

**KINGSTON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY**

**ENGLISH ASSIGNMENT**

**GRADE XII**

**TOTAL-20**

**STRATEGIES FOR ATTEMPTING COMPREHENSION**

- 1- Read the title.
- 2- Quickly skim through the questions. This will help you to predict what the passage/ poem is about. It will help you to read and understand its contents with more clarity and will keep your mind focused on its theme.
- 3- Focus on the question that tests vocabulary skills. Read the antonym/synonym given. Look at the numbers of the paragraphs. Write each word against its respective paragraph. This gives you a ready reference and helps you to identify the word in the passage / para while reading.
- 4- While reading do the following:
  - a. Underline the content words
  - b. Underline the possible answers of the given questions. It will help you to identify the answers faster.
  - c. Encircle the words that are answers for the vocabulary. Normally a noun for noun, a verb for a verb and an adverb for an adverb etc.
- 5- Answer the questions -
  - a. The underlined content will help you to find the answer.
  - b. If confused between two words:

**PASSAGE**

1. The children probably don't know, or they don't care, the hugely popular WWF wrestling matches are actually all staged acts. The Hulks, the Undertaker or whatever else they are called-never really punch or kick as hard as they might appear doing on the show. It's all a

show, a thrilling show.

2. So, you can't really blame children for getting hooked. But does that necessarily mean the show is entirely responsible for beating 12-year-old Subin Kumar got from his WWF inspired friends? Can viewing or watching violence on TV actually promote aggressive behaviour in children?

3. Media experts and social scientists have been wrestling with this question for decades and thousands of studies have been done on it. And most of them reached the same conclusion—media violence is responsible for aggressive behavior in children.

4. Research has found that the more violence children watch on television, the more likely they may act in aggressive ways towards others. Also, they become less sensitive to others pain and are less likely to help a victim of violence.

5. A study of violence on Indian television and its impact on children commissioned by UNESCO accused the idiot box of "bombarding young minds with all kinds of violent images, cutting across channels, programmes and viewing times."

6. Not only studies, but also incidents go to prove that children who watch violent episodes show increased likelihood of behaving aggressively.

7. There have been reports from all over the country of children hurting themselves while trying to ape the superman feats of Shaktiman, the superhero of Indian TV. Then there was the six year-old child of Lucknow who leapt off the balcony of his second floor flat trying to imitate a bungee jumping drop shown in a soft drinks commercial.

8. There's no doubt that media is a powerful teacher and contributes greatly to the way we act and behave. In some cases like these, the effects are immediate and in others there is a "sleeper effect", where the results show up much later.

9. Experts say it's incorrect to blame the media squarely. How would you explain the aggressive behavior of a child who has never been exposed to television or any other media? So, while there is mounting evidence to link media violence and actual violence, most of it does not prove a direct cause-and-effect relationship. Because no one so far has been able to prove why

and how TV affects some people and not the others. "we also have to take into account individual differences and vulnerabilities as human behavior is result of many factors," points out Dr. Vasantha R. Patri, a counsellor, adding, "violence viewing is only one of the myriad influences on a growing child."

10. Patri says there exists a population of risk individuals whose anger, aggression and anti-social tendencies are already quite high for whatever reason. Other factors like individual predisposition of the child, parental attitudes and reaction to aggression are probably equally important. In fact, she says that in most cases media is only the fourth most important influence in child's life-with parents, teachers and peers being the first three.

11. Patri points out that the growing "here-and-now" culture in which kids are getting used to immediate gratification is leading to an intolerant society on the whole. "Children are not taught how to handle failure and conflict," she says. "As a result, they resort to aggression."

12. But media critics refuse to buy it. They insist the content of media needs to be monitored and care be taken to reduce violence if not remove it. But even if all the gore and violence is completely removed from the media, will it make a significant difference in aggressive behavior of children? And then how do you justify the facts that studies have shown that viewing violence on TV also provides an opportunity to discharge the pent-up, aggressive feelings of anger, hostility and frustration.

13. "The problem is not with the media, but the lack of media education," points out Patri. "No one teaches the children how to assess the reality status of TV programmes." Good parenting, she says, is perhaps the greatest defence against the negative effects of violent images on TV.

14. Experts say it's time that parents and teachers took a long, hard look at themselves in the mirror. Says Patri, "Most parents treat TV as a baby-sitter when it suits them. And when something goes wrong, they turn around and blame TV for it!"

- Shweta Rajpal

## **QUESTIONS**

**12 Marks**

### **A. Choose the most appropriate option:**

(a) Violent behaviour is the outcome of.....

