

## READING COMPREHENSION

### PASSAGE

The most significant way in which man differs from animals is in the use of written symbols. Alphabets can, therefore, be considered the most momentous invention in the ascent of man. The use of words enables man to master time by preserving for the posterity the best that is seen, experienced or done. Human knowledge refined by successive generations has upgraded technology which has altered the very essence of life. The man reclining on his bed in his luxurious apartment watching a live telecast of Olympic games being played thousands of kilometres away from his home is indeed a far cry from the man who had to hunt for a game from dawn to dusk to keep his body and soul together and to keep the fire ablaze throughout the night to save himself from the fury of the wild animals. The birth of the civilisation was conceived in the making of the alphabet. The knowledge of the alphabet is the first step in the education of man and is central to the whole concept of elementary education. But for the human ingenuity of coining and using words, the knowledge of one generation would have died with it and had not been available to the coming generation. While words empower man to express his feelings and ideas, the knowledge of numbers is essential for him to take stock of things and possessions he comes across and utilises in his struggle for existence.

There is an inextricable link between education and progress. South Korea and Afghanistan provide glaring instances of progressive prosperity and decline through education and lack of education respectively. While educational advancement has brought about progressive prosperity of South Korea, lack of education has substantially contributed to the deterioration in socio-economic conditions in Afghanistan. Korea achieved universal primary education by 1960. That is why it could achieve sustained economic growth for decades. India's progress has faltered because we have not been able to remove illiteracy even after 50 years of independence.

Some thinkers may find fault with the imperialistic designs of the United States, but nobody can deny that it is the excellence of American Universities and institutions of research which are attracting the best brains to her shores from all parts of the globe. It is doubtful if Indians like Hargobind Khurana and Amartya Sen would have won Noble Prizes if they had not gone to the States for their higher studies. It is a pity that India, once recognised as the world teacher attracting foreigners from China and Japan to her institutions of learning in Takshila and Nalanda is unable to prevent the best students of India from flocking to American Universities.

Education enables people to acquire a greater control over their destiny. Farmers in India, who ushered in the Green Revolution, could do so only after they learned about the high yield of hybrid varieties of wheat and pest resistant varieties of rice. Education also equips people to benefit from the socio-economic and physical infrastructure whether they have to avail of credit facilities from the banks or to use telephone or telegraph for their business transactions. Perhaps, the greatest use of education and knowledge has been made in the field of health and nutrition. Until recently, millions of people died every year, in tropical and sub-tropical countries of the globe, of diarrhoea. However, when they were educated that the simple solution of water sugar and salt can save people from this fatal disease, mortality rate substantially declined. The use of iodized salt has arrested the incidence of goitre throughout the world.

A comparative study of the progress of different States in India firmly establishes the mutual dependence of education and development. The infant mortality rate is the lowest in the highly literate state of Kerala. It is very high in low literacy state of Uttar Pradesh. Child mortality falls as mothers learn. Female literacy is; therefore, of the utmost importance in India. Basic information about health and nutrition form an essential part of elementary education. It has been observed that educated mothers are not only able to raise healthier children by following the best and latest child rearing practices, they are also more open to use of contraceptive and more capable of limiting the number of children. The States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are witnessing a population explosion, as they are very slow in removing illiteracy whereas Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been successful in curbing the growth of population through the spread of literacy and creation of awareness about effective methods of contraception.

Efforts made to combat illiteracy in India have not produced the desired results. New Education Policy 1986 and the establishment of National Literacy Mission in 1988 were aimed at eradication of illiteracy in a time-bound manner. Centre-based adult education programmes were replaced by the campaign mode of literacy. Total literacy campaigns were launched with great fanfare throughout the length and the breadth of the country. Some districts like Kottayam were declared fully literate after the successful completion of campaigns. Volunteer agencies were involved in a big way to lend a popular appeal to the literacy campaigns. Success of literacy campaign has been uneven in different parts of the country. The momentum of literacy campaigns could not be sustained in all places due to lack of organisational ability of many NGOs, as also for want of sustained enthusiasm of the targetted groups of learners.

