

## CHAPTER

# 02

# COMPREHENSION

Reading passages are meant to test student's analytical skills. This type of exercises makes the students learn how to be precise while giving answers. Comprehension test makes the assessment of how well a student can infer the facts, using their intelligence and word power of the students. Therefore, a student is required to read the passage carefully and choose the correct answer out of the alternatives, given under the questions.

### How to Attempt?

- Read the given passage carefully.
- Study the questions thoroughly. Turn to the relevant portions of the passage and choose the correct answer.
- The answers must be based on the information given in the passage. You should not choose the answer according to your own thought or opinion.

## Entrance Corner

**Directions** Each passage is followed by five questions. Read passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. For each questions four probable answer bearing letters (1), (2), (3) and (4) are given. Only one out of these is correct.

### Passage 1

Chewing gum was discovered a thousand years ago by the Mayans in the Mexican jungles. They found a liquid leaking from a sapodilla tree. As it oozed out, it thickened into something that they called chicle which was chewable and tasty. Today, workers called chicleros still collect chicle.

The chicle is boiled to remove the water. It is then made into slabs about 30 pounds each or 14 kilograms each. These slabs are sent to gum factories. There it is mixed with several ingredients to sweeten, soften, flavour and colour the gum. [JNV 2019]

1. .... discovered chewing gum.  
(1) The Mayans (2) Sapodillas  
(3) Chicleros (4) Gum factories
2. .... are the workers who collect chicle.  
(1) Sapodillas (2) The Mayans  
(3) Chicleros (4) Gummers
3. Slabs of chicle are sent to  
(1) recycling centers  
(2) gum factories  
(3) the Mexican jungles  
(4) candy stores
4. Several ingredients are added to chicle to do all of the following except to ..... it.  
(1) soften (2) flavour  
(3) thicken (4) sweeten
5. A suitable title for the passage will be  
(1) The Gum  
(2) Chiclero  
(3) The Story of Chiclero  
(4) The Story of Chewing Gum

### Passage 2

India is a land of pilgrims and pilgrimages. These holy places, whether in the hills or in the plains, are **generally** situated on river banks or by the sea. It is not only the religious people who visit these places of pilgrimages, but also travellers and sight-seers from all over India and abroad.

Wherever two or more rivers meet, pilgrims come to bathe and worship because that place is supposed to be holy. One such place is Haridwar which is situated on the bank of river Ganga.

[JNV 2019]

- Holy places are visited by religious people, sight-seers as well as .....  
 (1) children (2) travellers  
 (3) traders (4) voyagers
- Which one of the following is a synonym of the word 'generally'?  
 (1) usually (2) publicly  
 (3) occasionally (4) eventually
- The place is considered 'holy' where two or more rivers meet.  
 Here the antonym of the word 'holy' is  
 (1) godly (2) religious  
 (3) cursed (4) pious
- People come to bathe and worship in the Ganga as its water is  
 (1) holy (2) clear and clean  
 (3) cool (4) healthy
- People go on a pilgrimage because they are  
 (1) curious (2) religious (3) explorers (4) old

### Passage 3

It was Ajit's birthday. All his friends and relatives had gathered. He received many gifts. There were books, toys and clothes. Ajit's aunt gave him a surprise gift—a rose sapling. Ajit liked his aunt's gift the best and at once ran to the garden and planted the sapling. Ajit watered the plant everyday. As soon as he woke up in the morning, he would rush to see how much the plant had grown. One day he saw two little rose buds peeping out. He kept watching the buds bloom into beautiful yellow roses. He was happy and thrilled. With his mother's help, he plucked the flowers. He gifted the first two roses to his mother and sister. Ajit decided to plant more saplings in his garden.

[JNV 2019]

- Ajit's best birthday gift was a  
 (1) race car (2) shirt  
 (3) rose sapling (4) book

- As soon as Ajit woke up he  
 (1) started studying  
 (2) rushed to see the sapling  
 (3) had a bath  
 (4) went to school
- How many rose buds appeared first?  
 (1) one (2) four  
 (3) two (4) many
- Ajit gifted the first two roses to  
 (1) his friends (2) his aunt  
 (3) his mother and sister (4) his mother and aunt
- The word 'thrilled' means  
 (1) sad (2) excited  
 (3) afraid (4) surprised

### Passage 4

The neem tree is known as a village pharmacy due to the medicinal benefits of its seeds, bark and leaves. It is called *arista* in Sanskrit which means perfect, imperishable and complete. Neem oil plays an important role in pest control and can also be used as a replacement for mosquito repellent. Neem seed cakes are used as fertilizer. A paste of neem leaves is used to treat chickenpox. Neem twigs commonly referred to as 'datun' are used as toothbrushes in villages. The bark and roots are also used, in powdered form, to control fleas and ticks on pets.

[JNV 2019]

- A pharmacy is  
 (1) farm land (2) a medical store  
 (3) a playground (4) a farm house
- The part of the neem tree that is useful to the farmers is  
 (1) seeds (2) bark  
 (3) twigs (4) leaves
- Which one of the following is not a synonym of 'perfect'?  
 (1) faultless (2) flawless  
 (3) seamless (4) blemished
- The word 'pest' in the passage means  
 (1) an insect that destroys crops  
 (2) an angry person  
 (3) dirty water  
 (4) pollution
- Neem ... are used as toothbrushes in villages.  
 (1) roots  
 (2) leaves  
 (3) twigs  
 (4) seed cakes

### Passage 5

Our voyage was very prosperous, but I shall not trouble the reader with a journal of it. The captain called in at one or two ports and sent in his long-boat for provisions and fresh water, but I never went out of the ship still we came into the Downs, which was on the 3rd day of June, 1706, about nine months after my escape. I offered to leave my goods in security for payment of my freight, but the captain protested he would not receive one farthing. We took kind leave of each other, and I made him promise that he would come to see me at my house in Redriff. I hired a house and a guide for five shillings which I borrowed from the captain. [JNV 2018]

