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Master Reading Comprehension for CAT

(Title, tone and question types explained)

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Reading Comprehension - What to Read?

1. Introduction

Till here you have understood the importance of reading speed and tricks to improve it. It is now the time to move on to next level and try to figure out ‘what to read.

The answer to this question moves around the following:

1. Exam you will be writing
2. Level of the exam
3. Reading resources serving the purpose

So, in this chapter we shall focus on the following:

1. Sample passages from multiple exams
2. Domains on which passages are based & sample passages based on different domains
3. Analysis of passages from different exams
4. Reading resources for specific exam
5. Sources to read
6. Practice passages based on domains

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2 Sample passages from Different Exams

As any entrance exam is conducted either for a professional course or for a job so resources for reading will be as per the nature of exams you will be writing We have given only the sample passages from actual exams & not the questions based on them. The only purpose is to give you an idea of subject areas and language used by the authors so that you can better align yourself while preparing for different exams.

Broadly two categories are there:

1. Entrance exams for professional courses such as MBA, GRE, GMAT, CUET, etc.
2. Entrance exams for jobs in government & private sectors such as banking, SSC, campus placement etc.

2.1 MBA Entrance Exams:

Passage-I

Domain – Biological Sciences

Area – Biology (Evolutionary behaviour)

Cuttlefish are full of personality, as behavioral ecologist Alexandra Schnell found out while researching the cephalopod's potential to display self-control. . .. "Self-control is thought to be the cornerstone of intelligence, as it is an important prerequisite for complex decision-making and planning for the future," says Schnell . . .

[Schnell's] study used a modified version of the "marshmallow test" . . . During the original marshmallow test, psychologist Walter Mischel presented children between age four and six with one marshmallow. He told them that if they waited 15 minutes and didn't eat it, he would give them a second marshmallow. A long-term follow-up study showed that the children who waited for the second marshmallow had more success later in life. . .. The cuttlefish version of the experiment looked a lot different. The researchers worked with six cuttlefish under nine months old and presented them with seafood instead of sweets. (Preliminary experiments showed that cuttlefishes' favorite food is live grass shrimp, while raw

prawns are so-so and Asian shore crab is nearly unacceptable.) Since the researchers couldn't explain to the cuttlefish that they would need to wait for their shrimp, they trained them to recognize certain shapes that indicated when a food item would become available. The symbols were pasted on transparent drawers so that the cuttlefish could see the food that was stored inside. One drawer, labeled with a circle to mean "immediate," held raw king prawn. Another drawer, labeled with a triangle to mean "delayed," held live grass shrimp. During a control experiment, square labels meant "never."

"If their self-control is flexible and I hadn't just trained them to wait in any context, you would expect the cuttlefish to take the immediate reward [in the control], even if it's their second preference," says Schnell . . .

and that's what they did. That showed the researchers that cuttlefish wouldn't reject the prawns if it was the only food available. In the experimental trials, the cuttlefish didn't jump on the prawns if the live grass shrimp were labeled with a triangle—many waited for the shrimp drawer to open up. Each time the cuttlefish showed it could wait; the researchers tacked another ten seconds on to the next round of waiting before releasing

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the shrimp. The longest that a cuttlefish waited was 130 seconds.

Schnell [says] that the cuttlefish usually sat at the bottom of the tank and looked at the two food items while they waited, but sometimes, they would turn away from the king prawn “as if to distract themselves from the temptation of the immediate reward.” In past studies, humans, chimpanzees, parrots and dogs also tried to distract themselves while waiting for a reward.

Not every species can use self-control, but most of the animals that can share another trait in common: long, social lives. Cuttlefish, on the other hand, are solitary creatures that don’t form relationships even with mates or young. . .. “We don’t know if living in a social group is important for complex cognition unless we also show those abilities are lacking in less social species,” says . . . comparative psychologist Jennifer Vonk.

Passage-II

Domain - Humanities

Area – Art & Culture (Understanding the images)

For the Maya of the Classic period, who lived in Southern Mexico and Central America between 250 and 900 CE, the category of 'persons' was not coincident with human beings, as it is for us. That is, human beings were persons – but other, nonhuman entities could be persons, too. . .. In order to explore the slippage of categories between 'humans' and 'persons', I examined a very specific category of ancient Maya images, found painted in scenes on ceramic vessels. I sought out instances in which faces (some combination of eyes, nose, and mouth) are shown on inanimate objects…..Consider my iPhone, which needs to be fed with electricity every night, swaddled in a protective bumper, and enjoys communicating with other fellow-phone-beings. Does it have personhood (if at all) because it is connected to me, drawing this resource from me as an owner or source? For the Maya (who did have plenty of other communicating objects, if not smartphones), the answer was no. Nonhuman persons were not tethered to specific humans, and they did not derive their personhood from a connection with a human.

…… It's a profoundly democratising way of understanding the world. Humans are not more important persons – we are just one of many kinds of persons who inhabit this world……

The Maya saw personhood as 'activated' by experiencing certain bodily needs and through participation in certain social activities. For example, among the faced objects that I examined, persons are marked by personal requirements (such as hunger, tiredness, physical closeness), and by community obligations (communication, interaction, ritual observance). In the images I examined, we see, for instance, faced objects being cradled in humans' arms; we also see them speaking to humans. These core elements of personhood are both turned inward, what the body or self of a person requires, and outward, what a community expects of the persons who are a part of it, underlining the reciprocal nature of community membership……

Personhood was a nonbinary proposition for the Maya. Entities were able to be persons while also being something else. The faced objects I looked at indicate that they continue to be functional, doing what objects do (a stone implement continues to chop, an incense burner continues to do its smoky work). Furthermore, the

Maya visually depicted many objects in ways that indicated the material category to which they belonged – drawings of the stone implement show that a person-tool is still made of stone. One additional complexity: the incense burner (which would have been made of clay, and decorated with spiky appliques representing the sacred ceiba tree found in this region) is categorised as a person – but also as a tree. With these Maya examples, we are challenged to discard the person/nonperson binary that constitutes our basic ontological outlook……. The porousness of boundaries that we have seen in the Maya world points towards the possibility of living with a certain uncategorisability of the world.

Passage-III

Domain - Humanities

Area – Philosophy (Critical Analysis)

It has been said that knowledge, or the problem of knowledge, is the scandal of philosophy. The scandal is philosophy's apparent inability to show how, when and why we can be sure that we know something or, indeed, that we know anything. Philosopher Michael Williams writes: 'Is it possible to obtain knowledge at all? This problem is pressing because there are powerful arguments, some very ancient, for the conclusion that it is not . . . Scepticism is the skeleton in Western rationalism's closet'. While it is not clear that the scandal matters to anyone but philosophers, philosophers point out that it should matter to everyone, at least given a certain conception of knowledge. For, they explain, unless we can ground our claims to knowledge as such, which is to say, distinguish it from mere opinion, superstition, fantasy, wishful thinking, ideology, illusion or delusion, then the actions we take on the basis of presumed knowledge – boarding an airplane, swallowing a pill, finding someone guilty of a crime – will be irrational and unjustifiable.

That is all quite serious-sounding but so also are the rattlings of the skeleton: that is, the sceptic's contention that we cannot be sure that we know anything – at least not if we think of knowledge as something like having a correct mental representation of reality, and not if we think of reality as something like things-as-they-are-in-themselves, independent of our perceptions, ideas or descriptions. For, the sceptic will note, since reality, under that conception of it, is outside our ken (we cannot catch a glimpse of things-in-themselves around the corner of our own eyes; we cannot form an idea of reality that floats above the processes of our conceiving it), we have no way to compare our mental representations with things-as- they-are-in-themselves and therefore no way to determine whether they are correct or incorrect. Thus, the sceptic may repeat (rattling loudly), you cannot be sure you 'know' something or anything at all – at least not, he may add (rattling softly before disappearing), if that is the way you conceive 'knowledge'.

There are a number of ways to handle this situation. The most common is to ignore it. Most people outside the academy – and, indeed, most of us inside it – are unaware of or unperturbed by the philosophical scandal of knowledge and go about our lives without too many epistemic anxieties. We hold our beliefs and presumptive

knowledges more or less confidently, usually depending on how we acquired them (I saw it with my own eyes; I heard it on Fox News; a guy at the office told me) and how broadly and strenuously they seem to be shared or endorsed by various relevant people: experts and authorities, friends and family members, colleagues and associates. And we examine our convictions more or less closely, explain them more or less extensively, and defend them more or less vigorously, usually depending on what seems to be at stake for ourselves and/or other people and what resources are available for reassuring ourselves or making our beliefs credible to others (look, it's right here on the page; add up the figures yourself; I happen to be a heart specialist.


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Passage-V

Domain – Technology

Area – Smart machines

Back in the early 2000s, an awesome thing happened in the New X-Men comics. Our mutant heroes had been battling giant robots called Sentinels for years, but suddenly these mechanical overlords spawned a new threat: Nano-Sentinels! Not content to rule Earth with their metal fists, these tiny robots invaded our bodies at the microscopic level. Infected humans were slowly converted into machines, cell by cell.

Now, a new wave of extremely odd robots is making at least part of the Nano-Sentinels story come true. Using exotic fabrication materials like squishy hydro gels and elastic polymers, researchers are making autonomous devices that are often tiny and that could turn out to be more powerful than an army of Terminators. Some are 1-centimetre blobs that can skate overwater. Others are flat sheets that can roll themselves into tubes, or matchstick-sized plastic coils that act as powerful muscles. No, they won't be invading our bodies and turning us into Sentinels – which I personally find a little disappointing – but some of them could one day swim through our bloodstream to heal us. They could also

clean up pollutants in water or fold themselves into different kinds of vehicles for us to drive. . . .

Unlike a traditional robot, which is made of mechanical parts, these new kinds of robots are made from molecular parts. The principle is the same: both are devices that can move around and do things independently. But a robot made from smart materials might be nothing more than a pink drop of hydrogel. Instead of gears and wires, it's assembled from two kinds of molecules – some that love water and some that avoid it – which interact to allow the bot to skate on top of a pond.

Sometimes these materials are used to enhance more conventional robots. One team of researchers, for example, has developed a different kind of hydrogel that becomes sticky when exposed to a low-voltage zap of electricity and then stops being sticky when the electricity is switched off. This putty-like gel can be pasted right onto the feet or wheels of aerobot. When the robot wants to climb a sheer wall or scoot across the ceiling, it can activate its sticky feet with a few volts. Once it is back on a flat surface again, the robot turns off the adhesive like a light switch.

Robots that are wholly or partly made of gloop aren't the future that I was promised in science fiction. But it's definitely the future I want. I'm especially keen on the nanometer-scale "soft robots" that could one day swim through our bodies. Metin Sitti, a director at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems in Germany, worked with colleagues to prototype these tiny, synthetic beasts using various stretchy materials, such as simple rubber, and seeding them with magnetic micro particles. They are assembled into a finished shape by applying magnetic fields. The results look like flowers or geometric shapes made from Tinker toy ball and stick modelling kits. They're guided through tubes of fluid using magnets, and can even stop and cling to the sides of a tube.

2.2 GMAT Entrance Exams:

Passage-I

The cougar (Puma concolor), also known as the mountain lion, puma, panther, painter, mountain cat, or catamount, is a large cat native to the Americas. Its range, from the Canadian Yukon to the southern Andes of South America, is the greatest of any large wild terrestrial mammal in the Western Hemisphere. An adaptable, generalist species, the cougar is found in most American habitat types. Secretive and largely solitary by nature, the cougar is properly considered both nocturnal and crepuscular, although sightings during daylight hours do rarely occur. The cougar is more closely related to smaller felines, including the domestic cat, than to any subspecies of lion.

An excellent stalk-and-ambush predator, the cougar pursues a wide variety of prey. Primary food sources include ungulates such as deer, elk, moose, and bighorn sheep, as well as domestic cattle, horses and sheep, particularly in the northern part of its range. This cat prefers habitats with dense underbrush and rocky areas for stalking, but can also live in open areas. While large, it is not always the apex predator in its range, yielding to the jaguar, gray wolf, American black bear, and grizzly

bear. It is reclusive and mostly avoids people, so fatal attacks on humans are rare but have been trending upward in certain areas during recent years as more people enter their territory.

