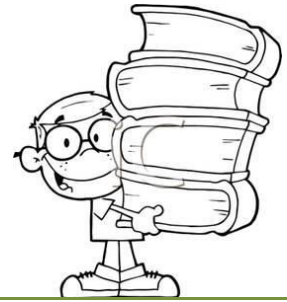


READING COMPREHENSION



DRILL 2: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. *Answer:* Four
They are, cousin of Shah, cousin's friend, cousin's friend's friend and cousin's friend's friend's friend.
2. *Answer:* Nasreddin Shah was delighted for his cousin's visit and for the duck he brought to celebrate the visit.
3. *Answer:* Naserddin began to have second thoughts because, with the arrival of the third person at his home, he felt that visitors were using his house as a restaurant
4. *Answer:* Naserddin Shah tackled the situation by serving soup that tasted like warm water and by coming up with a witty line, "That is the soup of the soup of the soup of the duck."

Exercise 2

1. *Answer:* Parking rules for the city
2. *Answer:* From 8 a.m. to midnight.
3. *Answer:* From lines 2 to 8.

CONCEPT REVIEW QUESTIONS

PASSAGE 1

1. Answer: Option a

Explanation: In line 2 of the first paragraph, "Parents do their best to extinguish curiosity.." says that the parents discourage the curiosity of their children and this act of parents is referred to as "parental discipline" in line 5 of the same paragraph. From this it is inferred that 'Children whose curiosity survives parental discipline' means 'children retaining their curiosity in spite of being discouraged by their parents'.

2. Answer: Option a

Explanation: In paragraph 2, lines 2 to 4, "This is akin to a mountain climber.....Similarly, a historian asked by..." the author compares the scientist to a historian and mountain climber. The word 'akin' means 'similar'.

3. Answer: Option c

Explanation: Lines 8 to 11 of the first paragraph, "Some of the questions which the scholars.....too **intricate** and specialised for **you and me** to understand..", shows that common people, referred as 'you and me', considered some of the questions asked by scholars as unimportant *as it is beyond their comprehension*. The word 'intricate' in the sentence means 'complicated'.

4. Answer: Option d

Explanation: Lines 7 to 9 from 2nd paragraph, "But if you really want to know why a historian studies the past, the answer is much simpler, *something happened and he would like to know what*", clearly shows that option d is the answer.

5. Answer: Option d

Explanation: Line 4 from 1st paragraph, "... with a string of *unanswerable questions* about what...." clearly suggests that option d is the answer.

PASSAGE 2

1. Answer: Option b

Explanation: In lines 15 to 16, "Apart from the political and economic problems of the age, perhaps, *that is the greatest problem today....*", 'that' refers to the problem of finding a balance between nationalism and aggressive nationalism.

Line 14, "How are you to find a balance, I don't know", suggests that finding a balance is a problem.

Also, lines 8 to 11, “Nationalism, when it becomes successful, sometimes, goes on spreading in an aggressive way and becomes a danger internationally.....balance must be found”, reiterates the same.

Efforts to find a balance in this regard eventually helps in containing the dangers of aggressive nationalism. Thus, this problem can be considered as the problem of *how to contain the dangers of aggressive nationalism*.

2. Answer: Option d

Explanation: Lines 8 and 9, “nationalism, when it becomes..... in an aggressive way and becomes a *danger* internationally”, suggests option d as the answer.

3. Answer: Option c

Explanation: Until the last 7 lines, the passage talks about the problems caused by aggressive nationalism. However, in the last 7 lines, the passage shifts its focus on economic problems, hinting that there is more than nationalism.

“It would be a mistake to talk of culture or even of God, when human beings starve and die....That is where economics comes in.” In the aforementioned sentence, the author is concerned with yet another problem apart from nationalism. This suggests that ‘*nationalism is not enough*’ serves as the suitable title for the passage.

Elimination of options

Option a: A title should be an idea which encapsulates the entire idea of the passage, not an idea present only in one part of the passage. The idea presented in ‘option a’ is given only in the first sentence.

Option b: The passage focuses more on the problems caused by aggressive nationalism and does not emphasis or even talk about world unity. Thus ‘option b’ cannot be the answer.

Option d: As explained in the line quoted above, ‘option d’ contradicts the idea presented in the passage.

4. Answer: c

Explanation: This answer can be directly found in lines 19 and 20 of the passage.

“Before one can talk about everything else one must provide the *normal essentials of life* to human beings.”

5. Answer: b

Explanation: Lines 6 to 8, “The result is....becomes a symbol of the *cessation of that growth..*”, clearly states that aggressive nationalism leads to cessation of growth resulting in stunted growth. The word ‘*cession*’ means ‘stop’ or ‘termination’

PASSAGE 3

1. Answer: Option b

Explanation: 'Theme of a passage' is an idea which runs throughout the passage (or) is the core idea based on which the entire passage is built.