1. When the writer uses the word 'prosperous' to describe the voyage, he means that  
 (1) it made him rich (2) it made him healthy  
 (3) it was very pleasant (4) it was uneventful
2. On the voyage, the author  
 (1) left the ship at intervals  
 (2) was not able to leave the ship because it did not stop  
 (3) never left the ship at all  
 (4) never left the ship till they came into the Downs
3. In the context of the passage, the word 'provisions' means  
 (1) mainly food (2) mainly security  
 (3) money (4) mainly ammunition
4. For the payment of the author's freight, the captain  
 (1) kept his goods as security  
 (2) refused to accept any money  
 (3) protested against being paid only a farthing  
 (4) accepted a sum of money
5. From the passage, it is clear that the captain's attitude to the author was  
 (1) one of hostility  
 (2) one of indifference  
 (3) one of extreme friendliness and kindness  
 (4) one of disgust and irritation

### Passage 6

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand:

"TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE." They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After the friend recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: "TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE." The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand, and now, you write on a stone. Why?"

The other friend replied: "When someone hurts us, we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must **engrave** it in stone where no wind can ever erase it." [JNV 2018]

1. Why did the friend who got hurt write on the sand?  
 (1) Because he was very kind-hearted  
 (2) Because he was too weak to take revenge  
 (3) Because he knew that his feeling of hurt was temporary  
 (4) Because he loved his friend too much
2. What is an oasis?  
 (1) An oasis is a tall tree found in a desert  
 (2) An oasis is a water body found in a desert  
 (3) An oasis is a creature like centipede  
 (4) An oasis is grassland
3. What did one of the friends do after recovering from the near drowning?  
 (1) He rebuked his friend  
 (2) He avenged by slapping his friend in his face  
 (3) He wrote something on sand in his praise  
 (4) He wrote something about his friend to express his gratitude
4. What does writing on the stone suggest?  
 (1) Writing something on stone means expressing one's love for another  
 (2) Writing on stone means writing something with an intention to make it last forever  
 (3) Writing something on stone means expressing one's extreme anger  
 (4) Writing something on stone means writing something with a view to preaching one and all
5. What is the synonym of the word 'engrave' as used in the passage?  
 (1) dislodge (2) neglect  
 (3) aid (4) inscribe



### Passage 7

I woke up one August morning in a warm sweat. I ran to the refrigerator to get a cold drink, but the refrigerator was broken and all the drinks were as hot as me. I walked over to my electric fan, but it wasn't working either. I then turned on the television and finally realised that the electricity in my house was out. Later that day, I went to the pool to cool off. I dived right in! I swam eight laps before I got tired. My friend Lucy then bought me an ice-cream cone. I got a vanilla ice-cream cone with rainbow sprinkles. Even though it was really hot, I did have a lot of fun. [JNV 2018]

1. What did the narrator want from the refrigerator?  
(1) a ham sandwich (2) a fan  
(3) a drink (4) an apple
2. Why does the electric fan not work?  
(1) it was broken (2) it needed batteries  
(3) the power was out (4) it wasn't oiled
3. How many laps did it take for the narrator to tire of the pool?  
(1) two (2) four (3) six (4) eight
4. Who bought the narrator an ice-cream cone?  
(1) Lucy (2) Sam (3) Peter (4) Prince
5. What was the flavour of the ice-cream?  
(1) rainbow (2) vanilla  
(3) chocolate (4) strawberry

### Passage 8

Once upon a time I went for a week's holiday in the Continent with an Indian friend. We both enjoyed ourselves and were sorry when the week was over, but on parting our behaviour was absolutely different. He was plunged in despair. He felt that because the holiday was over all happiness was over until the world ended. He could not express his sorrow too much, but in me the Englishman came out strong. I could not see what there was to make a fuss about. It was not as if we were parting forever or dying. 'Buck up', I said, 'do buck up'. He refused to buck up, and I left him plunged in gloom. [JNV 2018]

1. What is the Continent in the context of the passage?  
(1) An island (2) The countryside  
(3) African safari (4) Europe
2. What does the author mean by 'buck up'?  
(1) Buckle yourself up (2) Stand up  
(3) Cheer up (4) Shut up

3. Why was the Indian friend plunged in despair?  
(1) He was hopeless  
(2) He experienced racial discrimination  
(3) He would never be so happy again  
(4) He had spend lot of money

4. What does 'but in me the Englishman came out strong' imply?

- (1) He was strong Englishman
- (2) He had the typical English character
- (3) The Englishman went out of him
- (4) He started following Indian traditions

5. What is the author's intension in the passage?

- (1) To contrast the Indian character with the English character
- (2) To show that an Indian is sorrowful
- (3) To ridicule the Indian traditions
- (4) To praise the Englishman

### Passage 9

One day a wolf found a sheepskin. He covered himself with the sheepskin and got into a flock of sheep grazing in a field. He thought, "The shepherd will shut the sheep in the pen after sunset. At night I will run away with a fat sheep and eat it."

All went well till the shepherd shut the sheep in the pen and left. The wolf waited patiently for the night to advance and grow darker. But then an unexpected thing happened. One of the servants of the shepherd entered the pen. His master had sent him to bring a fat sheep for supper. As luck would have it, the servant picked up the wolf dressed in the sheepskin. That night the shepherd and his guests had wolf for supper. [JNV 2018]

1. Why did the wolf cover himself with the sheepskin and get into a flock of sheep?  
(1) He wanted to look like a beautiful sheep  
(2) He wanted to eat a sheep  
(3) He wanted to enter into the pen  
(4) He wanted to make friends with the sheep
2. How did the wolf meet his end?  
(1) All the sheep attacked the wolf and killed him.  
(2) The shepherd recognised the wolf in sheep's clothing and killed him  
(3) The shepherd's servant picked up the wolf dressed in the sheepskin for supper  
(4) The wolf died of a serious disease
3. What is the moral of the passage?  
(1) An evil design has an evil end  
(2) Pen is mightier than the sword  
(3) Might is right (4) Die in harness



### Passage 12

About three hundred and fifty years there lived in India an Emperor called Shah Jahan. He had a beautiful and intelligent wife, whom he loved very much. Her name was Mumtaz Mahal; its shortened form, Taj Mahal, means 'pride of the palace'. In the year 1630, this beloved wife of the emperor died. The emperor decided, out of love for his wife, to build her the most beautiful tomb that had ever been seen.