A new dimension has been added to the programme of universalisation of elementary education in India by public interest litigation (PIL) filed by S.P. Anand in the Supreme Court. This PIL seeks to enforce the right to education by obtaining a commitment from all the states and union territories of India that every child will have free and compulsory education till the age of fourteen, as was promised in the Directive Principles of State Policy, as enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Consequent upon this PIL, all states in response to the Supreme Court directions have submitted the present status of elementary education in the states as well as their plans for and constraints in enforcing right to education of children below 14 years of age. It is well nigh impossible for most of the states to mobilise resources for constructing school buildings and hiring teachers for implementing the Supreme Court directives. As the

funds available with the Central Government too are limited, many States have posed their project proposals for universalisation of elementary education to the World Bank or other external aid agencies.,

While elementary education is essential in promoting awareness and consequently right practices in the field of nutrition, health and civic services, higher and technical education are highly desirable for enhancing the capacity of the people of a country to import sophisticated technologies from the richer industrial countries and thus maintain high rates of economic growth over a long period. Governments both at the State and Union level, have to shoulder the major burden for primary and elementary education. But no substantial increase in the spread of higher and technical education is possible if the private sector does not come forward in this area in a big way.

Globalization of world economy has posed certain challenges to our institutions of higher learning. They have to ensure a high quality and standard of education if their products-the successful students -have to compete effectively with the students of other countries in the international job market. They should have access to what is the best thought and taught in the institutions of higher learning in the world. While Indian institutes of technology and Management have been able to achieve a fairly high quality of education and are recognised as such the world over, the same cannot be said of many of our universities and colleges. Expansion in Primary education and quality improvement of higher education should be adopted as twin aims of our education policy if our country has to join the select group of enlightened and advanced nations.

1. All of the following are true according to the passage, except that :
  - A. education enables people to acquire a greater control over their destiny.
  - B. our institutions of higher learning are least affected by challenges posed by the globalisation of world economy.
  - C. progress inextricably linked to education.
  - D. female literacy is of utmost importance in India.
2. According to the passage, the greatest use of education and knowledge is made in the field of :
  - A. health and nutrition.
  - B. marketing and advertisement.
  - C. defence and security.
  - D. heritage and history.
3. According to the passage, the impediment to India's progress has been due to :
  - A. tropical climate
  - B. the intense competition
  - C. adverse economic conditions the world over.
  - D. the failure to remove illiteracy.
4. Which of the following best concurs with the author's contention in the passage ?
  - A. The making of the alphabet heralded the birth of the civilisation.
  - B. Alphabets can be viewed as the most momentous invention in the ascent of man.
  - C. The private sector has a major role to play in the substantial increase in the spread of higher and technical education.
  - D. All of the above.
5. According to the passage, development takes place :
  - A. when the policies of the government are favourable.
  - B. when education is accorded the topmost priority.
  - C. when people are disciplined and industrious.
  - D. None of the above.
6. Which of the following best goes as the representation of 'educated mothers', as brought out in the passage ?
  - A. They help children in their homework and account for the child's brilliant progress in school.
  - B. They follow the latest and best child rearing practices.
  - C. They are more open to use of contraceptives and are capable of limiting the number of children.

- D. All except (1).
7. The central idea of the passage is that :
- A. The progress of the nation is dependent on the volume of business transacted.  
 B. The United States is a model nation for several countries of the world.  
 C. Education determines the destiny of not only an individual, but also that of the nation.  
 D. Brain-drain has become inevitable due to jobs becoming readily available in the US after one passes out of college.
8. The passage has been handled in a manner which is :
- A. pessimistic.  
 B. matter-of-factly.  
 C. biased.  
 D. overstated.
9. According to the passage, courts have been moved to :
- A. give justice to the poor and the illiterate.  
 B. urge the government to allocate substantial funds towards education.  
 C. prevent the brain-drain to other countries.  
 D. ensure that the government provides free and compulsory education to every child till the age of fourteen years is attained.
10. A suitable title for the passage could be :
- A. Education-A Permanent Cure For The Nation's Ills.  
 B. Hardwork And Discipline - A Crying Need.  
 C. Love Of Motherland Is Not Shown By Brain-drain.  
 D. Elementary Education -Insufficient To Combat Challenges Of Globalisation.

#### ANSWER KEY

1.(B) 2.(A) 3.(D) 4.(D) 5.(B) 6.(D) 7.(C) 8.(B) 9.(D) 10.(A)

#### FILL IN THE BLANKS

11. \_\_\_\_\_ a boy, he had been very fond \_\_\_\_\_ swimming.