Excessive hunting following European colonization of the Americas and the ongoing human development of cougar habitat has caused populations to drop in most parts of its historical range. In particular, the cougar was extirpated in eastern North America in the beginning of the 20th century, except for an isolated subpopulation in Florida. However, in recent decades, breeding populations have moved east into the far western parts of the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. Transient males have been verified in Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Iowa, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and Illinois, where a cougar was shot in the city limits of Chicago, and, in at least one instance, observed as far east as Connecticut. Today, reports of eastern cougars (Puma concolor cougar) still surface, but the last verified one was killed in 2011.

https://gmatclub.com/forum/the-cougar-puma-concolor-also-known-as-the-mountain-lion-puma-pan-269149.html

Passage-II

Until recently, zoologists believed that all species of phocids (true seals), a pinniped family, use a different maternal strategy than do otariids (fur seals and sea lions), another pinniped family. Mother otariids use a foraging strategy. They acquire moderate energy stores in the form of blubber before arriving at breeding sites and then fast for 5 to 11 days after birth. Throughout the rest of the lactation (milk production) period, which lasts from 4 months to 3 years depending on the species, mother otariids alternately forage at sea, where they replenish their fat stores, and nurse their young at breeding sites. Zoologists had assumed that females of all phocids species, by contrast, use a fasting strategy in which mother phocids, having accumulated large energy stores before they arrive at breeding sites, fast throughout the entire lactation period, which lasts from 4 to 50 days depending on the species. However, recent studies on harbor seals, a phocids species, found that lactating females commenced foraging approximately 6 days after giving birth and on average made 7 foraging trips during the remainder of their 24-day lactation period.

The maternal strategy evolved by harbor seals may have to do with their small size and the large proportion of their fat stores depleted in lactation. Harbor seals are small compared with other phocids species such as grey seals, northern elephant seals, and hooded seals, all of which are known to fast for the entire lactation period. Studies show that mother seals of these species use respectively 84 percent, 58 percent, and 33 percent of their fat stores during lactation. By comparison, harbor seals use 80 percent of their fat stores in just the first 19 days of lactation, even though they occasionally feed during this period. Since such a large proportion of their fat stores is exhausted despite feeding, mother harbor seals clearly cannot support all of lactation using only energy stored before giving birth. Though smaller than many other phocids, harbor seals are similar in size to most otariids. In addition, there is already some evidence suggesting that the ringed seal, a phocids species that is similar in size to the harbor seal, may also use a maternal foraging strat

https://gmatclub.com/forum/until-recently-zoologists-believed-that-all-species-of-phocids-true-219274.htm

2.3 GRE Entrance Exams:

Passage - I

The nearly circular orbits of planets in our solar system led scientists to expect that planets around other stars would also reside in circular orbits. However, most known extrasolar planets reside in highly elongated, not circular, orbits. Why? The best clue comes from comets in our solar system. Comets formed in circular orbits but were gravitationally flung into their present-day elliptical orbits when they ventured too close to planets. Astronomers suspect that pairs of planets also engage in this slingshot activity, leaving them in disturbed, elliptical orbits. If two planets form in close orbits, one will be scattered inward (toward its star), the other outward. They will likely then travel close enough to neighboring planets to disturb their orbits also.

https://gmatclub.com/forum/the-nearly-circular-orbits-of-planets-in-our-solar-system-led-scientis-395711.html

Passage - II

Reviving the practice of using elements of popular music in classical composition, an approach that had been in hibernation in the United States during the 1960s, composer Philip Glass (born 1937) embraced the ethos of popular music in his compositions. Glass based two symphonies on music by rock musicians David Bowie and Brian Eno, but the symphonies' sound is distinctively his. Popular elements do not appear out of place in Glass's classical music, which from its early days has shared certain harmonies and rhythms with rock music. Yet this use of popular elements has not made Glass a composer of popular music. His music is not a version of popular music packaged to attract classical listeners; it is high art for listeners steeped in rock rather than the classics.

https://origin-www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/verbal_reasoning/reading_comprehension/sample_questions

2.4 SSC Exams:

Passage-I

Domain – Physical Sciences

Area - Environment

Since September, at least 25 people have died and thousands have been made homeless. Every state and territory in Australia has experienced fires this summer. But the biggest fires burn along stretches of the eastern and southern coast, where most of the population lives. This includes areas around Sydney and Adelaide. More than 6.3 million hectares (63,000 sq km or 15.6 million acres) have been burned so far – one hectare is roughly the size of a sports field. To put that in perspective, around 800,000 hectares were engulfed in a bush fire in 2018 in California. Australia has always experienced bushfires – it has a "fire season". But this year they are a lot worse than normal.

Fires are usually caused by lightning strikes or accidentally by a spark – but some fires are also started deliberately. This year, a natural weather phenomenon known as the 'Indian Ocean Dipole' has meant a hot, dry spell across the country. This year, Australia twice set a new temperature record: an average maximum of 41.9°C

was recorded on 18 December. That comes on top of a long period of drought. Scientists have long warned that this hotter, drier climate will contribute to fires becoming more frequent and more intense. The more extreme weather patterns and higher temperatures increase the risk of bushfires and allow them to spread faster and wider.

Fire fighters are spraying water and fire retardant from planes and helicopters as well as from the ground. But fighting bush fires is extremely difficult and often authorities have to focus on just stopping the spread, rather than putting the fire out. The spread can for instance be best contained by digging earth boundaries to stop the flames from spreading. The priority is saving lives.

Professional fire fighters are the first in line to battle the flames, but they are outnumbered by the thousands of volunteers. Three of them have died. There's also help coming from abroad: the US, Canada and New Zealand have sent fire fighters to help. Australia's police, military and navy are involved in rescue and evacuation efforts. While people can flee the fires and are being evacuated if need be, the flames are devastating wildlife in the affected areas. One study estimated that half a billion

animals have died in New South Wales alone. Zookeepers take animals home to save them from fire, but the fires don't only kill animals directly, they also destroy the habitat, leaving the survivors vulnerable even when the fires have gone. So the true scale of loss isn't yet clear. Experts say more than 100,000 cows and sheep may also have been lost, which is devastating for farmers.

Each state runs its own emergency operation, but Prime Minister Scott Morrison has promised better funding for fire-fighting and payouts for volunteer fire fighters, and an additional A$2billion ($1.4billion; £1billion) for the recovery. But the national government has come under strong criticism from its opponents that it has not been doing enough against climate change. The country is one of the world's biggest per capita greenhouse gas emitters but under international agreements it has committed itself to reduction targets.

2.5 Job/ Banking Sector Exams:

Passage-I

Domain – Humanities

Area – Economics

Since 2011, the world's steelmakers have been feeling the heat. Prices for the metal have halved due to flatlining demand and rising exports from China, which now smelts 50% of the global output. Profits at steel firms around the world have fallen into a sea of red ink, shuttering plants and laying off workers. New measures designed to raise the price of carbon in the EU to help the bloc meet its climate-change targets, voted on by the European Parliament on February 15th, threaten to increase the pressure. The industry is a heavy user of carbon, responsible for 5% of global emissions. Some steel firms have responded by calling for carbon tariffs to prevent the measures **undermining** their international competitiveness. How do border taxes on carbon emissions work? And are they a good idea?

The reforms the European Parliament passed this week are an attempt to increase the price of carbon by cutting the emissions allowances granted to firms. The measures include the EU's first border tax on carbon,

levied on cement imports. Steel firms, also heavy users of carbon, say their exclusion from this scheme is unfair. This week Lakshmi Mittal, the CEO of Arcelor Mittal, the world's biggest steelmaker, offered his support for the tax. Similar proposals in America are also being mooted. This month a group of Republicans—including two former treasury secretaries, James Baker and George Shultz—proposed a similar levy on imports at the border, as well as for domestic production. Their plan includes a carbon tax on imports of up to $40 for each tonne produced by their manufacture, which would increase over time. The income from the levy would then be distributed to American households on a quarterly basis to make up for higher consumer prices.

Proponents of such policies say that they remove the distortions caused by carbon taxes. Under the EU's reforms, steelmakers in Europe would pay up to €30 ($32) to emit a tonne of carbon, but foreign producers selling in the EU would not have to pay a cent. This harms the cost competitiveness of European producers. It also encourages firms to move production outside the bloc rather than prompt them to use cleaner methods. Taxing imports on their embodied carbon—where this has not already happened in their country of origin—would level the playing field between different systems,

they say. It would also give an incentive to countries without controls on emissions to introduce their own carbon taxes, in order to grab a share of the revenues.

Economists say the idea works in theory. But many think it would be much more difficult in practice. One big problem is the difficulty of calculating the embodied carbon in imports. This is not easy even for simple sheets of steel; for items made of several bits of metal from different sources, it is hellishly complex. Disputes over this could produce reams of litigation at the WTO between various systems. But the reason why trade economists are so squeamish about carbon tariffs is the fear that they could cause a tariff war. The EU and America are already in a politically driven **tit-for-tat** over steel duties with China; they have risen in some cases to over 500%. Rather than prod countries to tighten their own regulations, new carbon tariffs could make that battle more **vicious.** Worse still, lobby groups could easily pervert the charges into a form of quiet protectionism. Donald Trump's presidency has already rattled free-traders' nerves. Why risk giving the protectionists another opening?

Key takeaways

After looking at the passages shown above a few conclusions can be drawn and these are as follow:

1. Passages are generally based on areas such as science, history, technology, etc.
2. it is very important to include resources which will cover all important areas on which passages are generally based.
3. You need to work on vocabulary in general & jargon.
4. Need to develop focus and genuine interest in reading to get decent scores in verbal ability.
5. Understanding RCs in a few of the exams is not as easy as it seems to be initially.
6. In the passages, the authors will generally talk about impact of various areas on people/ society, environment or consequences of faulty policies/ thinking/beliefs etc.

In nutshell RC passages are not literally based on domain / areas only, instead these passages are documentation by intellectuals regarding the interaction among the different domains and people in any society

or civilization. Hence it is very important to read articles or editorials keeping this very essence of interaction and then only you will be able to relate to whatever you read.

As you have seen that passages are based on different areas so it is mandatory to have an idea of major areas or domains and their corresponding sub- areas.

3. Domain-wise Classification of Passages

Though the passages are based on diverse topics, you are not expected to have any prior knowledge of them. However, having some familiarity with various subject areas can surely enhance your comprehension. Thus, it becomes very important for you to acquaint yourself with different subject areas. Identifying various subject areas and the types of passages will help you devise your Reading Comprehension strategy accordingly. Also knowing domains will make your preparation comprehensive as you will now be in position to include variety in your reading. However, there can be overlap of the domains or subareas in passages as sometimes a passage on 'impact of culture on economy' will have essence of social sciences as well humanities. Hence every time these domains or subareas should not considered in isolation.

Given below is a broad list of various subjects/disciplines the passages may cover.

Sr. No.	Domain	Subject Areas
1.	Biological Sciences	Biology, Evolution, Genetics, Biochemistry Environment, Zoology, Climate change, Marine Biology, Medicines, Medical research, Behavioural Science, Neuroscience, Nutrition, Ecology, Genetics etc.
2.	Physical Sciences	Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy, Cosmology, healthcare, healthcare management, Quantum Physics Data Science, Earth science etc.
3.	Social Sciences	Psychology, Economics, Anthropology, Political Science, Politics, Sociology, Sustainable development Gender and Population Studies etc.
4.	Law	Legal History, International Law, Human Rights, Legal Theory Jurisprudence, Civil law, Commercial Law, Constitutional law, Family Law, Criminal law etc.

5.	Humanities	Classical and Contemporary Art, History, Literature, Films, Music, folk art, Philosophy, psychology, Values Geography, Religion, Sports, current & static Global Affairs, Travelogue etc.
6.	Business &, Management	Business, Finance, Management, Consumer Psychology, Production Management, Advertisement Management, Environmental Management, Marketing Management, Human Resources Management etc.
7.	Technology	Computers, Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Nano-technology, Chemical technology, Microbial technology, Space technology etc.

If you are getting curious to know what kind of passages are generally found on the above-mentioned domains, then read the following sample passages. Reading this passage will make you aware of writing style, jargon, structure, complexity etc. of passages based on above mentioned domains.