- (i) Lack of media awareness
- (ii) Lack of sensitivity
- (iii) Increase in population
- (iv) imperfection

(b) Children fail to understand that the stunts shown on the screen are.....

- (i) Real
- (ii) Fake
- (iii) Manipulated
- (iv) None of the above

(c) Parents consider TV a .....

- (i) Babysitter
- (ii) Problem
- (iii) Boon
- (iv) None of the above

(d) Aggressive behavior in children can be best handled by.....

- (i) Teachers
- (ii) Parents
- (iii) Both teachers and parents
- (iv) Children themselves

( e) The aggressive children are likely to be;

- (i) Less sensitive and more helpful
- ( ii) More sensitive and less helpful

( iii) Lazy

( iv) Less sensitive and less helpful

**B. Answer the following questions briefly:**

(a) Does violence on TV promote children's aggressive behavior? What is the opinion of media experts and social scientists?

(b) What two points have emerged from research on media violence?

(c) What two incidents are cited to prove the aggressive behavior of children as an outcome of watching violence on TV?

(d) What factors other than violence viewing are important for causing aggressiveness in child?

(e) How, do you think can the problem be solved?

(f) Find a word in the passage (Para 1) similar in meaning as 'exciting'

(g) Find words in the passage (Para 9) which means 'an extremely large number of something'.

**NOTE - MAKING**

**STRATEGIES FOR ATTEMPTING NOTE MAKING**

1. Read the passage thoroughly.
2. Find the title/Heading of the passage (Read the first/last paragraph for the title).
3. Underline the main points & supporting details.
4. Find out the chief division of the passage & use them for Main-headings.
5. Find the sub-headings & write them under the Main- headings.
6. Circle the longer words or those often repeated words & abbreviate them.
7. Organise the information systematically.

## **PASSAGE**

**Read the passage given below:**

**4 Marks**

The construction of the Leaning Tower of Pisa began in August 1173. It was interrupted several times by wars, debt and while engineers worked on solutions to correct the lean. We now know that without these interruptions that allowed the soil to compress under the tower, it would have certainly toppled over. Pisa Tower was eventually completed in the mid-1300s. The Tower of Pisa is the church's bell tower. The city of Pisa was at the beginning a simple but important Italian seaport. With its growth, so did its religious buildings. Its fame and power grew gradually over the years, as the people of Pisa were involved in various military conflicts and trade agreements. The Pisans attacked the city of Palermo on the island of Sicily in 1063. The attack was successful and the conquerors returned to Pisa with a great deal of treasure. To show the world just how important the city was, the people of Pisa decided to build a great cathedral complex, the Field of Miracles. The plan included a cathedral, a baptistery, a bell tower (the Tower of Pisa) and a cemetery. The real identity of Tower of Pisa's architects is a mystery. The most accredited architects of this first phase of work are Bonanno Pisano and Gherardo di Gherardo. The second phase of construction started in 1275, and the work is attributed to Giovanni di Simone. Tommaso Pisano (1350-1372) was the architect who finished the work. The leaning of the Tower of Pisa comes into the story in 1173, when construction began. Thanks to the soft ground, it had begun to lean by the time its builders got to the third story, in 1178. Shifting soil had destabilized the tower's foundations. Over the next 800 years, it became clear the 55-metre tower wasn't just leaning but was actually falling at a rate of one to two millimeters per year. Today, the Leaning Tower of Pisa is more than five meters off perpendicular. Its architect and engineer tried to correct this by making the remaining stories shorter on the uphill side - but to no avail. It kept leaning more and more. The lean, first noted when three of the tower's eight stories had been built, resulted from the foundation stones being laid on soft ground consisting of clay, fine sand and shells. The next stories were built slightly taller on the short side of the tower in an attempt to compensate for the lean. However, the weight of the extra floors caused the edifice to sink further and lean more.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the passage above, make notes using points only, use abbreviations wherever necessary. Supply a suitable title.

(b) Write a summary of the passage above in about 80 Words

## **NOTICE WRITING**

**4 Marks**

You are the Secretary of Akash Flats Welfare Association, Varanasi. Write a notice to be circulated to the members of the Association, requesting them to attend a meeting to discuss about the security measures of the flats and appointment of new security guards.

(Word limit-50 words.)

( Or )

Write a letter to the police commissioner (Traffic) about the inadequate parking facilities in the commercial street area of Bangalore, which is causing a lot of inconvenience to the people. You may also offer your suggestions for solving it. You are Rakesh/Radhika, no. 12, Jai Nagar, Bangalore.