

Universal Education Reading Comprehension



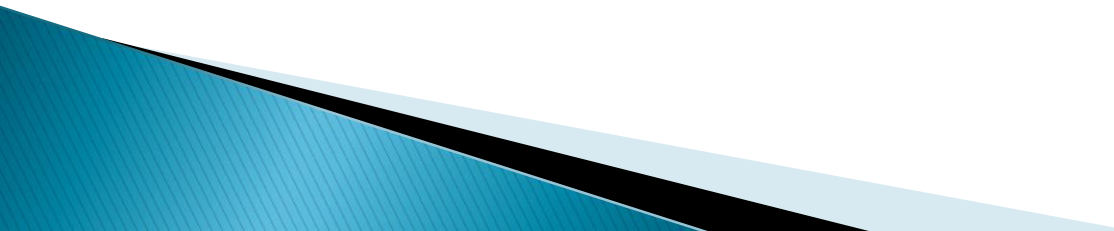
Passage 1:

A central message of modern development economics is the importance of income growth, which means growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In theory, rising GDP creates unemployment and investment opportunities. As incomes grow in a country where the level of GDP was once low, households, communities, and governments are increasingly able to set aside some funds for the production of things that make for a good life. Today GDP has assumed such a significant place in the development lexicon, that if someone mentions “economic growth”, we know they mean growth in GDP.

With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Rising GDP is essential for a country to be developed country
2. Rising GDP guarantees a reasonable distribution of income to all households.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- a. 1 only
 - b. 2 only
 - c. Both 1 and 2
 - d. Neither 1 nor 2
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Passage: 2

The sugar maple is a hard maple tree. It can grow as tall as 100 feet and as wide as 4 feet. The sugar maple is commercially valued for its sap, which is used in making maple syrup. Two northeastern states, Vermont and New York, rank as major producers of maple syrup. In Canada, Quebec's annual syrup production surpasses 2.5 million gallons. To make pure maple syrup, holes are made in the trunk of the tree at the end of winter or in early spring. The water-like sap seeps through the holes and runs through a plastic spout that is put into the hole. Afterwards, the collected sap is transferred into tubes that are hooked up to a tank kept in the sugar house. Then, the sap goes through the boiling process. Boiling enhances flavour and adds colour to the sap. Once the sugar content of the sap is about 65%–66%, the sap is ready to be strained and marketed. Maple syrup found in supermarkets, however, is usually not pure and has other additives. The colour of pure maple may range from golden honey to light brown. Between 35 to 50 gallons of sap is needed to produce 1 gallon of maple syrup. Also, popular for the strength and finish of its wood, the sugar maple tree has been put to use in furniture, interior woodwork, flooring, and crates.

According to the passage, which of the following periods is ideal for sapping?

- (a) End of winter or in early spring
- (b) Beginning of winter or in early spring
- (c) End of winter or late spring
- (d) Throughout the year

Passage 3:

- ▶ In the immediate future, we will see the increasing co-modification of many new technologies– artificial intelligence and robotics, 3D manufacturing, custom made biological and pharmaceutical products, lethal autonomous weapons and driverless cars. The moral question of how a driverless car will decide between hitting a jaywalker and swerving and damaging the car has often been debated, the answer is both simple– save the human life – and complex. At which angle should the car swerve– just enough to save the jaywalker or more than enough? If the driverless car is in Dublin, who would take the decision? The Irish Government, or the car's original code writer in California, or a software programmer in Hyderabad to whom maintenance is outsourced? If different national jurisdictions have different fine print on prioritizing a human life, how will it affect insurance and investment decisions, including transactional ones?
- ▶ Which of the following statements best reflect the rational, plausible and practical implications that can be derived from the passage given above?
- ▶
 1. Too much globalisation is not in the best interest of any country.
 2. Modern technologies are increasingly blurring the economic borders.
 3. Innovation and capital have impinged on the domain of the State.
 4. Public policy of every country should focus on developing its own supply chains.
 5. Geopolitics will have to reconcile to many ambiguities and uncertainties.
- ▶ Select the correct answer using the code given below:
 - a. 1, 4 and 5 only
 - b. 1,2,3 and 5 only
 - c. 2,3 and 5 only
 - d. 1,2,3,4 and 5

Passage 4:

- ▶ Our cities are extremely vulnerable to climate change because of large concentrations of populations and poor infrastructure. Moreover, population densities are increasing in them but we have not yet developed the systems to address climate change impacts. Our cities contribute to 65 percent of the GDP, but there are not enough facilities to address the issues of air quality, transport, etc., that are vital to identifying sustainable solutions. We need to involve citizens in city planning and create an ecosystem that meets the needs of the people.

Which of the following is the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the passage given above?

- ▶ a. Our cities need to have well-defined administrative set-up with sufficient autonomy.
 - ▶ b. Ever increasing population densities is a hindrance in our efforts to achieve sustainable development.
 - ▶ c. To maintain and develop our cities we need to adopt sustainability related interventions.
 - ▶ d. Public-private Partnership mode of development is the viable long-term solution for the infrastructure and sustainability problems in India.
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