3.1 Domain - Biological Sciences

Such passages, based on areas like Zoology, Botany, Cell Biology, Genetics and Medicine come laden with many facts and data. But instead of getting confused by the technical jargon, you need to focus on the main ideas presented by the author in the passage.

Sample Passage 1 (Marine Biology)

Across 115 degrees of latitude, spanning most of North and South America, higher ocean temperatures correlate with more intense predation by fish and shifts in invertebrate prey communities, according to a study published in Science. The results demonstrate one way that warmer ocean temperatures caused by climate change could affect marine ecosystems.

Few studies have looked at both predation intensity and effects on prey communities, and none have done so over such a large geographic scale, says Gail Ashton, a study coauthor and marine biologist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. “Applying [this analysis] over such a large geography range is a massive step in our knowledge and understanding,” she says, adding that “the only way we were able to do this is through a massive collaboration.”

The study involved researchers at 57 institutions and took place at 36 near shore sites in 11 countries along both coasts of North and South America. During the summer months, researchers at each site conducted three experiments. In the first, the researchers measured predation intensity by observing how much dry squid bait predators—mainly fish—consumed in an hour. In the second experiment, they submerged PVC panels below floating docks, half of which were caged to block access by fish larger than 1 cm, and assessed invertebrate community development on the panels over a three-month period. In the third experiment, they assessed how predation affected already-developed invertebrate communities by uncaging half of a group of panels after they'd been kept underwater for 10 weeks.

The results showed that both predation intensity—measured as bait loss over one hour—and loss of invertebrate biomass on uncaged versus caged panels increased in warmer water temperatures. From high latitudes with mean summer water temperatures of 9°C down to tropical latitudes where water temperatures were 31°C, average bait consumption by predators increased from 0 to more than 10 percent. Across the same temperature range, the average difference in biomass between caged and uncaged panels went from

close to 0 to more than 300 grams. “It’s significant that we found the kind of universal trend over such a large range of latitudes,” Ashton says.

She says that the near-zero difference in biomass between uncaged and caged prey communities at higher latitudes indicate that predators are not currently the most important factor affecting invertebrate communities in these areas. “I was surprised at the lack of effect at the higher latitudes,” she says. “I expected a smaller effect, but not quite as insignificant as we found.”

Jay Stachowicz, a marine ecologist at University of California, Davis, says the scope of the research is impressive. Stachowicz did not participate in the study but has collaborated with several of its coauthors, including one who was previously a graduate student in his lab.

“Through studies like this, we can start to get a global picture and try to develop something like a map of processes,” he says, adding that scientists have information on variables such as temperature and salinity distribution, but they lack data on how predation varies geographically, which he says is just as important:

"There's shockingly little large-scale understanding of that distribution."

Key words: ecosystem, predator, fossils, skeletons, reptile, paleontologists

Source: https://www.project-syndicate.org

3.2 Domain - Physical Sciences

Sample Passage 1 (Astronomy)

In the beginning—about 400,000 years after the Big Bang— darkness was upon the face of the deep. The light was trapped inside the neutral atoms and molecules, mostly hydrogen, helium, and a pinch of lithium. By the end of the Cosmic Dark Ages, a few hundred million years later, those hydrogen clouds eventually gathered and gravitationally collapsed, forming the first stars and galaxies. Nuclear reactions kicked off inside those infant stars, creating the first heavier elements ever, allowing the light to escape—the very same light the James Webb Space Telescope captured in its deep field image unveiled.

The endless richness of the deep field image, jam-packed with stars and galaxies, covering a tiny patch of sky, tells the history of the universe. The blue biggest and brightest objects with large spikes are stars that are close to us, in the Milky Way. These spikes are not actually part of the star, but an effect due to the sharp edges of the honeycomb mirror. These patterns only appear in the stars, not in the galaxies because stars are "point sources, while galaxies are extended objects," clarified Macarena García Marin, ESA operations scientist and team leader of the mid-infrared (MIRI) instrument at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

Most of the objects in the image are galaxies, thousands and thousands of them, from the white, big ones, in the center, to the very faint points in the background, many of them captured for the first time by Webb. Macarena expressed her amazement:

"I didn't expect to see so many galaxies. We can see galaxies in every Webb image, which is wonderful; particularly in the case of MIRI [mid-infrared instrument], in its deep field, I was surprised by the colors. There are galaxies in every color. The first time I saw it, I said, Wow! all those colors, incredible. Those colors tell us the age of the

galaxies. The image shows galaxies from many moments of the universe, very old galaxies, intermediate galaxies, and the central cluster."

When light interacts with matter and we decompose it in its colors, it creates unique patterns called spectra, which are fingerprints of atoms and molecules, allowing scientists to identify elements and chemical compounds no matter where they are in the universe. The spectra reveal stars' and galaxies' composition.

However, the ancient light that comes from the galaxies reaches us with its wavelength stretched to the infrared due to the expansion of space-time. Thus, the spectra will appear red-shifted while preserving their shapes, allowing the scientist to calculate the age of the galaxies.

For this reason, the James Webb carries four highly sensitive instruments that can observe infrared radiation, between 0.5 microns and 28.5 microns; that is, from near-infrared to mid-infrared, surpassing the capacities of the Hubble and Spitzer telescopes. Although Spitzer is a fine space telescope whose instruments detect light in the far infrared (between 3 microns and 160 microns), Webb has much more resolution and sensitivity. "*Is like*

having a small magnifying glass and a big magnifying glass," Macarena explained.

As light travels through the cosmos, it gets deviated and bent by every massive object it encounters in its journey. When an object is massive or the combined mass of many objects is big enough, it becomes a gravitational lens acting as a cosmic magnifying glass. This feature of matter and light helps us observe very distant and faint objects behind the massive objects. Galaxy clusters are the most massive and powerful gravitational lenses in the universe.

Unquestionably, the James Webb Space Telescope is a success that will usher in a new era of knowledge.

Key terms: galaxy, infra-red, gravitation, space-time, spectra

Source: https://www.ua-magazine.com/2022/07/15/jame-webb-depp-field-a-colorful-time-tunnel/

Sample Passage 2 (Chemistry)

Could you last a day without your cell phone? As many as 84% of U.S. residents could not, according to a recent poll conducted by Time magazine. It is hard to believe that 20 years ago, hardly anyone even owned a cell phone. And now the cell phone has morphed into something bigger and better—the smartphone. Worldwide, more than one billion smartphones were purchased last year. If you own a smartphone, you are probably aware that in a year or two, it will be practically obsolete, because the smartphone just keeps getting smarter.

In the 1950s, you would have needed a whole bank of computers on an entire floor of an office building to do what you are able to do with a single smartphone today. Even a low-end smartphone has more computing power than the computer system the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) used to put a man on the moon. Amazingly, you can surf the Internet, listen to music, and text your friends with something that fits in the palm of your hand. None of this would be possible without chemistry, and every time you use your smartphone, you are putting chemistry into action.

If you are wondering what chemistry has to do with smartphones, just look at the periodic table. Of the 83 stable (nonradioactive) elements, at least 70 of them can be found in smartphones! That's 84% of all of the stable elements. Metals are what make smartphones so "smart." An average smartphone may contain up to 62 different types of metals. One rather obscure group of metals—the rare-earth metals—plays a vital role. These rare-earth metals include scandium and yttrium, as well as elements 57–71. Elements 57–71 are known as the lanthanides, because they begin with the element lanthanum. The lanthanides often appear as the first of two free-floating rows located at the bottom of the periodic table. Scandium and yttrium are included in the rare-earth metals because their chemical properties are similar to those of the lanthanides.

A single iPhone contains eight different rare-earth metals. If you examine several varieties of smartphones, you can find 16 of the 17 rare earth metals. The only one you will not find is promethium, which is radioactive. Many of the vivid red, blue, and green colors you see on your screen are due to rare-earth metals, which are also used in the phone circuitry and in the speakers. Also, your phone would not be able to vibrate without neodymium and dysprosium.

Rare-earth metals are not only used in smartphones but in many other high-tech devices, too. They are found in televisions, computers, lasers, missiles, camera lenses, fluorescent light bulbs, and catalytic convertors. Rare-earth elements are so important in the electronics, communications, and defense industries that the U.S. Department of Energy dubbed them the "technology metals."

Smartphone technology is evolving at a dizzying pace. You can now use your smartphone to check your blood sugar, adjust your home's thermostat, and start your car. Twenty years ago, no one envisioned that people would someday take more pictures with their cell phones than with their stand-alone cameras. It is anyone's guess what will come next. Thanks to the intersection of chemistry and innovation, the possibilities are limitless.

Key terms: metal, rare earths, radioactive, periodic table

Source:
https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/resources/highschool/chemmatters/past-issues/archive-2014-2015/smartphones.html

3.3 Domain - Social Sciences

These passages could be from areas like Psychology, Economics, Anthropology, History, Politics, and Sociology etc. Such passages make for light reading and most students enjoy reading them. Generally, these passages are followed by many inferential questions, which assess your reading ability as well as how closely you have followed the essence of the passage.

Sample Passage 1 (Area -Psychology)

Intrinsically-motivated behaviours are generated by the sense of personal satisfaction that they bring. They are driven by an interest or enjoyment in the task itself that comes from the individual, not society. For example, if you are in college because you enjoy learning and want to make yourself a more well-rounded individual, you are intrinsically motivated. Intrinsic motivation is a critical element in cognitive, social, and physical development; those individuals who are intrinsically motivated are likely to perform better and improve their skills at a given task.

Extrinsically-motivated behaviours, in contrast, are performed in order to receive something from others. They do not come from within the individual, but from society—other people. For example, employees might do

their work because they want the company to pay them, not because they love the work. Many athletes are driven by the goal of winning, beating the competition, and receiving praise from fans; they are not driven by the intrinsic satisfaction they get from playing the sport. Similarly, if you are in college because you want to make yourself more marketable for a high-paying career or to satisfy the demands of your parents, then your motivation is more extrinsic in nature.

Intrinsic motivation comes from within the individual and results in a sense of autonomy, mastery, and purpose. Extrinsic motivation such as punishments, rewards, and other types of compensation, come from outside the individual.

In reality, our motivations are often a mix of both intrinsic and extrinsic factors, and the nature of the mix can change over time. For example, say cooking is one of your favourite hobbies: you love to cook for others whenever you get a chance, and you can easily spend hours in the kitchen. You are intrinsically motivated to cook. Then you decide to go to culinary school and eventually get a job working as a chef in a good restaurant. You are now getting extrinsic reinforcement (e.g., getting paid) for your work, and may over time

become more extrinsically than intrinsically motivated. Sometimes, intrinsic motivation can diminish when extrinsic motivation is given—a process known as the over-justification effect. This can lead to extinguishing the intrinsic motivation and creating a dependence on extrinsic rewards for continued performance.

While motivation and emotion can be intricately linked, they are two fundamentally different things. Motivation describes the wants or needs that direct behavior toward a goal; in contrast, an emotion is a subjective state of being that we often describe as a feeling. Emotion and motivation are linked in several ways: both influence behavior and can lead us to take action, and emotion itself can act as a motivator. For example, the emotion of fear can motivate a person to leave a stressful situation, while the emotion of happiness can motivate a person to be more productive on a project that reinforces that emotion.

Key Terms: Extrinsic motivation, intrinsic motivation, psychosocial, drive

Sample Passage 2 (Economics)

For African economies that have yet to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war in Ukraine could not have come at a worse time. The economic wounds of the previous crisis had been stitched up, but more time was needed for them to heal, let alone for the scars to fade. Now, commodity-price spikes and supply-chain disruptions are compounding inflationary pressures, causing currencies to depreciate and food and fuel costs to skyrocket. Since the war began, oil prices have reached their highest levels since 2008, wheat prices have soared to 14-year highs, and fertilizer prices have surged by nearly 30%.

These macro trends have high human costs. As many as 25 African countries depend on wheat imports from Russia and Ukraine. Rwanda and Tanzania import over 60% of their wheat from the two countries. That figure is nearly 70% in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and exceeds 80% in Egypt. Russia alone supplies 45% of Namibia's wheat, and 100% of Benin's. With grain products often accounting for a large share of local diets, the risk of hunger and undernourishment is rising fast – and not just for low-income households.