Shah Jahan gathered the best artists and architects from India, Turkey, Persia and Arabia to design the building. It took more than 20000 men working over a period of 18 years to build the Taj Mahal, perhaps the most beautiful building in India. [JNV 2017, 2005, 2000]

- Which of the following is the work of an 'architect'?
  - To advise the king
  - To build a palace
  - To design a building
  - To supervise cooking of meals
- People consider Taj Mahal as
  - a large river
  - the most beautiful building in India
  - a very tall building
  - a memory of an emperor
- Which one of the statements agrees with the paragraph?
  - Shah Jahan wanted to build a palace for himself
  - Artists and Architects from India asked Shah Jahan to give them work
  - 'Pride of the palace' means 'Shah Jahan'
  - Shah Jahan decided to build a beautiful tomb for his beloved wife
- Which one of the following pairs is not associated with buildings?
  - Painters and carpenters
  - Teachers and doctors
  - Architects and engineers
  - Masons and plumbers
- Taj Mahal was built
  - out of love for Mumtaz Mahal
  - because Mumtaz Mahal was intelligent
  - to let the world know that Mumtaz Mahal was beautiful
  - to protect Mumtaz Mahal from his enemies

### Passage 13

Since, the most ancient times, India has been not only periodically invaded by greedy hordes but also visited by tradesman and travellers, scholars and sight-seers. Some of them have written books. The books of these writers become all the more important because there were not too many of them and they have served as rich sources for the historian. It is especially in this context that observations provided by the great Chinese writer Hiuen Tsang become very relevant.

Already in the 7th century, Buddhism was a powerful cultural force among the educated classes of China. It was common for Chinese pilgrims to come to India, the native land of the Buddha, to pay their respects to the founder of their religion. Perhaps the most famous of them all was this gentle observer who had studied and travelled extensively in China before entering the Indian sub-continent. Being both scholar and sophisticated, he was not given to easy praise. Within India itself he traversed deserts and climbed mountains, stayed in villages and lived in capitals, practised in monasteries and studied in universities and spent time in some royal courts as well. [JNV 2017]

- Why are the writings of Hiuen Tsang considered as relevant?
  - He had spent sometime in some royal courts
  - He visited India as a trader and sight-seer
  - He had travelled to many Asian countries
  - He was a gentle observer
- Chinese pilgrims commonly come to visit
  - mountains
  - villages
  - deserts
  - the native land of Buddha
- What probably prompted Hiuen Tsang to travel to India?
  - To study influence of Buddhism on Hindu religion
  - To spread his religion in India
  - To undertake pilgrimage and enhance knowledge
  - To study the powerful cultural force in India
- In the most ancient times, India was visited by except
  - scholars
  - tradesman
  - farmers
  - sight-seers
- Hiuen Tsang did all of the following travel in India except
  - travelled in deserts
  - lived in villages
  - followed the schedule in Monasteries
  - taught in the university



### Passage 14

Man-made satellites play a very important role in the modern man's world today. It helps in the study of space which has fascinated and inspired people for centuries and also helps us to find out more about the earth and our solar system. Advances in satellite technology have diversified to such an extent that it has improved our quality of life. Satellites help us communicate with people anywhere in the world, forecast weather, look at climate change and monitor disaster. Almost everyone today use satellite technology. Paying by credit card, or using an ATM machine-all involve satellite technology. Thus satellites have become an integral part of present-day man. [JNV 2017]

1. Satellites help in the study of  
(1) animals (2) space (3) plastics (4) bacteria
2. The word 'fascinated' used in the paragraph means  
(1) pleased (2) interested  
(3) affected (4) enthused
3. Which of the following sequences is correct as mentioned in the paragraph?  
(1) Technology—Monitor—Study  
(2) Monitor—Study—Technology  
(3) Study—Monitor—Technology  
(4) Technology—Study—Monitor
4. The phrase 'present-day man' means  
(1) man who is present (2) man present everyday  
(3) man of everyday (4) man of today
5. Satellite technology cannot be used for  
(1) speaking to a friend in America  
(2) washing and drying clothes  
(3) taking out money from a bank  
(4) warning against a storm

### Passage 15

Pinku was walking through a forest. He had a bag of mangoes. After sometime, he felt tired. He took shelter under a tree and soon fell asleep. After a while, he felt that someone was trying to snatch his bag of mangoes. He woke up and caught the person. It was a witch who tried to frighten Pinku and ran away. But Pinku was strong and brave. He chased the witch and caught her. The witch removed her mask. She told Pinku that she was a poor and old widow. She had nobody to look after her. Therefore, she used to live in the forest. She used to wear mask to frighten people and take away their belongings. Pinku took pity on her and gave her the bag of mangoes. [JNV 2016]

1. Why did Pinku take shelter under a tree?  
(1) He wanted to sleep  
(2) He wanted to eat mangoes  
(3) It was very hot  
(4) He was tired
2. The witch was trying to  
(1) climb up the tree  
(2) hit Pinku  
(3) take the bag of mangoes  
(4) sleep under the tree
3. Pinku was a  
(1) lazy boy (2) shy boy  
(3) courageous boy (4) weak boy
4. The witch was  
(1) a bad woman (2) an old lady  
(3) a poor and old widow (4) very strong
5. The opposite word for 'brave' is  
(1) gentle (2) coward  
(3) thin (4) kind