A) Like / of B) As / of C) At / in D) In / on

12. They were just \_\_\_\_\_ the range of the big guns.

A) by B) beyond C) below D) beside

13. We're on your side. We are all \_\_\_\_\_ you.

A) for B) against C) on D) by

14. We won \_\_\_\_\_ two goals \_\_\_\_\_ nil.

A) by / to B) with / by C) with / to D) by / in

#### ANSWERS

11-B

12-B

13-A

14-A

15. Spick and span.

- A. Neat and clean  
 B. Outspoken  
 C. A ready-made thing  
 D. Garrulous

Ans: A

16. To blaze trail.

- A. To set on fire  
 B. To be annoyed  
 C. To vehemently oppose  
 D. To initiate work in a movement

Ans: D

17. To bite one's lips.

- A. to repress one's anger or other emotions
- B. To feel sorry
- C. To have doubt
- D. To laugh at others

Ans: A

18. To blow hot and cold.

- A. Changing weather
- B. To be untrustworthy
- C. To be inconsistent
- D. To be rich and poor frequently

Ans: C

### CHOOSE THE CORRECT SENTENCE

Directions : Each set of the following sentences comprises four alternatives labelled as 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'. Candidate is required to select the most suitable alternative which conveys the exact meaning in accordance with the correct grammatical rules.

- 19. A. Since the dividend being declared then the notices were prepared for mailing.  
B. No sooner had the dividend being declared then the notices were prepared for mailing.  
C. No sooner had the dividend been declared than the notices were prepared for mailing.  
D. Scarcely had the dividend being declared than the notices were sent out.
- 20. A. He did not report for work today. He must has gone to the party.  
B. He did not report for work today. He must have gone to the party.  
C. He did not report for work today. He must go to the party.  
D. He did not report for work today. He must had gone to the party.
- 21. A. She is not as wise as his brother.  
B. She is not equally wise as his brother.  
C. She is not as wise like his brother.  
D. She is not so wise as his brother.
- 22. A. There will be a meeting in the long room at 4 o'clock of all the boys who play cricket and football.  
B. There will be in the long room at 4 o'clock a meeting of all the boys who play cricket and football.  
C. In the long room at 4 o'clock there will be a meeting of all the boys who play cricket and football.  
D. There will be a meeting of all the boys who play cricket and football at 4 o'clock.
- 23. A. The teacher made it a point to explain him the situation.  
B. The teacher made it a point to explain the situation him.  
C. The teacher made it a point explain him about the situation.  
D. The teacher made it a point to explain the situation to him.
- 24. A. The landlady made the servant to run to market to fetch her sweets.  
B. The landlady made the servant run to market to fetch her sweets.  
C. The landlady made to the servant to run to market to fetch her sweets.  
D. The landlady made to the servant run to market to fetch her sweets.
- 25. A. The audience looked at him while he spoke.  
B. The audience looked at him while he had spoken.  
C. The audience looked at him while he was speaking.  
D. The audience looked at him while he had been speaking.
- 26. A. Your answers are better than Mohan.  
B. Your answers are better than Mohan's.  
C. Your answers are better than those of Mohan's.  
D. Your answers are better than answered by Mohan.

### ANSWERS

19	C
20	B
21	D
22	C
23	D
24	B
25	C
26	B

### SENTENCE IMPROVEMENT

27. The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings that surpassed Wall Street's estimates and announced the first in a series of price cuts intended to increase sales further.

(A) The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings that surpassed Wall Street's estimates and announced the first in a series of price cuts intended to increase sales further.

(B) The report of the computer company showed strong second-quarter earnings, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, and they announced the first in a series of price cuts that they intend to increase sales further.

(C) Surpassing Wall Street's estimates, the report of the computer company showed strong second-quarter earnings, and, for the purpose of increasing sales further, they announced the first in a series of price cuts.

(D) The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, and announcing the first in a series of price cuts for the purpose of further increasing sales.

(E) The computer company, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, reported strong second-quarter earnings, while announcing that to increase sales further there would be the first in a series of price cuts.

The correct answer is A.

28. Analysts blamed May's sluggish retail sales on unexciting merchandise as well as the weather, colder and wetter than was usual in some regions, which slowed sales of barbecue grills and lawn furniture.

(A) colder and wetter than was usual in some regions, which slowed

(B) which was colder and wetter than usual in some regions, slowing

(C) since it was colder and wetter than usually in some regions, which slowed

(D) being colder and wetter than usually in some regions, slowing

(E) having been colder and wetter than was usual in some regions and slowed

The correct answer is B.