But many African governments have little scope to respond to this escalating crisis. Pandemic-related uncertainty led to massive capital flight from the continent, output shrank, and countries' debt burdens grew heavier. Over $40 billion in debt repayments were due in 2021, and debt service is expected to exceed 7% of Africa's GDP in 2022 even before the Ukraine crisis and the US Federal Reserve's interest-rate hikes.

As the crisis has intensified, access to international capital markets has tightened. Ghana and Tunisia are virtually shut out, and countries with greater access, such as South Africa, face onerous rates. Nigeria recently sold $1.25 billion in dollar bonds, due in 2029, with a yield of 8.375%.

Africa's current plight reflects a fundamental international failure. The continent's integration into the global economy over the last several decades has not been accompanied by changes to the global financial system aimed at ensuring that its needs – both for growth and support in times of global crisis – are met.

Such changes include accelerating the effort to reform the G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments and expanding it beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative. It also means improving African countries'

market access. While over 23 African economies have accessed the Eurobond market over the last four years – and emerging African economies do so regularly – they remain weighed down by low credit ratings, wide interest-rate spreads, and negative investment-risk perceptions. While this may take some time to correct, markets have tools with which to address the illiquidity of Africa's bonds, thereby reducing costs for African borrowers and crowding in more financing.

Secondary markets for trading African bonds typically lack depth. With the G20's support, however, a "repo" (repurchase) market can be created, with bonds used as collateral to access affordable loans. The G20 economies – and the international community more broadly – have pledged to help ease African countries' debt burdens. They must deliver on this promise. But they must also begin to lay the groundwork for a real-sector recovery, underpinned by investments in energy, infrastructure, and services to support trade and job creation.

Key terms: Inflation, debt, capital markets, credit rating, emerging economy, depreciation

3.4 Domain - Law

Sample Passage 1 (Human Rights)

To say that there is widespread acceptance of the principle of human rights is not to say that there is complete agreement about the nature and scope of such rights or, indeed, their definition. Among the basic questions that have yet to receive conclusive answers are the following: whether human rights are to be viewed as divine, moral, or legal entitlements; whether they are to be validated by intuition, culture, custom, social contract, principles of distributive justice, or as prerequisites for happiness or the achievement of human dignity; whether they are to be understood as irrevocable or partially revocable; and whether they are to be broad or limited in number and content. Even when the principle of human rights is accepted, there are controversies: whether human rights are a way of privileging narrowly conceived special interests over the common interest; whether they are the political tools of predominantly progressive elites; whether they are a stalking horse for Western economic imperialism; and so forth. It is thus sometimes claimed that there exists no universally agreed upon theory or even understanding of human rights.

Despite this lack of consensus, a number of widely accepted (and interrelated) postulates can assist in the task of defining human rights. Five in particular stand out, though not even these are without controversy.

First, regardless of their ultimate origin or justification, human rights are understood to represent both individual and group demands for political power, wealth, enlightenment, and other cherished values or capabilities, the most fundamental of which is respect and its constituent elements of reciprocal tolerance and mutual forbearance in the pursuit of all other such values or capabilities. Consequently, human rights imply both claims against persons and institutions impeding the realization of these values or capabilities and standards for judging the legitimacy of laws and traditions. At bottom, human rights qualify state sovereignty and power, sometimes expanding the latter even while circumscribing the former (as in the case of certain economic and social rights, for example). Increasingly, human rights are said also to qualify "private sovereignty" (as in the case, for example, of challenging the impunity of overbearing business enterprises, protecting family members from domestic violence, and holding non-state terrorist actors to account).

Second, human rights are commonly assumed to refer, in some vague sense, to “fundamental,” as distinct from “nonessential,” claims or “goods.” In fact, some theorists go so far as to limit human rights to a single core right or two—for example, the right to life or the right to equal opportunity. The tendency is to emphasize “basic needs” and to rule out “mere wants.”

Third, reflecting varying environmental circumstances, differing worldviews, and inescapable interdependencies within and between different value or capability systems, human rights refer to a wide continuum of claims, ranging from the most justiciable (or enforceable) to the most aspirational. Human rights partake of both the legal and the moral orders, sometimes indistinguishably. They are expressive of both the “is” and the “ought” in human affairs.

Fourth, most assertions of human rights—though arguably not all (freedom from slavery, genocide, or torture are notable exceptions)—are qualified by the limitation that the rights of individuals or groups in particular instances are restricted as much as is necessary to secure the comparable rights of others and the aggregate common interest. Given this limitation, which connects rights to duties, human rights are

sometimes designated “prima facie rights,” so that ordinarily it makes little or no sense to think or talk of them in absolutist terms.

3.5 Domain - Humanities

Sample Passage 1 (Music)

Indian classical music has a long history dating back to ancient times; music was considered a mystical pursuit and was performed for religious worship as well as entertainment. In order to create structure within Indian classical music, specific groupings of notes or musical modes are called ragas.

What is raga in music? A definition of raga translates as "coloring," and each group of notes in a raga outlines the musical mode that becomes the basis for improvisation. A mode is a group of notes and rules for how to play them. In Western classical and jazz music, modes such as major, harmonic minor, blues, pentatonic, and aeolian define what notes the performer should utilize in a specific piece of music. Raga modes function in the same fashion. Each raga has its own meaning and significance, based on emotional mood, the time of the day, or specific season. They are performed to summon various emotions from the listener. Some ragas are brief while others can take an hour to play through, and two

ragas with similar scales can sound very different from each other depending on prescribed ornamentations and embellishments in the raga.

While most Western classical music is composed (written down on paper in its final form), raga music is primarily improvised; the musician creates the performance during the performance, rather than rehearsing from written music. Using a raga as the formal outline for music, Indian classical musicians then improvise on the series of notes presented in the chosen raga. In this way Indian classical music is very similar to Western jazz; both improvised art forms contain sophisticated melodies with virtuosic rhythmic complexity and are some of the most intricate forms of music in the world. Indian classical music is generally taught through oral tradition, with different ragas and improvisational skills being taught to students by ear. This is different from Western classical music, which uses printed scores of the music to communicate the piece to be played.

Raga is traditionally integral to Hindu spiritual practices; the word raga is present in ancient Hindu texts such as the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita. It is an integral

part of worship practices and is incorporated into Sikhism, Jainism, and Sufism.

Raga uses an archaic system of melodies and rhythms organized into various systems; groups of unique pitches are further categorized by mood and feel, as well as a structure for melodic ascent and descent. Pitches are assigned syllables known as *sargam*; the sequence of syllables is: *sa, re, ga, ma, pa, dha, ni, sa* (very similar to the Western solfege system of *do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do*).

There are several components of raga music that form a *chalan*, which is an elaborate series of notes that formalizes the developmental structure of a raga. The word *chalan* translates as "flow" or "drift" and refers to the wandering, yet flowing, melodic movement of the raga. A *chalan* establishes the essence of the raga, and is an extended melodic framework that provides elements for improvisation. In typical raga music, the ascending scale, called the *arohana*, varies in melodic structure and notes from the descending scale, known as the *avarohana*, allowing for greater improvisational variation from the asymmetrical groupings. Imagine painting a canvas with only selected colors, for example violet, aqua, sunflower, and mellow orange- similar to the parameters of a *raga*, with only select pitches permitted.

The painter is limited by the choices of color on the palette but can find freedom within the set artistic parameters. Similarly, a musician may only play from the notes of the raga but has great artistic freedom in how they play the notes.

Key terms: *raga*, *aaroh*, *avrohan, chalan, melodic, note*

Source:

https://study.com/academy/lesson/raga-music-definition-instruments-songs.html

Sample Passage 2 (History)

Efforts to create an accurate ten-year large-scale Census had begun from the mid-19th Century as the stirrings of a rebellion had emphasized the need to understand the composition of society and alter it to exploit it for their remunerative and administrative advantage. The goal was simple: identification and classification of each person for convenience in ruling over them. The subsequent surveys are often quoted as the leading reason behind the propagation of the Caste System that included the former *Varnas* as Castes, *Jatis* as Sub-castes, and Untouchables as Outcastes. The endeavour amalgamated the complex interplay of endogamous, diverse, and fluid Varna and Jati classification systems

to fit into one identifier for each citizen. Attempts at defining an overarching framework extended till the census led by Herbert Risley in 1901. Moreover, the meticulous codifying of each citizen into the system played an essential role in the hardening of caste identities.

The British were infamous for their strategy of Divide and Rule that was premised on the idea of breaking up larger concentrations of power into pieces that individually had less power than the one implementing the strategy. The collective Hindu society was explicitly divided into segments solely identified by their castes, allowing for stirring up conflict and tension. Moreover, by labeling the society as fundamentally unequal and grossly discriminatory, they were able to position themselves as superior who had to correct and educate the barbaric, uncivilized masses. Through the use and widespread distribution of specific stronger and more divisive translations of the Manusmriti, they convinced the masses of the divine origin of the discriminatory social division instead of what had been followed for thousands of years.

The cornerstone of the colonial era was a highly ethnocentric racial science and orientalist gaze that

implored the western race to civilize the impure barbaric eastern society. The motto of the British armies was positioned as the White Man's Burden, conformed through orientalist stereotypes, and taught to all Britishers present in India. The country was used as an ethnographic playground for western anthropologists driven by the aim of re-assuring the westerner' superiority and imperial domination. The subsequent constant subjugation of lower classes, highlighting classism and racism, could have been a substantial factor in hardening social boundaries by creating a socio-economic caste hierarchy with rampant discrimination that seeped into the very fabric of Indian society by the time freedom came around.

We can also understand that the codification of caste was aided by groups of people that welcomed and took advantage of it. Enumeration of a caste hierarchy by the British resulted in people trying to get their castes ranked higher by the government and preserving the structure. This included misrepresentation of the benefits of class-based classification; for example, certain castes were designated as martial races forming a significant part of the British Indian army and enjoying the advantages that came from being a part of it. Cohn gives an example of people handing out fliers in neighbourhoods explaining

what answers need to be given in the census to influence classification.

Key terms: Orientalist, census, racism, stereotypes, caste hierarchy, ethnographic, imperial

Source:
http://www.inquiriesjournal.com/articles/1927/deconstructing-social-classification-and-mobility-the-hindu-varna-system-platos-magnificent-myth-and-british-caste-system

3.6 Domain - Business and Management

Sample Passage 1 (Business)

Both external debt as a ratio of gross domestic product (GDP) and debt servicing as a ratio of export of goods and services have declined in the 12 months. With commercial borrowings becoming less appealing, this trajectory can reasonably be expected to be maintained, despite the central bank's efforts to prop up ECBs. India Inc is turning to costly local credit to fund growth at a time foreign equity investments are in flight.

The demand for dollars could climb as companies roll over foreign loans in the middle of hardening interest rates, a heightened need for hedging currency risk and

tougher rules on lending to sustainable enterprises. Around 43.1% of India's $620.7 billion external debt will mature over 12 months, and India Inc may have lost some appetite following a borrowing spree at very low interest rates during global monetary easing and stable exchange rates. Over 40% of outstanding external commercial borrowings (ECBs) are reckoned to be unhedged, and hedging costs have spiked in the last few months as the rupee has depreciated against the dollar. The bar for environmental, social and governance (ESG) compliance has also been raised, and smaller Indian companies may find it difficult to meet criteria set for accessing credit abroad.

Then again, interest rates are hardening faster abroad than at home. ECBs are mainly based on up to one-year LIBOR (London interbank offered rates), which have run up even quicker. Add in the hedging cost and the interest rate differential narrows considerably. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, for the next six months, doubled the ceiling for ECBs in the automatic route to $1.5 billion from $750 million to help companies get over the repayment hump. It has also allowed investment-grade companies a higher all-in cost, including items like arranger and processing fees, by up to a percentage point. This easing of credit controls will, however, have to

contend with bigger fundamental forces at play, such as the strain on India's capital and current accounts.

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Key terms: Hedge, LIBOR, ECB, equity investment, debt servicing

Source:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/et-editorial/the-dollar-route-to-india-inc-loans/articleshow/92883707.cms

Sample Passage 2 (Management)

Is there an India Way to do business? To understand this, we need to first understand the Indian landscape. If you go back in time - until the 90s - India was a closed economy. The general perception was that once the economy opens up, it would be taken over by the large multinationals. Instead, the opposite happened - Indian

businesses reacted positively to the opening of the economy. They restructured, improved their capital structures, brought in good management skills, and, over a period of time, they professionalised and globalised themselves as well. As Indian businesses have become bigger and globally more important, is there something that can be identified as The India Way of management or doing business? Is there something unique to Indian managers? Yes, there are quite a few unique aspects that can be attributed to Indian managers and The India Way of doing business.