Here, the passage revolves around fulfilling individual ambitions, groupism in organisations and prevention of emergence of organic system.

Elimination of options

Option a:

Without the need to fulfil individual ambitions, there would be no groupism. Thus, 'option a' is dependent on option b, and cannot be the theme of the passage.

Option c:

Frustration of senior managers is mentioned towards the end of the passage, but it is not the main theme. Without individual ambitions, there would be no cause for senior managers to become frustrated.

Option d:

Similar to 'option c', the shortcomings of the established order is an idea dependent on the presence of individual ambitions.

2. Answer: Option c

Explanation: Refer to lines 2 to 4, "They compete for the resources of the organisation.....power to control the activities of others."

"Power to control the activities of others" – Option a

"Career advancement" – Option b

"Finances to expand their own departments" – Option d

Option c clearly does not find a mention in the passage, and is thus the answer.

3. Answer: Option c

Explanation: Directly found in lines 5 to 6: "...policy decisions may serve the ends of political and career systems."

4. Answer: Option a

Explanation: The author mentions the factors preventing the emergence of organic systems till line 9 of the passage. The author is giving all causes that are hindering or preventing the emergence of organic systems. He reiterates the same in the last but one line by stating that some senior managers refuse to have organic systems as it would reveal their ignorance. Thus, the author makes out a case for organic system in organisations.

5. Answer: Option a

Explanation: Last 4 lines, "Many...little knowledge of technicality...ignorance and show their experience was now redundant", clearly shows that the author tend to look at the senior managers as ignorant and incompetent.

PASSAGE 4

1. Answer: Option e

Explanation: The words 'old' or 'ancient' would best replace the word 'hoary' in the following sentence of the passage.

"Imaginative inhabitants, who would have felt an unpleasantness at the discovery of a comparatively *modern*.....quite unmoved by these *hoary* shapes."

Also, according to the aforementioned line, the inhabitants are people who would have been moved by unpleasantness if they had seen a '*modern*' skeleton. But these people were unmoved by '*hoary*' shapes. Thus '*hoary*' must mean '*not modern*', thereby making it the antonym of '*modern*'. The answer which provides this meaning is option e.

2. Answer: Option a

Explanation: The curios enquiry refers to finding out why the cheerful form of those occurrences never took place in the amphitheatre. The cheerful form of occurrences referred to is the meeting of happy lovers. This connection is found in second paragraph last line and first line of third paragraph.

3. Answer: Option b

Explanation: 'Round' is found in the third last line of the passage.

'Daily round of their lives' refers to the normal course of their lives.

4. Answer: Option d

Explanation: Inferred from 1st paragraph, line 13 (Last line of page 19).

As per the passage, the people of Casterbridge "turned a moment to gaze at the familiar spectacle as they passed by". This refers to the fact that the people only had momentary interest in the remains of dead Romans.

5. Answer: Option b

Explanation: Answer is inferred from 3rd paragraph. The first incident mentioned in this paragraph is that of the woman being burnt. Line 12 ("In addition to these old tragedies....") mentions another incidents which caused the amphitheatre to gain an unsavoury reputation.

PASSAGE 5

1. Answer: Option d

Explanation: Inferences can be found in the passage for both options a and b, thus making a good case for option d as the answer.

Option a:

Inferred from 2nd paragraph, first sentence: "We should distrust a media oligopoly because it would give undue control to a small number of individuals."

Option b: Inferred from 3rd paragraph first two sentences: "Communications media compete in part by offering independent editorial viewpoints...demand for choice or diversity competition...corporate parent."

2. Answer: Option a

Explanation: The word '*Incipency*' is given in line 17.

Incipency - beginning or the start of something

Induction - a formal entry

Mutation - the action or process of mutating

Nepotism - Favouritism shown on basis of family relationship

Defrauding - illegally obtain money from someone by deception

Despondency - dejection or low spirits of loss of hope or courage

From the passage we understand that *incipency* is related to "*initial*" as the line has included the words "*former years*". In the former years a standard would have been set and that would be the early standard or the one at the start.

3. Answer: Option c

Explanation: *Mention for A:* 2nd paragraph lines 14 to 15: "...half a dozen are normally thought to be enough to keep a market price competitive."

Mention for B: 2nd paragraph first two lines: "We should distrust a media oligopoly....undue control to a small number of individuals." 'Undue control to a small number of individuals' refers to lack of democracy.

Mention for C: 4th paragraph first two lines: "It is unclear...will be applied by the enforcement agencies and the courts."

Mention for D: 3rd paragraph lines 2 to 3: "Six media firms cannot...demand for choice or diversity..."

Thus the answer is option c.

4. Answer: Option c

Explanation: 2nd paragraph seventh last and sixth last lines: "I am hopeful that the antitrust laws, if correctly interpreted, are adaptable enough to meet this challenge."

5. Answer: Option c

Explanation: 5th paragraph first two lines: "This could best be accomplished...temporary committee to study media mergers and media convergence."