### Passage 16

Graham Bell was born at Edinburgh, Scotland. He was a teacher and was dedicated to the noble cause of teaching the deaf and dumb. Due to severe illness, Bell was sent to Canada in 1870. Thereafter, he shifted to the USA. He continued his work by opening a school for deaf and dumb. Bell was fond of scientific inventions. He was always engaged in making some machines in his spare time. Apart from being an artist, he was a kind human being. He died in 1922 in Canada. The entire Northern America paid him a tribute by hanging up their telephones during his funeral. [JNV 2016]

1. Where was Bell born?  
(1) USA (2) Canada  
(3) Scotland (4) France
2. Bell was sent to Canada because  
(1) he was a teacher (2) his parents lived there  
(3) he was severely ill (4) he liked Canada
3. Bell was fond of  
(1) teaching (2) travelling  
(3) talking (4) scientific inventions
4. Bell shifted to  
(1) Scotland (2) USA  
(3) Edinburgh (4) France
5. Bell used to teach the  
(1) poor (2) blind  
(3) dumb (4) wealthy

### Passage 17

There was a poor man. He was thought to bring bad luck. Akbar heard of this man's reputation and wanted to see him. He was brought to Akbar. The emperor took a look at him and asked him to be brought back in the evening. That day Akbar was very busy and even forgot to eat. By the evening, he was very tired. He was informed that his son Prince Salim had fallen ill. It was that man's fault, Akbar decided. He called his courtiers and told them that he wanted to hang that man. All of them agreed immediately. But Birbal said, "Your face was the first face that man saw today and he has to die because of it." Akbar realised his mistake and rewarded Birbal for his wisdom. [JNV 2016]

1. Why had Akbar not eaten his food?
  - (1) He was ill
  - (2) He had seen that man
  - (3) He was very busy
  - (4) He was not hungry
2. Who was not well on that day?
  - (1) King Akbar
  - (2) His courtier
  - (3) The poor man
  - (4) Prince Salim
3. Why did the king decide to hang the poor man?
  - (1) The poor man refused to meet him
  - (2) The poor man was really very unlucky
  - (3) Birbal advised him to do so
  - (4) The king had a very bad day
4. Birbal was rewarded because
  - (1) he was in king's favour
  - (2) he brought the poor man to the king
  - (3) he made the king realise his mistake
  - (4) he taught the poor man a lesson
5. The opposite word for 'forget' is
  - (1) forgive
  - (2) active
  - (3) remember
  - (4) meet

### Passage 18

An old woman lived in a village with her youngest son. Her eldest son was a government servant. He lived with his wife and children in a far away city. Her second son had left home years ago. He was a merchant and travelled all over the world. The yearly festival was approaching fast. The old woman was sending out gifts to everyone. The store room was packed with silk fabrics, bowls full of sweets, gold ornaments and toys. When she had sent gifts to everyone. She asked her son what gift he would like to have. He replied that he didn't want any gift. He just wanted to live with her. [JNV 2016]

1. The eldest son was
  - (1) a servant
  - (2) in government job
  - (3) unemployed
  - (4) a leader
2. Why did the woman's second son travel?
  - (1) He did not want to stay at home
  - (2) He was very rich
  - (3) He was a merchant
  - (4) He was searching something
3. What was not in the store room?
  - (1) Sweets
  - (2) Clothes
  - (3) Toys
  - (4) Fruits
4. The woman was sending gifts to
  - (1) the eldest son
  - (2) the children
  - (3) the second son
  - (4) All of them
5. The youngest son wanted .....
  - (1) to travel all over the world
  - (2) to get all the gifts
  - (3) to live with her mother
  - (4) to live with his brothers

### Passage 19

There was a small and beautiful village. The men of that village were very lazy. They didn't do any work. Every morning they had their breakfast and gather in groups. They spent the day telling each other stories. They returned home only at lunch and dinner time. Women had to take all the responsibilities. They cooked food, cleaned the house and sent the children to school. They worked in the fields, took the crops to the market and manage everything. They were very sad because of all this. [JNV 2016]

1. What did the men do when they gathered in groups?
  - (1) They played cards
  - (2) They sang songs
  - (3) They shared stories
  - (4) They did nothing
2. The men returned home only when
  - (1) their children called them
  - (2) they were hungry
  - (3) the women worked
  - (4) they were ashamed
3. What was not in the village?
  - (1) School
  - (2) Fields
  - (3) Children
  - (4) River
4. The opposite word for 'lazy' is
  - (1) healthy
  - (2) strong
  - (3) active
  - (4) brave



5. The women were very sad because

- (1) their children were naughty
- (2) they were very poor
- (3) they had to do everything
- (4) their village was small

### Passage 20

Abraham Lincoln was born on 12th February, 1809 in a log cabin in Kentucky. A cabin is a small house made of wood. When he was seven years old, his family moved to Indiana. In 1830, the family moved to Illinois. As a boy, Abraham Lincoln loved books. He always borrowed books from his neighbours. He read them for a short time and then took them back to their owners.

Abraham Lincoln studied law in his free time. He was also interested in Politics. He became President of the United States in 1861. He was the 16th President of the US. [JNV 2015]

1. Where was Lincoln born?

- (1) Illinois (2) Indiana
- (3) Kentucky (4) Tennessee

2. Lincoln moved to Indiana at age....

- (1) 4 (2) 6
- (3) 7 (4) 12

3. Abraham Lincoln became

- (1) an author
- (2) a woodcutter
- (3) Prime Minister
- (4) 16th President of the US

4. What did Abraham use to borrow from his neighbours?

- (1) Wood (2) Books
- (3) Money (4) Food

5. Lincoln was fond of

- (1) books (2) politics
- (3) reading (4) All of these

### Passage 21

Alexander, on his way back, met a saint. The saint was sitting on a coarse grass-mat and basking in the sunshine. Alexander stood in front of him and hoped that the saint would pay respect to him, but he did not. Instead, he said, "Please stand aside. Let the sunshine come to me."