First, unlike other countries, Indian companies are largely led by family promoters. Unlike in the US, an Indian entrepreneur tends to stay with his business till the end. In India, it is also a norm for the promoters' children to take over the business, which is less common in the US or other western countries. The legacy issues are much stronger here than in any other country. But at the same time, Indian promoters also recognise the need for professional managers. India, therefore, has a situation of both promoters and professional managers running a business and working seamlessly with each other. This is clearly visible in family-promoted Indian conglomerates such as the Tatas, Birlas, Mittals, etc.

As a result, it's a mix of organisational capabilities, management practices, and company culture that sets Indian enterprises apart from firms in other countries. The Indian business is characterised by greater employee engagement, an ability to improvise and creatively deliver value to customers, and missions that extend beyond delivering shareholder value.

The second uniqueness of India is the fact that we have developed very good management talent over the years and this is perhaps most aptly demonstrated by the graduates from the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). Now there are more students passing out of Indian B-schools and these young managers are collectively coming together with older experienced managers to create a managerial cadre that has diverse skill sets and who are able to operate successfully both in India and internationally.

There are roughly 30,000 IIM graduates, who are the backbone of India's management talent. In fact, an attempt is being made to get all the IIM alumni and institutes together and form a global pan-IIM network to put this combined talent to better project the Indian management brand.

The third uniqueness about India is the dexterity required to operate a business here. If you can operate a business in India, you can do so anywhere. It's not that Indian managers are inherently more creative than their counterparts elsewhere. But they operate in a complex, volatile environment with much red tape. They, therefore, have to be nimble-footed to move with a constantly-changing and evolving policy framework, low quality infrastructure that reduces smooth flow of physical and financial capital, corruption, bureaucratic procedures that increase transaction costs - all hurdles for doing business in India.

Indian managers are used to finding ways around obstacles, a mindset captured by the term "jugaad", which refers to a willingness to persistently improvise creative solutions. But, there is also a downside to *jugaad* - it often leads to less sustainable or lower quality solutions which do not create lasting improvements.

Key word: Globalization, multinationals, red tape, entrepreneur

Source:
https://www.businesstoday.in/magazine/columns/story/the-indian-way-of-management-15999-2010-10-09

3.7 Domain - Technology

Sample Passage 1 (Biotechnology)

Biotechnology plays a big part in supporting stem cell research, which supports the exploration of growing stem cells in a lab setting or in vitro. This could help in situations where patients may be suffering from a disease where implanting stem cells could help restore their vitality and give them a new life. How does it work? Because stem cells can repeatedly divide and transform into other types of body cells, biotechnologists can work with their unique profiles to encourage growth of specific types of cells. Though research is ongoing, it's reported that the results show hope for the future of this unique medical approach. While there are great advancements and positives to medical biotechnology, anything this fast-growing and powerful is bound to come with some concerns and issues. Medical biotechnology is a controversial medical topic, with medical ethical issues associated.

A huge risk of medical biotechnology is its impact during clinical trials. Because it's such new tech, people can and have gotten hurt—and even died—during trials. Because of these risks, extensive research should be performed before even thinking of introducing tech to human

subjects, and those who are participating in a trial should be extremely aware of all possibilities. Unfortunately, the paradox is that many times people who are sick are willing to try new things for the chance to get cured. This means researchers and doctors have a huge ethical responsibility to truly outline for a patient what the costs may be and respect their ultimate decision.

While medical biotechnology has huge potential to make medicine more efficient and easy, what's the cost? This technology is often hugely expensive compared to traditional treatments. There is an ongoing give and take about finding new medical advancements and the cost it takes to do research and then market the findings. There is also the concern that high costs of tech treatments can exclude an entire class of people from utilizing them. This is also a huge give and take, with science and medicine having a responsibility to help all patients—not just those who are wealthy enough to buy the best care.

Privacy is an ongoing issue in our world, but reading someone's DNA seems to be a giant privacy breach. Imagine a doctor looks at a young child's DNA and finds out they are likely to develop a heart disease or terminal issue. Does their employer have the right to know that? Should this information impact their ability to get a

house or insurance? The laws offer some protection, but as medical biotechnology continues to advance the ability to read genes, insurance companies, doctors, and governments will have to come up with new programs and privacy tactics to match all the new needs that will arise.

Medical biotechnology has been used for security measures to help prevent a large number of people from possible bioterrorism. But the development of these projects takes away funding and time from curing known diseases. It becomes a real question of how to divide resources among projects and knowing where the resources are most needed. It's difficult because we don't know if people will die from bioterrorism but with so many people being concerned, it seems like a worthwhile place to spend time and money.
Key terms: Biotechnology, stem cell research, bioterrorism, clinical trial

Source:

https://www.wgu.edu/blog/medical-biotechnology-advancements-ethics1811.html#close

Sample Passage 2 (Internet of Things)

The Internet of Things, or IoT, refers to the billions of physical devices around the world that are now connected to the internet, all collecting and sharing data. Thanks to super-cheap computer chips and the ubiquity of wireless networks, it's possible to turn anything, from a pill to an aeroplane, into a part of the IoT. Connecting all these objects and adding sensors to them adds digital intelligence to devices that would be otherwise dumb, enabling them to communicate real-time data without involving a human being. The Internet of Things is making the fabric of the world around us smarter and more responsive, merging the digital and physical universes.

Pretty much any physical object can be transformed into an IoT device if it can be connected to the internet to be controlled or communicate information. A light bulb that can be switched on using a smartphone app is an IoT device, as is a motion sensor or a smart thermostat or a connected streetlight. An IoT device could be as fluffy as a child's toy or as serious as a driverless truck. Some larger objects may be filled with many smaller IoT components, such as a jet engine that's filled with thousands of sensors collecting and transmitting data

back to make sure it is operating efficiently. At a bigger scale, smart cities projects are filling entire regions with sensors to help us understand and control the environment.

The term IoT is mainly used for devices that wouldn't usually be generally expected to have an internet connection, and that can communicate with the network independently of human action. For this reason, a PC isn't generally considered an IoT device and nor is a smartphone -- even though the latter is crammed with sensors. A smart watch or a fitness band or other wearable device might be counted as an IoT device, however.

The idea of adding sensors and intelligence to basic objects was discussed throughout the 1980s and 1990s, but apart from some early projects -- including an internet-connected vending machine -- progress was slow because the technology wasn't ready. Chips were too bulky and there was no way for objects to communicate effectively.

Processors that were cheap and power-frugal enough to be all but disposable were needed before it finally became cost-effective to connect billions of devices. The adoption of RFID tags -- low-power chips that can

communicate wirelessly -- solved some of this issue, along with the increasing availability of broadband internet and cellular and wireless networking. The adoption of IPv6 -- which, among other things, should provide enough IP addresses for every device the world is ever likely to need -- was also a necessary step for the IoT to scale.

Kevin Ashton coined the phrase 'Internet of Things' in 1999, although it took another decade for the technology to catch up. Adding RFID tags to expensive equipment to help track their location was one of the first IoT applications. Since then, the cost of adding sensors and an internet connection to objects has continued to fall, and experts predict that this basic functionality could one day cost as little as 10 cents, making it possible to connect nearly everything to the internet.

If you want to succeed you must fail first, says the man who dreamt up the Internet of Things. Today, there are already more connected things than people in the world.

Key terms: Internet of Things, IP, RFID, real-time

Source:

https://www.zdnet.com/article/what-is-the-internet-of-things-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-iot-right-now/

Takeaway:

Regular reading is the key to mastering reading comprehension passages. Diverse reading will familiarize you with these passage types and enhance your reading speed and comprehension, too.

Here important question is still left i.e., to be answered 'is knowing the names of the domains and looking at a few sample passages sufficient to gain confidence in solving RCs? The answer to this question is big 'NO'.

So, it is important to know the essence of these domains to have contextual background whenever you come across passages based on these domains,

4. Essence of Different Domains

Reading Comprehension passages may be based on many areas of study. Here's a quick summary of the various passage types and the right strategy for each of them. Understanding the essence of different domains lie in understanding the relevance of these domains and a **few important terms or 'jargon' associated with these domains. To help you out in this respect, we have given terms & their corresponding definitions to understand passages based on different areas better. Also, another dimension to the essence of the following areas will be given later on. Let us look at the essence of following areas:**

1. **Social Sciences:** The expression Social Sciences covers a broad swathe including subjects like history, geography, political science, economics and anthropology, current & global static affairs etc. More often than not, these passages are engaging and aren't too dense or heavy on the mind.

   Some of the questions here are asked in a straightforward manner and you can find the answers directly from the passage while some others may be inferential in nature. In case of

inferential questions, it makes great sense to read the preceding line and the following line with reference to the line containing the answer. Also passages on current & static global affairs can have essence of politics, sports, economy, pandemics, war etc. These passages are easiest of the lot. Such passages are typically followed by both direct as well as indirect questions.

You can gain familiarity with social science passages by reading editorials and opinion pieces in newspapers, magazines and websites like ***The Hindu, The Times of India, The Indian Express, Frontline, Open, The Print etc.***

2. **Business and Management:** The passages in this domain are based on important economic principles and business events. Therefore, being aware of the language and the basic concepts in business and management can be helpful here. But the questions here are usually easy and direct. Business simply can be seen as application of principles of economics and ways of utilizing resources optimally However, the passage may appear complicated if you are not clued into the world of business, economics & management.

Elsewhere in this book, you will find a list of terms commonly used in business and economics to aid your understanding of such passages. A regular reading of the business and economy pages of a good daily newspaper and magazines like ***Business Today, Business World*** etc. can be of great help in this context.

3. **Natural & Physical Sciences:** Biology, chemistry, physics, medicine, and mathematics are some popular areas covered in this domain. These passages come laden with many facts and principles. Do not allow yourself to be confused by their technical jargon. Instead, focus on the major ideas in the passage to understand the essence of what is being said.

   The questions here would be easy to understand and answer. Most often, you would be able to answer the question in case of such passages even without fully understanding the specifics given in the passage. However, to improve your familiarity with the sciences, try to go through the science columns of ***The Hindu, The Guardian, Washington Post, Discover, Safari, Scientific India*** etc. and science journals.

4. **Humanities:** Such passages related to sociology and psychology are often dense and demand good focus for comprehension. The questions focus on the overall picture and assess your overall understanding of the ideas. You need to identify the underlying ideas to answer the questions, wherein the context plays a vital role.

   To cultivate familiarity with such passages, try to read articles from ***Psychology Today, Down To Earth*** and ***Frontline.***

5. **Law:** We belong to civilized world and this civility is necessary for our survival & progress.

   To achieve these ends, we need peace & stability in our civilization. As resources in this world are limited and humans' tendencies to go extreme in terms of greed & self-centeredness can cause disputes and conflicts so it is important for society to know what is right & what is wrong. But mere knowing this distinction will not establish peace & order in the society. Hence, we created laws to maintain order and deliver justice. The essence of law to eliminate anarchy & establish peace. In most of the passages sometimes you will come

across authors trying to figure out what is right or what is wrong i.e., discussion on morality & ethics.

6. **Technology:** Human mind is superior to mind of other species and all discoveries & inventions are evidence to it. We are in constant interaction with our environment and it can sometimes add to our survival & sometimes it can cause obstruction. So, in order to increase our productivity & efficiency, we created certain processes & tools called technology. The tendency to survive and make progress motivates us to come up with new designs, tools & processes. These tools etc. can range from simple machines to more complex machines such as computers, nanorobots etc., In passages based on technology, you will come across use or abuse of technology, new researches being conducted, new frontiers being explored & humans venturing into uncharted territories. Innovation is an integral part of development & progress and it has helped us a lot in our survival & progress. Reading the history of technology can be good resource to capture the essence of technology.

After general understanding of the essence of these domains, it is time to capture the weightage of these domains in different entrance exams.