29. Being a United States citizen since 1988 and born in Calcutta in 1940, author Bharati Mukherjee has lived in England and Canada, and first came to the United States in 1961 to study at the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

(A) Being a United States citizen since 1988 and born in Calcutta in 1940, author Bharati Mukherjee has

(B) Having been a United States citizen since 1988, she was born in Calcutta in 1940; author Bharati Mukherjee

(C) Born in Calcutta in 1940, author Bharati Mukherjee became a United States citizen in 1988; she has

(D) Being born in Calcutta in 1940 and having been a United States citizen since 1988, author Bharati Mukherjee

(E) Having been born in Calcutta in 1940 and being a United States citizen since 1988, author Bharati Mukherjee

The correct answer is C.

30. Archaeologists in Ireland believe that a recently discovered chalice, which dates from the eighth century, was probably buried to keep from being stolen by invaders.

(A) to keep from

(B) to keep it from

(C) to avoid

(D) in order that it would avoid

(E) in order to keep from

The correct answer is B.

31. The bank holds \$3 billion in loans that are seriously delinquent or in such trouble that they do not expect payments when due.

(A) they do not expect payments when

(B) it does not expect payments when it is

(C) it does not expect payments to be made when they are

(D) payments are not to be expected to be paid when

(E) payments are not expected to be paid when they will be

The correct answer is C.

32. Faced with an estimated \$2 billion budget gap, the city's mayor proposed a nearly 17 percent reduction in the amount allocated the previous year to maintain the city's major cultural institutions and to subsidize hundreds of local arts groups.

(A) proposed a nearly 17 percent reduction in the amount allocated the previous year to maintain the city's major cultural institutions and to subsidize

(B) proposed a reduction from the previous year of nearly 17 percent in the amount it was allocating to maintain the city's major cultural institutions and for subsidizing

(C) proposed to reduce, by nearly 17 percent, the amount from the previous year that was allocated for the maintenance of the city's major cultural institutions and to subsidize

(D) has proposed a reduction from the previous year of nearly 17 percent of the amount it was allocating for maintaining the city's major cultural institutions, and to subsidize

(E) was proposing that the amount they were allocating be reduced by nearly 17 percent from the previous year for maintaining the city's major cultural institutions and for the subsidization

The correct answer is A.

33. In the textbook publishing business, the second quarter is historically weak, because revenues are low and marketing expenses are high as companies prepare for the coming school year.

(A) low and marketing expenses are high as companies prepare

(B) low and their marketing expenses are high as they prepare

(C) low with higher marketing expenses in preparation

(D) low, while marketing expenses are higher to prepare

(E) low, while their marketing expenses are higher in preparation

The correct answer is A.

34. Ms. Chambers is among the forecasters who predict that the rate of addition to arable lands will drop while those of loss rise.

(A) those of loss rise

(B) it rises for loss

(C) those of losses rise

(D) the rate of loss rises

(E) there are rises for the rate of loss

The correct answer is D.

#### CRITICAL REASONING

35. Tanco, a leather manufacturer, uses large quantities of common salt to preserve animal hides. New environmental regulations have significantly increased the cost of disposing of salt water that results from this use, and, in consequence, Tanco is considering a plan to use potassium chloride in place of common salt. Research has shown that Tanco could reprocess the by-product of potassium chloride use to yield a crop fertilizer, leaving a relatively small volume of waste for disposal.

In determining the impact on company profits of using potassium chloride in place of common salt, it would be important for Tanco to research all of the following EXCEPT:

- (A) What difference, if any, is there between the cost of the common salt needed to preserve a given quantity of animal hides and the cost of the potassium chloride needed to preserve the same quantity of hides?
- (B) To what extent is the equipment involved in preserving animal hides using common salt suitable for preserving animal hides using potassium chloride?
- (C) What environmental regulations, if any, constrain the disposal of the waste generated in reprocessing the by-product of potassium chloride?
- (D) How closely does leather that results when common salt is used to preserve hides resemble that which results when potassium chloride is used?
- (E) Are the chemical properties that make potassium chloride an effective means for preserving animal hides the same as those that make common salt an effective means for doing so?

The correct answer is E.