Alexander asked angrily, "Do you know who am I?"

The saint did not reply.

"I am an Emperor-Alexander the Great," he said.

"Emperor! you! No, you are not," said the saint.

"Yes I am," said Alexander, "I have conquered half of the world."

To this the saint said, calmly, "The emperors do not roam restlessly like you. Go, man, try to conquer the hearts of the people by love."

Alexander bowed and quietly walked away. [JNV 2015]

1. Why did the saint asked Alexander to stand aside?

- (1) He was not a devotee
- (2) He was blocking the sunshine
- (3) He wandered restlessly
- (4) He did not seek permission

2. Which of the following words is the synonym of 'conquer'?

- (1) Win (2) Defeat (3) Tell (4) Bow

3. What the emperors usually do not do?

- (1) Visit a saint (2) Rule an empire
- (3) Roam restlessly (4) Bow to saints

4. Which of the following does not describe an emperor?

- (1) A ruler (2) A king
- (3) An employee (4) A conqueror

5. Hearts of the people can be won by

- (1) Love (2) Power
- (3) Money (4) Sword

### Passage 22

Simi was a puppy. She was very cute, Asha found her crying in a park. When she picked her up, the puppy stopped crying and looked at her. Asha liked that glance of her and she decided to take her home. Her mother approved the idea. They together gave her the name 'Simi', and happily brought her home.

So far nobody had trained the puppy, so Asha thought she should train her. Next morning she took Simi out and gave her some lessons. A trainer has to be a bit strict. So, she punished her when she disobeyed and rewarded her when she did what Asha wanted her to do. On the whole, the training was not so difficult. In a week's time, Simi became a good cultured puppy. [JNV 2015, 1993]

1. Asha took the puppy home, because she

- (1) pitied her (2) liked her glance
- (3) liked dogs (4) needed a puppy

2. 'She disobeyed .....'. Here 'she' refers to

- (1) Asha (2) Asha's mother
- (3) the puppy (4) the storyteller

5. The women were very sad because

- (1) their children were naughty
- (2) they were very poor
- (3) they had to do everything
- (4) their village was small

### Passage 20

Abraham Lincoln was born on 12th February, 1809 in a log cabin in Kentucky. A cabin is a small house made of wood. When he was seven years old, his family moved to Indiana. In 1830, the family moved to Illinois. As a boy, Abraham Lincoln loved books. He always borrowed books from his neighbours. He read them for a short time and then took them back to their owners.

Abraham Lincoln studied law in his free time. He was also interested in Politics. He became President of the United States in 1861. He was the 16th President of the US. [JNV 2015]

1. Where was Lincoln born?

- (1) Illinois (2) Indiana
- (3) Kentucky (4) Tennessee

2. Lincoln moved to Indiana at age....

- (1) 4 (2) 6
- (3) 7 (4) 12

3. Abraham Lincoln became

- (1) an author
- (2) a woodcutter
- (3) Prime Minister
- (4) 16th President of the US

4. What did Abraham use to borrow from his neighbours?

- (1) Wood (2) Books
- (3) Money (4) Food

5. Lincoln was fond of

- (1) books (2) politics
- (3) reading (4) All of these

### Passage 21

Alexander, on his way back, met a saint. The saint was sitting on a coarse grass-mat and basking in the sunshine. Alexander stood in front of him and hoped that the saint would pay respect to him, but he did not. Instead, he said, "Please stand aside. Let the sunshine come to me."

Alexander asked angrily, "Do you know who am I?"

The saint did not reply.

"I am an Emperor-Alexander the Great," he said.

"Emperor! you! No, you are not," said the saint.

"Yes I am," said Alexander, "I have conquered half of the world."

To this the saint said, calmly, "The emperors do not roam restlessly like you. Go, man, try to conquer the hearts of the people by love."

Alexander bowed and quietly walked away. [JNV 2015]

1. Why did the saint asked Alexander to stand aside?

- (1) He was not a devotee
- (2) He was blocking the sunshine
- (3) He wandered restlessly
- (4) He did not seek permission

2. Which of the following words is the synonym of 'conquer'?

- (1) Win (2) Defeat (3) Tell (4) Bow

3. What the emperors usually do not do?

- (1) Visit a saint (2) Rule an empire
- (3) Roam restlessly (4) Bow to saints

4. Which of the following does not describe an emperor?

- (1) A ruler (2) A king
- (3) An employee (4) A conqueror

5. Hearts of the people can be won by

- (1) Love (2) Power
- (3) Money (4) Sword

### Passage 22

Simi was a puppy. She was very cute, Asha found her crying in a park. When she picked her up, the puppy stopped crying and looked at her. Asha liked that glance of her and she decided to take her home. Her mother approved the idea. They together gave her the name 'Simi', and happily brought her home.

So far nobody had trained the puppy, so Asha thought she should train her. Next morning she took Simi out and gave her some lessons. A trainer has to be a bit strict. So, she punished her when she disobeyed and rewarded her when she did what Asha wanted her to do. On the whole, the training was not so difficult. In a week's time, Simi became a good cultured puppy. [JNV 2015, 1993]

1. Asha took the puppy home, because she

- (1) pitied her (2) liked her glance
- (3) liked dogs (4) needed a puppy

2. 'She disobeyed .....'. Here 'she' refers to

- (1) Asha (2) Asha's mother
- (3) the puppy (4) the storyteller

3. What is opposite word for reward?  
 (1) Encouragement (2) Punishment  
 (3) Gift (4) Scolding
4. The puppy was named Simi by  
 (1) Asha  
 (2) her mother  
 (3) Asha and her mother  
 (4) a friend of Asha
5. Which of the following words mean : "... did what she wanted her to do"?  
 (1) Obeyed (2) Performed  
 (3) Followed (4) Picked

### Passage 23

It was a full-moon's night. Bright moonlight flooded the road. I was walking slowly. Suddenly, I heard a whistling sound. At first, I thought it was another late evening stroller like me. The sound was loud and cheerful. Suddenly, a boy on a bicycle sped past me. I could not see his face. After a few minutes, he was back again. This time, he stopped a few feet away from me and gave me a smile. He looked like a slim boy of fourteen. He wore a school blazer, a cap and a scarf. His eyes were bright and cool like moonlight. "You don't have a bell on your bicycle," I said. He said nothing. I put out my hand but he did not take it. Then, quite suddenly he sped past again. The next day I learnt that, that whistling boy was a ghost!