4.1 Analyzing essence of RCs coming in the important exams & Associated Challenges

➢ **Common Admission Test (CAT)**

Considering the fact that Reading Comprehension alone holds more than 50% weightage in the CAT verbal ability section, you can ignore it at your own peril. The passages in CAT span many diverse topics but in general, the passages are taken from:

A. Business and economics
B. Humanities
C. Social Sciences
D. Sciences, Environment, and Technology
E. Current events
F. Art, literary criticism

Let's see how you begin to have a handle on reading materials in various categories:

Most often, the passages on business and economics generally cover theories you will also use after completing your MBA programme. For instance, how were Larry Page and Sergei Brin were able to create a behemoth Google out of a Stanford University computer science research project?? How did China become an economic super-power but India couldn't? Decoding it may require the knowledge of various economic models in use in different countries. While tackling such passages, the ideal strategy would be to:

A. Identify the author's main points in each paragraph (e.g. the major features of a theory and its implications.)

B. Create a mental map of the key ideas in the passage.

It saves valuable time while answering the RC questions. Fortunately, most questions based on such passages are direct only.

In the humanities, fields like history, geography, arts, culture, literature, philosophy, etc. are covered. A good way to handle such passages would be to:

A. Examine closely the tone, structure, and organization of the passage to figure out the implicit information.

B. Read the passage with an eye on analysis to identify the underlying message. In some cases, you may have to re-read such passages to grasp them well. For example, if a passage talks of a tribal group's culture, you may be asked to extrapolate the given information and predict their behavior in a particular situation. Thus a good analysis can help you answer the inferential questions accurately.

In order to tackle the passages on social sciences, you need to learn about the important economic, historical, diplomatic and political developments in the world, which make up the social sciences passages. For example: What does Joe Biden's victory as US President bode for the efforts to arrest the climate crisis? Why is the Chinese leadership looking to become a global geo-political-military superpower? Obviously, to handle such passages effectively, you have to have a keenness to know the background to these issues. A good approach in such cases is to:

A. Understand the passage from author's viewpoint. It can help you answer the questions regarding the ideas the author agrees/disagrees with.

B. Do not be distracted by the minor details mentioned in such passages e.g. the passage may be a critical analysis of theories about the world wars, major political events, etc., alongside giving you lots of facts, figures and dat. Most often, such information is hardly important from the viewpoint of answering the question. So, it's advisable to not pay much attention to them, while keeping your focus on main ideas in the passage.

You may not have liked physics, chemistry and biology in school days. But knowing a bit about the theories and ideas therein is certainly going to serve our purpose here while solving natural sciences passages.

A. Since most questions here are quite specific and direct, it's a smart idea to glance at the questions before going to the passage.

B. Do not be confused by the technical jargon used. They will, most likely, not hamper your understanding of the passage. Instead, try to understand the major points of the scientific theory or research given in the passage.

As a manager or entrepreneur, you are expected to know about the latest happenings around you. A good starting point can be a regular reading of some good newspapers like ***The Times of India, The Hindu*** *and* ***The Economic Times,*** etc. For such passages,

A. Try to go through the editorials related to such events to form an opinion on them.

B. Single out the points that support, explain or contradict the subject matter of the passage.

It will help you grasp the scope of the topic and answer the tricky inferential questions.

Once you are into a reading habit, you can move on to more reading materials like Business Standard, The Washington Post, The Guardian; journals of arts, humanities, and sciences; magazines like Frontline, Business Today, Outlook, CSR, etc. You can also watch some good news channels like BBC, CNN, etc. for a better understanding of important events.

- **Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)**

The RC passages in the GMAT can be either “short” or “long.” While the short passages are generally 2-3 paragraphs long and take 200-250 words, although occasionally a short passage may be only one paragraph

long. Usually, the short ones are followed by 3 questions each while the long ones, comprising 3-4 paragraphs and spread over 300+ words, are accompanied by 4 questions each.

In general, the GMAT passages are taken from:

A. Business

B. The Sciences

D. History

E. Social sciences

So, you may find GAMT passages based on art, music, film, literature, human rights, international law, history, economics, politics, sociology, medicine, health care, astronomy, technology, philosophy, physics, biology, or chemistry, to name a few of them.

Evidently, though the passages do cover a vast range of topics in the humanities, social sciences, business, and the physical and biological sciences, mercifully, you don't need to have any specialized subject knowledge to understand them or answer the RC questions. Very simply, you don't have to become Sartre to interpret an RC passage on philosophy, or be a diplomat to answer questions about an RC passage based on global politics,

or have studied astronomy course to answer questions based on an astronomy passage.

All the information you need to answer these questions lies within the passages presented to you. So no outside facts or figures, information or expertise in a particular area is required at all. Remember, the RC passages are NOT subject area tests; they test your ability to understand and interpret the written stuff.

The first step in accessing these topics involves overcoming jargon and confusing abbreviations. Jargon is a special word used by a specific group but hard for outside people. An inability to understand jargon can be a real blow to confidence, making us question whether we're really smart enough. But regular practice can help you learn some popular jargon in different areas. Since such jargon usually doesn't hamper your understanding of the passage, it's more important to cultivate the skill of ignoring jargon, making a reasonable guess about it and move on.

1. **Business:** Passages based on business, consumer behavior and corporations are frequently found among the easier GMAT passages. But the more difficult questions are likely to focus on some complex economic theory or international trade.

Such passages often introduce multiple perspectives and research designed to criticize a common view of a certain issue or introduce multiple perspectives and assess them.

2. **The Sciences:** Science passages are unique in that they require a constant attention on your part on who thought, what, when, and how new studies have changed that. Science passages often are best represented using a table: what experts think about various phenomena, or how different characteristics play out across astronomical bodies or species.

Try to carefully identify the differences in perspectives from one expert to the other, or how an earlier consensus changed with time. What was the old theory? How did the new evidence showed some problems with the old theory, leading to the new theory? Note if the author takes a stand and includes their own opinion about the topic rather than presenting a neutral summary of others' opinions.

The commonest sub-topic found here is biology (e.g. genetics, cell biology, evolution), but you can also find others like neuroscience and physics (e.g. astrophysics, physics of sub-atomic particles).

3. **History:** Simple historical passages describe changes over time but the more complex ones involve the opinions of many historians, an analysis of their theories, and our views about how we ought to think about history.

Tracking these concepts in notes, with lines separating them is very useful. The GMAT history passages often focus on the historically marginalized groups and their rights. The history passages most commonly address women's struggle for economic and political rights, Afro-Americans, workers, and Native Americans.

Some very useful concepts here are problems with sources of data, biases inherent in the researcher's assumptions, and how history us may not reflect reality. It is also quite important to distinguish between two perspectives in conflict as opposed to one theory that adds onto the other without disputing it.

- **Graduate Record Examination (GRE)**

According to Educational Testing Services, the agency that administers the GRE, the GRE Reading Comprehension questions are designed to test a range of abilities required to read and understand the prose commonly found in graduate school courses.

Reading and understanding the printed stuff requires far beyond a passive understanding of the words and sentences it contains; rather, it requires active engagement with the text, asking questions, formulating and evaluating hypotheses and reflecting on the relationship of the particular text to other information.

The Reading Comprehension passages here range from one paragraph to several paragraphs, with there being approximately 10 passages in length. A majority of them are one paragraph long while only one or two of are several paragraphs long. The passages are drawn from fields like:

1. The Physical Sciences
2. The Biological Sciences
3. The Social Sciences
4. Business
5. The Arts
6. The Humanities

The passages are based on material found in books and periodicals, both academic and nonacademic.

Typically, the number of questions based on a given passage can range from 1-6 and the questions can range from finding the meaning of a particular word to evaluating evidence to support or weaken a point made in the passage. Many questions are standard multiple-choice questions, while others ask of you to select multiple correct answers and still others ask you to select a sentence from the passage.

Given that the passages are taken from different disciplines and sources, the test takers are likely to encounter unfamiliar material. But all questions can be answered solely on the basis of information given in the passage and no specialized knowledge is assumed. Nonetheless, for those keen on gaining more exposure to GRE-level reading material, the most fruitful approach is gaining more familiarity with the logical reasoning and rhetorical patterns typically found in GRE reading passages. The best way is: read a variety of materials with similar features regularly.

Besides reading widely in a range of fields, try to cultivate the habit of reading closely and critically for the GRE Verbal Part. For example, you can focus on paragraphs which are particularly dense in meaning and engage actively with it:

How can we sum up the author's larger point?

What does a phrase used here mean in this context?

What is not said here but is implied?

Why does the author highlight this specific detail?

Where is the argument most vulnerable to some criticism?

Remember, to succeed in the GRE reading comprehension, how you read is just as important as what you read.

5. Overview of Reading Resources for important Entrance Exams:

Reading resources for different exams are generally on the basis of following:

1. Level of the exam i.e., all the entrance exams are not at the same level of difficulty
2. Nature of the exam i.e. is it for admission in a professional course? or is it for getting a job?
3. Is it a national level exam or a state level exam?

So here are the reading resources for important exams:

5.1 CAT & other MBA entrance exams' RC Passage Sources:

- ✓ NYTimes.com
- ✓ The Guardian
- ✓ Mckinsey Insights
- ✓ Aeon Essays
- ✓ World Economic Forum publications

To read similar pieces, refer to the above sources besides

1. The Hindu (editorials)
2. AlDaily.com for opinion pieces

3. Gurcharan Das's blogs
4. Swamithan Aiyar's blogs
5. The weekly feature *Swaminomics* in the Times of India
6. Blogs - *Wall Street Oasis* for finance *Hubspot* for Marketing *Curious Cat* and *Freakonomics* for Economics *Forbes* and *Harvard Business Review* for Business*Quartz* for Analysis.
7. *TechCrunch* for Startup News and Technology

5.2 Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)

Reading Resources:

- ✓ Financial Times
- ✓ Economist
- ✓ Bloomberg Businessweek
- ✓ A basic book on Economics like Yoram Bauman's Cartoon Introductions to Micro and Macroeconomics.
- ✓ Scientific American
- ✓ Psychology Today
- ✓ New York Times
- ✓ Sunday NYT Book Review

- ✓ The New Yorker
- ✓ Atlantic Monthly

5.3 Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

Reading Resources:

- ✓ New York Times
- ✓ The Guardian
- ✓ The Wall Street Journal
- ✓ London Review of Books
- ✓ The New Yorker
- ✓ The Economist
- ✓ Smithsonian
- ✓ Scientific American
- ✓ MIT Technology Review
- ✓ The Guardian
- ✓ The Atlantic
- ✓ Trade books by experts and journalists for general audiences

Besides, IOPscience2 and The Royal Society provide links to interesting articles, some of which come with are open access.

5.4 SSC/ Banking / Level exams

Reading Resources

For these entrance exams, the best resource will be editorials in reputed and authentic national level newspapers. Focus on articles highlighting Business & Economy for banking level exams.

5.5 IAS/ CSAT/ UPSC

Reading Resources:

- www.drishtiias.com
- www.insightsonindia.com
- www.visionias.in
- www.pib.gov.in
- www.thehindu.com
- indianexpress.com

6. Sources to Read

As many resources are available for reading so here, we are categorizing them into following areas as per your requirement. The categories are as follow:

1. **Resources for generic reading:** Editorial from newspapers, magazines such as India Today, The Economist etc., blogs, sites such as Aeon
2. **Famous books as per level of the difficulty:** The levels of books have been categorized as per the level of difficulty.

For example, level-1 being easiest to read & level-4 books being difficult to understand if you are a beginner.

