds of the next generation are rough or smooth.*