[JNV 2015, 1994]

1. Who appeared quite rapidly?  
 (1) The whistling boy (2) The author  
 (3) The moon (4) The bicycle
2. Why could the narrator not see the face of the boy?  
 (1) He was afraid of the boy  
 (2) The boy sped past quickly  
 (3) The boy did not like him  
 (4) He was an ugly looking boy
3. What did the boy not wear?  
 (1) Scarf (2) A cap  
 (3) An overcoat (4) A blazer
4. Why did the boy not take the hands of the stroller?  
 (1) He was busy (2) He did not like him  
 (3) He was a ghost (4) He was in hurry
5. What was most unusual about the boy?  
 (1) He was cycling fast  
 (2) His eyes were bright but cool like moonlight  
 (3) He wore a school uniform  
 (4) He was whistling

### Passage 24

I was about six years old. Once I saw a beautiful picture in a book. It was a picture of a dense forest. I thought about the forest and drew a picture of an animal. I showed it to some grown-ups and asked them. "Are you afraid of it?" But they asked me, "Afraid? Why should one be afraid of a hat?"

My drawing was not of a hat. To me, it was an elephant. But the grown-ups were not able to understand it. One of these grown-ups even advised me, "Stop drawing. Devote yourself instead to Geography, Arithmetic or Grammar." That is why I gave up drawing. That is why I could not become a great artist.

[JNV 2015, 2002]

1. The boy drew a picture of  
 (1) a forest (2) an animal  
 (3) a girl (4) a hat
2. 'Afraid?' is  
 (1) a question (2) a statement  
 (3) a request (4) an order
3. But for the advice of grown-ups, the child would have become  
 (1) a geographer (2) a mathematician  
 (3) an artist (4) a grammarian
4. Why did the child give up drawing?  
 (1) He was so advised  
 (2) He wanted to become a mathematician  
 (3) He had no time for it  
 (4) It was very difficult to draw
5. The opposite word for 'beautiful' is  
 (1) Tidy (2) Lovely  
 (3) Pretty (4) Ugly

### Passage 25

A rich man went for fishing in a lake. When he was standing on a low bridge, his tin of bait fell into the lake. Leaning over the side of the bridge, he tried to catch the tin and pull it out of the lake. As he did so, his car keys fell out of his pocket and disappeared in the water. The man felt annoyed. He leaned over the bridge to try to see where his keys had gone. As he did so, he lost his balance and fell into the lake. He came out of the lake. He was very sad. He walked back home.

[JNV 2013]

1. The man tried to pull out  
 (1) his car keys  
 (2) the tin of bait  
 (3) a fish  
 (4) himself



3. Pulakesin was
  - (1) a friend of Harsha
  - (2) a general of Harsha
  - (3) a priest
  - (4) a brave King of South India
4. Harsha gave large sums
  - (1) to Hieun Tsang to go round India
  - (2) to Pulakesin
  - (3) to Singhnad to expand his army
  - (4) to Nalanda University
5. Harsha became
  - (1) a Buddhist later on
  - (2) a Christian
  - (3) the King of the whole India
  - (4) a follower of Lord Krishna

### Passage 27

The family sat down at the table and began to talk about the summer holidays. They had to decide a place to visit during the vacation. Should they go to their village or to a hill station? The parents preferred the village while the children wished to go to the hill station. After few moments of discussion, the elders decided to visit both the places. First they shall go to the village for a week and then stay at the hill station for the remaining days. For the first time, the family shall be together during the holidays. The children were happy with the holiday plan. [JNV 2011, 1996]

1. The purpose for which the family set down at the table was to
  - (1) decide a place to visit during the vacation
  - (2) educate the children how to carry articles during a visit to a hill station
  - (3) decide the date when they should start their journey
  - (4) tell the children that they will visit a hill station during this vacation
2. The final plan was to visit
  - (1) their village
  - (2) a hill station
  - (3) their village as well as a hill station
  - (4) their home town
3. The final decision was made by the
  - (1) boys
  - (2) girls
  - (3) women
  - (4) elders
4. They decided first to go to their village and stay there for
  - (1) a day
  - (2) a week
  - (3) ten days
  - (4) a fortnight

1. Who was Hieun Tsang?
  - (1) Hieun Tsang was a professor at Nalanda University
  - (2) Hieun Tsang was a Chinese pilgrim
  - (3) Hieun Tsang was a British writer
  - (4) Hieun Tsang was the King of China
2. Nalanda University was
  - (1) situated in Varanasi
  - (2) situated in Kannauj
  - (3) situated at Rajgiri near Patna
  - (4) a famous Chinese University

## 5. Why were children happy?

- (1) Because a hill station was included in their holiday plan
- (2) Because a visit to their village was excluded from their holiday plan
- (3) Because their choice prevailed
- (4) Because they were going all alone to the hill station

**Passage 28**

A book is written, not to multiply the voice merely, not to carry it merely but to perpetuate it. The author has something to say which he perceives to be true and useful or helpfully beautiful. So far he knows no one has said it, so, far as he knows no one else can say it. He is bound to say it clearly and melodiously if he may; clearly at all events. In the sum of his life, he finds this to be the thing or group of things, manifest him; this, the piece of true knowledge, or sight which his share of sunshine and Earth has permitted him to seize. That is a book. [JNV 2010]