Level-I Books

S. No.	Name of the book	Author	Category
1	The kite runner	Khaled Hosseni	Fiction
2	Siddhartha	Hermann Hesse	Fiction/ parables
3	Animal farm	George Orwell	Fiction
4	Conversation with God 1	Neale Donald Walsh	Motivational/ inspirational
5	Tuesdays with Morrie	Mitch Albom	Inspirational/ Self help

hitbullseye

Level-II Books

S. No.	Name of the book	Author	Category
1	1984	George Orwell	Fiction
2	The Zahir	Paulo Coelho	Fiction/ parables
3	Lee lococca	Lee lococca	Business/ Autobiography
4	India unbound	Gurcharan Das	Non fiction
S	The Undercover Economist	Tim Harford	Non fiction
6	Blink	Malcom Gladwel	Non fiction
7	The world is fiat	Thomas Friedmen	Non fiction
8	Strategies of War	Sun Tzu	Motivational/In spirational
9	The Last Mughal	William Dalrymple	History
10	Freakonomics	Steven d. Levitt	Non fiction
11	Lateral Thinking	Edward de Bono	Philosophy/Psy chology
12	Why We Buy: The Science Of Shopping	Paco Underhill	Non-fiction
13	Confessions of an economic hit man	John Perkins	Economics St Business
14	Fish!	Stephen Lundin	Motivational/M

		et al	anagement
18	Business legends	Gita Piramal	Biographies
16	I am right, You are Wrong	Edward de Bono	Philosophy/Psychology
17	The Compassionate Samurai	Brian Klemmer	Motivational/Management

Level-III Books

S. No.	Name of the book	Author	Category
1	The catcher in the rye	J.D. Salinger	Fiction
2	Future Shock	Alvin Toffler	Non-fiction
3	Algebra of infinite justice	Arundhati Roy	Non fiction
4	How much should a person consume?	Ramachandra Guha	Non Fiction
S	Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid	C.K. Prahlad	Non Fiction
6	Breakout Nations - In Pursuit of the Next Economic Miracles	Ruchir Sharma	Non-Fiction
7	Surely you're joking Mr Feynman	Richard Feynman	Auto/Biographies

8	The Great Gatsby	F Scott Fitzgerald	Fiction
9	An unquiet mind	Kay Redfield	Philosophy/Psychology
10	Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison	Michael Faucault	Philosophy/Psychology
11	Emotional Design	Donald A Norman	Philosophy/Psychology
12	Emotional Intelligence	Daniel Goleman	Philosophy/Psychology
13.	Foundation	!sac Asimov	Science & Technology
14.	India's struggle for independence	Bipan Chandra	Non-fiction

Level-IV Books

S. No.	Name of the book	Author	Category
1	Fountainhead	Ayn Rand	Fiction/ philosophy
2	Atlas Shrugged	Ayn Rand	Fiction/ philosophy
3	Sophie's World	Jostien Gartner	Philosophy
4	Zen and the art of motorcycle maintenance	Robert Pirsig	Philosophy

S	Tao of physics	Fritjoff Capra	Science/ philosophy
6	The Naked Ape	Desmond Morris	Anthropology
7	The Idea of India	Sunil Khilnani	Non-Fiction
8	On the Genealogy of Morals	Friedrich Nietzsche	Philosophy/Psychology
9	Sperm Wars: The Science of Sex	Robin Baker	Science & Technology
10	The Myth of Sisyphus: And Other Essays	Albert Camus	Philosophy/Psychology
11	The Power of Now	Eckhart Tolle	Philosophy/Psychology
12	The Rise And Fall Of Modern Medicine	James Le Fanu	Non-fiction
13	Narcissus And Goldmund	Hermann Hesse	Fiction/philosophy

7. Reading resources for different Domains

The following are a few of the interesting resources as per the domains mentioned earlier:

7.1 Biological Sciences

Suggested Readings for Beginners:

1. *The Selfish Gene*- Richard Dawkins
2. *The Greatest Show on Earth- The Evidence for Evolution*-Richard Dawkins
3. *The Gene- An Intimate History* – Siddhartha Mukherjee
4. *Sapiens: A Brief History of Mankind* - Yuval Noah Harari

Suggested Readings for Advanced Level Reading:

1. *Biology*-Neil A. Campbell, Jane B. Reece
2. *The Biology Book: From the Origin of Life to Epigenetics- 250 Milestones in the History of Biology* Michael C. Gerald, Gloria Gerald
3. *Genome: the Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters*- Matt Ridley
4. *The Descent of Man* - Charles Darwin

7.2 Physical Sciences

Suggested Readings for Beginners

1. *A Short History of Nearly Everything*-Bill Bryson
2. *A Brief History of Time* - Stephen Hawking
3. *Big Bang: The Origin of the Universe*-Simon Singh
4. *Cosmos*- Carl Sagan
5. *Pale Blue Dot*- Carl Sagan

Suggested Readings for Advanced Level Reading

1. *Understanding Physics* -Isaac Asimov
2. *The Physics Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained*- Jim Al-Khalili
3. *The World According to Physics*- Jim Al-Khalili
4. *The Feynman Lectures on Physics* - Richard P. Feynman, Robert B. Leighton, Matthew L. Sands

7.3 Social Sciences

Suggested Readings for Beginners:

1. *Predictably Irrational*- Dan Ariley
2. *Thinking Fast and Slow* - by Daniel Kahneman
3. *50 Great Myths of Popular Psychology: Shattering Widespread Misconceptions About Human Behavior* – Scott O. Lilienfeld, Steven Jay Lynn, John Ruscio& Barry Beyerstein
4. *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*- John Gray
5. *India Unbound* - Gurcharan Das
6. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* - Steven Levitt, Stephen J. Dubner
7. *Thinking, Fast and Slow*- Daniel Kahneman
8. *The Rise of the Network Society* - Manuel Castells
9. *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* - Malcolm Gladwell
10. *The World Is Flat* - Thomas Friedman
11. *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*- Malcolm Gladwell

12. *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* - Yuval Noah Harari
13. *Fingerprints of the Gods*- Graham Hancock

Suggested Readings for Advanced Level Reading

1. *Phantoms in the Brain* – V S Ramachandran
2. *Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion* - Robert Cialdini
3. *Hooked* - by Nir Eyal
4. *Good Economics for Hard Times*- Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo
5. *Armchair Economist: Economics & Everyday Life*- Steven E. Landsburg
6. *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*- Abhijit V. Banerjee, Esther Duflo
7. *Economics Rules: The Rights and Wrongs of the Dismal Science*- Dani Rodrik
8. *Contemporary Sociology: An Introduction to Concepts and Theories* - Francis M. Abraham

7.4 Law

Suggested Readings for Beginners:

1. *We, the People*- Nani A. Palkhivala
2. *Before Memory Fades: An Autobiography*-Fali S Nariman

Suggested Readings for Advanced Level Reading:

1. *Landmark Judgments that Changed India*- Ashok K. Ganguly
2. *Court and Their Judgments*-Arun Shourie
3. *The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of A Nation*- Granville Austin

7.5 Humanities

Suggested Readings for Beginners:

1. *The Wonder That Was India*-A L Basham
2. *The Maharaja*- Diwan Jarmani Dass
3. *The Royal Rajputs: Strange Tales and Stranger Truths* -Manoshi Bhattacharya
4. *The Story of Philosophy* -Will Durant
5. *Sophie's World* – Jostein Gaarder
6. *Beyond Good & Evil*- Friedrich Nietzsche
7. *Everything Is F*cked*- Mark Manson

8. *Outliers*- Malcolm Gladwell
9. *To Kill a Mockingbird* - Harper Lee
10. *The Alchemist* - Paulo Coelho
11. *War and Peace* - Leo Tolstoy
12. *The Great Gatsby* - F. Scott Fizgerald
13. *The Animal Farm* - George Orwell
14. *The Old Man and The Sea*: Ernest Hemingway

Suggested Readings for Advanced Level Reading:

1. *India's Struggle for Independence*-Bipin Chander Pal, Romila Thapar
2. *India After Gandhi*-Ramachandra Guha
3. *Indian Art and Culture* – Nitin Singhania
4. *The Second Sex* - Simone de Beauvoir
5. *Fooled by Randomness*- Nasim Taleb
6. *A Critique of Pure Reason*- Immanuel Kant
7. *Mrs. Dalloway* - Virginia Woolf
8. *One Hundred Years of Solitude* - Gabriel García Márquez
9. *Beloved* - Toni Morrison

Suggested Magazines for Reading:

The Artist, Art News, Art in America, Psychology Today

7.6 Business and Management

Suggested Readings for Beginners:

1. *How to Win Friends and Influence People*- Dale Carnegie
2. *The One Minute Manager*-Kenneth Blanchard, Spencer Johnson
3. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change*- Stephen R. Covey
4. *The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon* - Brad Stone
5. *The CEO Factory: Management Lessons from Hindustan Unilever*- Sudhir Sitapati
6. *Booming Brands– Inspiring Journeys of 11'Made In India' Brands* - Harsh Pamnani
7. *My Years With General Motors*- Alfred Sloan Jr.

Suggested Readings for Advanced Level Reading:

1. *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You* - John Maxwell
2. *Primal Leadership: Unleashing the Power of Emotional Intelligence*- Daniel Goleman, Richard Boyatzis, Annie McKee1.

3. *Leadership: The Power of Emotional Intelligence*- Daniel Goleman
4. *Six Thinking Hats: An Essential Approach To Business Management* -Edward de Bono
5. *Drive* -Daniel H. Pin
6. *Now, Discover Your Strengths* -Marcus Buckingham, Donald O. Clifton

Suggested Magazines for Reading:

- ✓ Time. Forbes, The Economist, Week, Bloomberg Business Week, Fortune
- ✓ INC., Customer Reports, Fast Company, Ad week, Harvard Business Review

7.7 Technology

Suggested Readings for Beginners

1. *Brave New World*- Aldous Huxley
2. *The Emperor of All Maladies*: *A Biography of Cancer*- Siddhartha Mukherjee
3. *Microbe Hunters*- Paul de Kruif
4. *Tools and Weapons*: The Promise and the Peril of the Digital Age- Bard Smith
5. *Technology vs. Humanity*: The Coming Clash BetweenMan and Machine - Gerd Leonhard

Suggested Readings for Advanced Level Reading

1. *The Metaverse: And How It Will Revolutionize Everything* -Matthew Ball
2. *SUPERINTELLIGENCE: Paths, Dangers, Strategies*- Nick Bostrom
3. *The Billion Dollar Molecule: One Company's Quest for the Perfect Drug* -Barry Werth
4. *Introduction to Biotechnology* -Thieman
5. *The New Turing Omnibus* - A. K. Dewdney
6. *The Gene: An Intimate History* -Siddhartha Mukherjee

Suggested Magazines for Reading:

- ✓ Wired, National Geographic Scientific American, In these Times

8. Practice Passages on Different Domains

In following section, we shall be giving you a few passages based on different domains to increase your insight into these domains. We already have given you a brief about the essence of various domains in chapter 1 and in this section also we will try to add another dimension to the essence of important domains. You will come across a few passages without questions & a few with questions. The purpose of the former is to familiarise your mind the writing based on these domains and the purpose of latter is to train your mind to grasp the main idea , puprpose, anticipation and general understanding of the context. You have also been given many importants terms and their definitions in the domains to increase your comprehension. It is advised that you should proceed with the following order to maximize the benefit in terms of increasing confidence & comprehension

1. Read about the area
2. Read terms & their corresponding definitions
3. Read the passages without questions
4. Finally solve the passages with questions

So let us check a few. All the best

8.1 About Technology:

Technology: Technology is the application of knowledge to reach practical goals. Technology may also mean the product of such an effort -physical objects like utensils, furniture, machines and intangible tools like software. Technology is widely prevalent in various forms in medicine, science, industry, communication, transportation, and daily life.

Many technological advancements have led to societal changes. The earliest known technology is the stone tool, used in the prehistoric era, followed by fire, which contributed to the growth of the human society. Recent technological developments like the printing press, the telephone, and the Internet have lowered communication barriers and ushered in the knowledge economy.