36. Colorless diamonds can command high prices as gemstones. A type of less valuable diamonds can be treated to remove all color. Only sophisticated tests can distinguish such treated diamonds from naturally colorless ones. However, only 2 percent of diamonds mined are of the colored type that can be successfully treated, and many of those are of insufficient quality to make the treatment worthwhile. Surely, therefore, the vast majority of colorless diamonds sold by jewelers are naturally colorless. A serious flaw in the reasoning of the argument is that

- (A) comparisons between the price diamonds command as gemstones and their value for other uses are omitted
- (B) information about the rarity of treated diamonds is not combined with information about the rarity of naturally colorless, gemstone diamonds
- (C) the possibility that colored diamonds might be used as gemstones, even without having been treated, is ignored
- (D) the currently available method for making colorless diamonds from colored ones is treated as though it were the only possible method for doing so
- (E) the difficulty that a customer of a jeweler would have in distinguishing a naturally colorless diamond from a treated one is not taken into account

The correct answer is B.

37. Boreal owls range over a much larger area than do other owls of similar size. The reason for this behavior is probably that the small mammals on which owls feed are especially scarce in the forests where boreal owls live, and the relative scarcity of prey requires the owls to range more extensively to find sufficient food.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to confirm the explanation above?

- (A) Some boreal owls range over an area eight times larger than the area over which any other owl of similar size ranges.
- (B) Boreal owls range over larger areas in regions where food of the sort eaten by small mammals is sparse than they do in regions where such food is abundant.
- (C) After their young hatch, boreal owls must hunt more often than before in order to feed both themselves and their newly hatched young.
- (D) Sometimes individual boreal owls hunt near a single location for many weeks at a time and do not range farther than a few hundred yards.
- (E) The boreal owl requires less food, relative to its weight, than is required by members of other owl species.

The correct answer is B.

38. Historian: Newton developed mathematical concepts and techniques that are fundamental to modern calculus. Leibniz developed closely analogous concepts and techniques. It has traditionally been thought that these discoveries were independent. Researchers have, however, recently discovered notes of Leibniz's that discuss one of Newton's books on mathematics. Several scholars have argued that since the book includes a presentation of Newton's calculus concepts and techniques, and since the notes were written before Leibniz's own development of calculus concepts and techniques, it is virtually certain that the traditional view is false. A more cautious conclusion than this is called for, however. Leibniz's notes are limited to early sections of Newton's book, sections that precede the ones in which Newton's calculus concepts and techniques are presented. In the historian's reasoning, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is a claim that the historian rejects; the second is a position that that claim has been used to support.
- (B) The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion about which the historian expresses reservations; the second is that conclusion.
- (C) The first provides evidence in support of a position that the historian defends; the second is that position.
- (D) The first and the second each provide evidence in support of a position that the historian defends.
- (E) The first has been used in support of a position that the historian rejects; the second is a conclusion that the historian draws from that position.

The correct answer is B.

39. Meteorite explosions in the Earth's atmosphere as large as the one that destroyed forests in Siberia, with approximately the force of a twelve-megaton nuclear blast, occur about once a century. The response of highly automated systems controlled by complex computer programs to unexpected circumstances is unpredictable. Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn, if the statements above are true, about a highly automated nuclear-missile defense system controlled by a complex computer program?

- (A) Within a century after its construction, the system would react inappropriately and might accidentally start a nuclear war.
- (B) The system would be destroyed if an explosion of a large meteorite occurred in the Earth's atmosphere.
- (C) It would be impossible for the system to distinguish the explosion of a large meteorite from the explosion of a nuclear weapon.
- (D) Whether the system would respond inappropriately to the explosion of a large meteorite would depend on the location of the blast.
- (E) It is not certain what the system's response to the explosion of a large meteorite would be, if its designers did not plan for such a contingency.

The correct answer is E.

40. A milepost on the towpath read "21" on the side facing the hiker as she approached it and "23" on its back. She reasoned that the next milepost forward on the path would indicate that she was halfway between one end of the path and the other. However, the milepost one mile further on read "20" facing her and "24" behind.

Which of the following, if true, would explain the discrepancy described above?

- (A) The numbers on the next milepost had been reversed.
- (B) The numbers on the mileposts indicate kilometers, not miles.
- (C) The facing numbers indicate miles to the end of the path, not miles from the beginning.
- (D) A milepost was missing between the two the hiker encountered.
- (E) The mileposts had originally been put in place for the use of mountain bikers, not for hikers.

The correct answer is C.