1. The opening sentence of the passage implies that the aim of writing a book is to
  - (1) repeat the message it contains
  - (2) enable the author to express his ideas in writing
  - (3) preserve from extinction the message it contains
  - (4) propagate the ideology of the author
2. Which of the following would be the most suitable title for the passage?
  - (1) Contribution of an Author
  - (2) Aim of Writing a Book
  - (3) Book the Source of True Knowledge
  - (4) Writers and Their Books
3. According to the writer, a person is impelled to write a book because
  - (1) he wishes to satisfy his ego
  - (2) he has something nice and pleasing to say
  - (3) he is capable of expressing whatever he wants to say
  - (4) he has discovered something unique true and good which he must convey distinctly and musically
4. Which of the following is not implied in the passage?
  - (1) A writer is motivated to write a book if he discerns a great truth
  - (2) An author of a book generally gathers some common truths and gives them a popular and pleasing expression

- (3) A great writer is convinced that whatever he says is not an echo or imitation of what others have said

- (4) An eminent writer's message is conveyed through plain unambiguous language

## 5. Which of the following is opposite in meaning to the word 'manifest' given in the passage?

- (1) Unclear (2) Dark (3) Pure (4) Hard

**Passage 29**

Primitive man was probably more concerned with fire as a source of warmth and as a means of cooking food than as a source of light. Before he discovered less laborious ways of making fire, he had to preserve it, and whenever he went on a journey he carried a fire-brand with him. His discovery that the fire-brand, from which the torch may very well have developed, could be used for illumination was probably incidental to the primary purpose of preserving a flame.

Lamps, too, probably developed by accident. Early man may have had his first conception of a lamp while watching a twig or fibre burning in the molten fat dropped from a roasting carcass. All he had to do was to fashion a vessel to contain fat and float a lighted reed in it. Such lamps, which were made of hollowed stones or sea shells, have persisted in identical form up to quite recent times. [JNV 2008]

1. The most important use of fire for primitive man was
  - (1) to provide warmth (2) to provide light
  - (3) to cook food (4) (1) and (3)
2. Primitive man used the fire-brand to
  - (1) keep away the wild animals
  - (2) lessen the labour
  - (3) provide light
  - (4) prevent accidents
3. In the passage 'primary' means
  - (1) primitive (2) elemental
  - (3) fundamental (4) essential
4. 'Lamps, too, probably developed by accident'. This statement shows that lamps developed through
  - (1) an accident (2) chance
  - (3) planning (4) fate
5. Which of the following may be the best title for the passage?
  - (1) Discovery of fire (2) Uses of fire
  - (3) Primitive man and fire (4) Lamps

### Passage 30

Prevention is better than cure and it is recognised that the only way to get rid of malaria completely is to get rid of the mosquitoes which cause it. Malaria is always associated with damp and marshy land. This is not because the land is damp, but because stagnant water is the breeding place of the mosquito which begins its life as a larva living in the water. Malaria does not frequently occur in dry desert countries because mosquitoes cannot breed there. The only way to destroy mosquitoes is to prevent their breeding in standing water.

[JNV 2007]

- What can be a suitable title for the passage?
  - Prevention is better than cure
  - How to get rid of malaria?
  - The breeding ground of malaria
  - The deadly mosquito
- How does malaria occur?
  - It is caused by contaminated food
  - It is caused by contaminated water
  - It is caused by mosquitoes breeding in damp and marshy land
  - It is a seasonal disease, no cause is associated with it
- How can we get rid of malaria?
  - We can get rid of malaria by destroying mosquitoes and preventing their breeding in standing water
  - We can get rid of malaria by inoculation
  - We can get rid of malaria by vaccination
  - We can prevent malaria by taking quinine pills regularly
- Why do we not get malaria in the dry desert?
  - Because the sand of the dry desert kills mosquitoes causing malaria
  - Because mosquitoes causing malaria do not breed in dry desert
  - Because there is no pollution in the atmosphere of a dry desert
  - Because we develop immunity to malaria in the climate of dry desert
- Give the opposite word of 'stagnant'.
 

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| (1) still   | (2) deep    |
| (3) shallow | (4) flowing |

### Passage 31

One day Tansen sang one of the songs taught by his master and deliberately introduced a false note. It had almost an electric effect on the saint; his aesthetic nature received a rude shock. He turned

to Tansen and rebuked him, saying, 'What has happened to you, Tansen, that you, a pupil of mine, should commit such a gross blunder?'

He then started singing the piece correctly the mood came upon him and enveloped him, and he forgot himself in the music which filled the Earth and Heaven and Akbar and Tansen themselves in the sheer melody and charm of the music.

It was a unique experience. When the music stopped, Akbar turned to Tansen and said, "You say you learnt music from this saint and yet you seem to have missed the living charm of it all. Yours seems to be chaff beside this soul stirring music".

[JNV 2003, 1997]

- 'It had almost an electric effect on the saint'. Here 'saint' refers to
  - Akbar
  - Tansen
  - Tansen's Guru
  - Some other courtier
- Which word did Akbar use to describe Tansen's music?
 

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| (1) Charming      | (2) Thrilling |
| (3) Soul stirring | (4) Chaff     |
- Tansen's Guru rebuked Tansen because
  - he sang a classical song
  - he sang a song with a false note
  - he tried to show his superiority over his master
  - he sang a song not suitable to the occasion
- What did Akbar miss in Tansen's music?
  - Chaff
  - Right tunes
  - Living charm
  - Inspiration
- "Tansen, ..... should commit such a gross blunder". Here 'gross' means
 

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| (1) twelve dozen | (2) choking |
| (3) serious      | (4) melody  |

### Passage 32

There are so many ways in which we can avoid waste.

We can see that taps are turned off properly, so that water is not wasted.

We must save energy. And means everything from electricity to petrol to cooking gas and firewood. Energy is useful in running all our factories, our transport, even the water pumps in the fields. Careful use of our energy resources can save us millions of rupees.