As it is important to know the jargon to understand the passages based on this domain better so following are a few important terms related to this domain

Basic Terms - Technology

Access to the Internet	Ability to connect to the Internet
Back up your files	To save your data to another device
Become rapidly obsolete	Quickly become outdated
Brick and mortar	A physical presence of an organization/ business in a building.
Control remotely	To control from a distance using technology
Electronic Funds Transfer	EFT Payment via the Internet
Emerging technology	Brand new machines and software
Glued to the screen	Unable or unwilling to leave the digital device
Hacking into the network	To gain illegal access to the computer
Internet of Things	IoT is an umbrella term for electronic devices that aren't traditional computing devices, but are connected to the Internet to send data, receive instructions or both e.g. Internet-connected "smart" versions of refrigerators and light bulbs can work only in an Internet-enabled world.
Internet-enabled	Machines or appliances with Internet access

Labour-saving device	An appliance that saves labour
Not rocket science	It is not very difficult
Online piracy	Downloading licenced media without payment
Re-install the programs	To put computer programs back onto the computer
Shop online	Shop via the Internet
Social media networks	Online platforms for communication among people and organisations
State-of-the-art technology	The best technology available
Surfing the web	To move from one site to another on the Internet
To click on an icon	To use the mouse to click on the pictures to get into programs
To crash	To stop working suddenly
To Log in	To sign onto the computer
To upgrade your computer system	To get a larger, quicker or more modern computer
Wireless hotspots	A location where the Internet is available

Now it is time to apply the learning. Following are a few passages based on various sub – areas of this domain to gain insight & confidence.

hitbullseye

DIRECTIONS: *Read the passage carefully and try to understand the context & key ideas*

Passage

Google Translate hasn't got better because roomfuls of impecunious polymaths have been spending man-years copying out and cross-referencing vocabulary lists. Its improvement is a triumph of machine learning. The software matches texts in parallel languages, so that its learning is a process of finding which text is statistically most likely to match the text in another language. Translate has stored gigantic quantities of parallel texts into its database. A particularly fertile source, apparently, is the European Union's set of official publications, which are translated into all Community languages. There was a point a few years ago when the software, after improving for a bit, stopped doing so, as the harvesting of parallel texts began to gather in texts which had already been translated by Translate. I don't know how, but they must have fixed that problem, because it's been getting better again. You could argue that this isn't really 'learning' at all, and indeed it probably isn't in any human sense. The process is analogous, though, in terms of the outcome, if that outcome is defined as getting better at a specific task.

Put all this together, and we can start to see why many people think a big shift is about to come in the impact of computing and technology on our daily lives. Computers have got dramatically more powerful and so cheap that they are effectively ubiquitous. So have the sensors they use to monitor the physical world. The software they run has improved dramatically too. We are on the verge of a new industrial revolution, one which will have as much impact on the world as the first one. Whole categories of work will be transformed by computing, and in particular, by robots.

For many years, the problem with robots has been that computers are very good at things we find difficult but very bad at things we find easy. They are brilliant at chess but terrible at the cognitive skills we take for granted, one of the most important being 'simultaneous localization and mapping': the ability to look at a space and see it and know how to move through it, simultaneously with good recall. That, and other skills essential to advanced robotics, is something computers are useless at. A robot chess player can thrash the best chess player, but can't (or couldn't) match the motor and perceptual skills of a one-year-old baby. A famous demonstration of the principle came in when Honda scientists publicly unveiled their amazing new healthcare

robot, the Asimo, short (4’3”) and white with a black facemask, resembling a short astronaut. Asimo advanced towards a staircase and started climbing, turning his face towards the audience as if to say, à la Bender from Futurama, ‘Hi! check out my shiny metal ass’. He went up two steps and then fell over. Tittering ensues. It is evident that a new day in robotics has not yet dawned.

Key terms used: Software, database, localization, robotics, industrial revolution

8.2 Social Sciences

About The Social Sciences

The social sciences deal with human behaviour in its social and cultural aspects. Usually included within the social sciences are cultural anthropology, sociology, psychology, political science, and economics. The social sciences emerged as distinct academic disciplines only on the cusp of the 20thcentury. But their origins go all the way back to the ancient Greeks and their rationalist inquiries into human nature, the state, and morality.

The Social Sciences focus on the study of societies and the relationships (of all kinds) among individuals within them. The domain encompasses Sociology, Anthropology, Archaeology, Economics, Political Science and psychology, besides others. Social scientists use the methods of the natural sciences to understand society, and hence the term science.

As it is important to know the jargon to understand the passages based on this domain better so following are a few important terms related to this domain

Basic terms - Culture and Society:

Culture	The way of life of a group of people or community i.e. similar food, music, culture, religion, etc. Culture can be defined as all the ways of life including arts, beliefs, and institutions of a population. They are passed down from generation to generation.
Cultured	Someone showing good taste or manners
Belief	Placing trust or confidence in a person/ thing/ practice.
Ethics	A system of accepted beliefs which control behaviour, especially such a system based on morals.
Values	Beliefs of a person or social group in which they have an emotional investment (either for or against something).
Civilization	The social process whereby societies achieve an advanced stage of development and organization
Cultural stereotypes	A fixed idea that people have about what someone or something is like, especially an idea that is wrong.
Cultural diversity	The differences between different cultures.

Cultural diffusion	The spread of culture from one region of the world to another
Cultural uniqueness	Culture/customs which make a country distinctive/different from others
Cultural misconceptions	Mistaken thoughts, idea, or notion; misunderstandings about a culture. These are false ideas about a culture resulting from misunderstanding.
Cultural norms	Standard, expected behaviour or ideas
Cultural shock	A feeling of confusion or disorientation when one comes across an unfamiliar culture or way of life.
Discrimination	Unfair treatment based on the prejudice of a person or a group
Racial behaviour	Behaviour resulting from a belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is superior to others (racism or racialism.)
Local culture	The culture developed at the local level.
Global culture	The culture developed at the global level through new information technologies.
Global village	The entire world and its inhabitants. The world thought of as being closely connected by modern communication and trade and thus eliminating borders.
Globalization	A process by which the people of the

	world are unified in a single society and function together. This process is a combination of economic, technological, sociocultural and political forces. Globalization is often used to refer to economic globalization, that is, integration of national economies into the international economy through trade, foreign direct investment, capital flows, migration, and the spread of technology.
Heritage	Something passed on/inherited generation after generation
Stereotype	A generalised belief or idea about a particular race or certain group of people. A stereotype is a conventional, oversimplified conception, opinion, or image, based on the assumption that the members of the "other group" have some attributes in common.
Multicultural	A group of people with different beliefs and customs

Basic terms - Psychology:

Anxiety	Worry or fear which is not in proportion to reality
Attachment theory	Henry Harlow's theory about four attachment styles (secure, avoidant, anxious, and disorganized)

Attitude	A person's mindset, indicative of their thinking patterns and the action they will take in a given situation.
Bias	Feeling prejudice for or against something.
Cognition	Perception or knowing the world (e.g. understanding, thinking, memory, creativity)
Consciousness	One's awareness of the world around them
Construct	A method of thinking or a concept
Coping mechanism	A tool to manage and/or relieve stress
Defence mechanism	A tool to defend oneself against emotional trauma or stress
Delusions	Beliefs held even when proven wrong
Ego	Part of Freud's model of the mind. The ego balances the conflict between the moral conscience (Superego) and primal instincts (Id).
Emotional intelligence	One's ability to regulate, process and express their own and others' emotions.
Extrovert	An outgoing person, who gains energy from being around other people
Hierarchy of needs	Maslow's theory that people's motivations come from four levels of needs (physiological, safety, love and

	belonging, and self-esteem) that finally lead to self-actualization.
Id	The primal, instinctual part of Freud's model of the human mind.
Intelligence quotient (IQ)	A broad measure of a person's cognitive abilities.
Introvert	A person who is more inward-looking and doesn't like to socialize much.
Long term memory	The memory system which stores information for a long period
Mindfulness	The ability to use all five senses to focus on the present moment
Nature vs. Nurture	The debate over whether one's genes (nature) are more or less influential than the environment in which they were raised (nurture)
Paradox	A contradictory statement
Pathology	Scientific study of diseases
Personality	One's standard pattern of thinking, feeling, and behaving
Projection	A defence mechanism that applies one's own negative behaviour to others
Schema	A mental model that includes prior knowledge and expectations
Self-actualization	The highest need in Maslow's hierarchy of needs; the need to realize one's fullest potential

Short-term memory	The memory system that stores information for a short amount of time
Self-efficacy	One's knowledge and self-confidence that they can meet challenges
Stress	The negative effect of challenging circumstances on one's physical, mental and emotional well-being
Superego	Part of Freud's model of the psyche. The Superego is the moral police of the mind that dictates moral decisions; also called the conscience
Addiction	Psychological and physiological dependence on a substance or behaviour
Antisocial personality disorder	Personality disorder marked by a pattern of socially unacceptable behaviour.
Anorexia nervosa	An eating disorder. Reducing one's eating to control one's weight.
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	Inability to focus, sit still, or control impulsive behaviour.
Bipolar disorders	Mood disorders that involve fluctuating between depressive and manic episodes.
Borderline personality disorder	A personality disorder in which a person exhibits impulsive, erratic behaviour and has unstable relationships.
Cognitive	The state of anxiety when a person

dissonance	encounters information that contradicts their beliefs
Dementia	A condition (esp. in old age) in which there is significant cognitive decline
Depression	A mood disorder marked by a lack of motivation, energy, and enjoyment.
Dissociative disorders	Disorders in which a person protects themselves from emotional trauma by detaching themselves from reality
Eating disorders	Disorders in which one attempts to control their environment by controlling their eating habits
Generalized anxiety disorder	Constantly worrying about typical events
Histrionic personality disorder	The affected person as a desire for attention and a propensity for high emotions.
Hypochondriasis	A disorder in which one wrongly believes they have a serious illness or disease.
Insanity	A person's inability to take responsibility for their actions.
Mental illness	A psychological condition that makes it difficult to function adequately.
Mood disorders	Disorders in which one experiences rapid, volatile mood swings.
Narcissistic personality	A disorder in which a person's sense of extreme self-importance leads to a lack

disorder	of empathy
Obsessive compulsive disorder	Obsessive and compulsive need to perform repetitive actions/ behaviours.
Panic disorder	Constant and unexpected panic attacks.
Personality disorders	Patterns of behaviour and experience that are not typical to one's primary culture or environment
Phobia	Anxiety disorder characterized by extreme, illogical fear of something
Post–traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	A condition in which an external trigger makes a person re-experience the stress or trauma of an earlier trauma.
Psychosis	A perception that is extremely distorted and removed from reality
Psychosomatic disease	A mental disorder, which shows up as physical symptoms like pain, skin problems etc.
Schizophrenia	A disorder in which one experiences an alternate reality including hallucinations, delusions, and erratic behaviour.
Substance abuse	A pattern of drug use that adversely affects one's routine functioning.

Now it is time to apply the learning. Following are a few passages based on various sub – areas of this domain to gain insight & confidence.

DIRECTIONS: *Read the passage carefully and try to understand the context & key ideas*

Passage

We're not driven only by emotions, we also reason, deliberate. But reasoning comes later, works slower and it doesn't take place in an emotional vacuum. Rather, our quick-fire emotions can set us on thinking that's highly biased, especially on topics we care a great deal about.

Consider a person who has heard about a scientific discovery that deeply challenges her belief in divine creation—a new hominid, say, that confirms our evolutionary origins. What happens next is a subconscious negative response to the new information—and that response, in turn, guides the memories and associations formed in the conscious mind. People retrieve thoughts that are consistent with their previous beliefs, which leads them to build an argument and challenge what they hear.

In other words, when we think we're reasoning, we may instead be rationalizing. Or to use an analogy: We may think we're being scientists, but we're actually being lawyers. Our "reasoning" is a means to a predetermined end—winning our "case"—and is shot through with biases. They include "confirmation bias," in which we

give greater heed to evidence and arguments that bolster our beliefs, and “disconfirmation bias,” in which we expend disproportionate energy trying to debunk or refute views and arguments that we find uncongenial.

That’s a lot of jargon, but we all understand these mechanisms when it comes to interpersonal relationships. If I don’t want to believe that my spouse is being unfaithful, I can go to great lengths to explain away behavior that seems obvious to everybody else—everybody who isn’t too emotionally invested to accept it, anyway. That’s not to suggest that we aren’t also motivated to perceive the world accurately—we are. Or that we never change our minds—we do. It’s just that we have other important goals besides accuracy—including identity affirmation and protecting our sense of self—and often these make us highly resistant to changing our beliefs in the face of facts.

Key terms used: emotional vacuum, identity affirmation, confirmation bias, interpersonal relationships, emotionally invested, subconscious, hominid

Moving further

So, till here it is hoped that you have now gained enough confidence to understand the passages based on different areas and varied writing styles. Now let's move on to the ways which will help us in increasing the score by understanding critical reasoning fundamentals. It has been observed that students generally try to solve these questions without having any idea of terms such as 'arguments, facts, nature of an arguments, conclusion etc.'. As a result, they are not able to solve reasoning-based questions in reading comprehension passages and score low in exams. So, in the next we shall be helping you to overcome this barrier with discussion on the role of critical & verbal reasoning to have sharper understanding.