We must not waste food. There are many people less fortunate than us who do not get enough. We must also save paper and take care to our books. Wasteful use of paper means more felling of trees.

[JNV 2001]

- Which of the following is not true?
  - We must save water
  - We must save electricity
  - We must save factories
  - We must save paper
- Which of the following does not provide us energy?
  - Electricity
  - Transport
  - Firewood
  - Petrol
- Many poor people do not get enough
  - food
  - trees
  - books
  - paper
- By saving energy we can save
  - money
  - people
  - taps
  - books
- By wasting paper we cause
  - more felling of trees
  - more loss of water
  - shortage of books
  - shortage of food

### Passage 33

The playground is as essential as the classroom. The student learns his lesson of the mind in the classroom and adds to his store of knowledge. But the playground trains his powers of mind and body both. Here he learns physical skill and endurance. He further learns how to remain alert and watchful; how to get an advantage over his opponent. Thus, the student gets mental and physical training in the playground together. But the greatest good derived by him is that he learns the team spirit. He is governed by no selfish or individual motives; he rather thinks of his team as a whole. This team spirit helps him to fight for noble causes in later life.

[JNV 2000]

- Where does a student learn physical skill?
  - Playground
  - Classroom
  - School
  - Computer hall
- Where does a student learn lessons of mind?
  - Playground
  - Classroom
  - School
  - Computer hall

- What is the greatest good learnt by the student?
  - Physical skill
  - Mental training
  - Selfish motive
  - Team spirit

- Choose the incorrect statement.

- Both playground and classroom are essential
- A student learns team spirit
- A student becomes careless and watchless
- He gets mental and physical training

- Which one of the following words means 'the ability to continue doing something painful or difficult for a long period of time without complaining'?

- Essential
- Watchful
- Endurance
- Advantage

### Passage 34

The large part of Arabia is desert. The Arabs, who are not in the cities, live in the desert all the year round. They live in tents that can be put up and struck down easily. They move from one place to another seeking grass and water for their sheep and goats, camels and horses. These Arabs eat ripe sweet figs and dates. They dry them too and use them as food all the year round. These Arabs have the finest horses in the world. An Arab is very proud of riding his horse and loves him almost as much as he loves his wife and children. He never puts heavy loads upon his horse. The camel is much more useful to an Arab than his beautiful horse, since the former is much larger and stronger. An Arab loads the camel with goods and rides him, too, for miles and miles across the desert as if he were really the 'Ship of the Desert', which he is often called.

[JNV 1998]

- Arabs are fond of
  - camels
  - horses
  - drinking wine
  - living in cities in tents
- Arabs eat
  - horse meat
  - ripe sweet figs and dates
  - rice and wheat
  - apples and dates
- Arabs keep
  - horses and camels
  - sheep and dogs
  - cows and horses
  - All of these
- Arabs call ..... 'ship of the desert'
  - goat
  - sheep
  - horse
  - camel

## 5. Arabs live in tents

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| (1) in cities | (2) in desert  |
| (3) in town   | (4) in village |

**Passage 35**

English is an international language. It is the language of trade and commerce all over the world. It has a rich literature and a vast store of knowledge. It has tremendously influenced our culture and regional languages. It is still needed for scientific and technical education. Higher studies in any field are not possible without the knowledge of English. Infact, English is a window on our modern world culture and civilisation. If it is properly studied, it can make Indian languages rich. It may not be the official language of India, but it has come to stay as the library language in our country—a language of research and higher education.

The importance of English in India has increased during the post-Independence years and now it is viewed not as a colonial legacy but as a useful medium of communication. The study of English needs greater emphasis today than ever before, without blunting the growth of our mother tongue.

[JNV 1998]

## 1. Which is an international language?

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| (1) English  | (2) Hindi   |
| (3) Sanskrit | (4) Chinese |

## 2. English is the ..... of India.

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) window           | (2) official language |
| (3) library language | (4) colonial legacy   |

## 3. Are higher studies possible without the knowledge of English?

- |         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| (1) Yes | (2) Sometimes |
| (3) No  | (4) Always    |

## 4. Choose the incorrect statement.

- |   |
|---|
| (1) English is the language of trade and commerce |
| (2) English is a window to modern world           |
| (3) English is a library language in our country  |
| (4) English is a colonial legacy in our country   |

## 5. Which word in the passage is opposite of 'sharp'?

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| (1) Legacy   | (2) Culture  |
| (3) Emphasis | (4) Blunting |

**Passage 36**

Subhash Chandra Bose was a great leader of India. People called him Netaji because he led them on the right path. He was sent to jail many times. But he soon found that more efforts should be made to make India free. The British power was getting weaker after the Second World War. He thought of striking at it from all sides. One day he escaped from Calcutta, dressed as a Pathan. He went to Germany. From there, he went to Japan. He organised the Indian National Army that fought many battles against the British Army. The Indians abroad gave their all for the good of India. It is said that Netaji died in an air-crash. We shall always remember him as the greatest fighter for the freedom of India.

[JNV 1998]

## 1. Who was a great leader of India, according to the passage?

- |                          |
|--------------------------|
| (1) Indira Gandhi        |
| (2) Jawaharlal Nehru     |
| (3) Subhash Chandra Bose |
| (4) Bhagat Singh         |

## 2. Where was he sent many times?

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| (1) In train | (2) In jail    |
| (3) To Japan | (4) To Germany |

## 3. Which war made the British power weaker?

- |                       |
|-----------------------|
| (1) First World War   |
| (2) Indo-Pak War      |
| (3) Second World WarI |
| (4) Indo-China War    |

## 4. How did Netaji die?

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| (1) In an air-crash | (2) In a road-accident |
| (3) By a snake-bite | (4) In a war           |

## 5. People called Subhash as

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| (1) Bapu   | (2) Chachaji |
| (3) Netaji | (4) Sardar   |