

PORTIONS FOR AS LEVEL EXAM-COMPREHENSION AND ESSAY

There are 5 Chapters. All 3 Chapters deal with how to do comprehension and essays. Chapter 4 is simple English grammar and Chapter 5 is basically revision.

CHAPTER 1- READING COMPREHENSION

During the 1990s, Rwanda, a densely populated country in the heart of Africa, experienced a bloody civil war that sprang from racial tensions. During the conflict, at least 900,000 Rwandans were killed and a further two million driven from their homes. Since this genocide, the country has been on the slow road to recovery. One aspect of this is the revival of Rwanda's traditional justice system, Gacaca, the legal process aimed at establishing the truth of what happened. AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) is one of several programmes designed to train those who act as judges for Gacaca. The narrator is Laura Chico, an observer from the Centre for Restorative Justice.

Now read the following passage, and then answer all the questions (a–f) that follow it.

When we arrived at the AVP meeting, the participants were already there, sitting quietly in a semi-circle of chairs waiting for the trainers to begin. There were eleven men and ten women, all judges in the traditional arbitration process that has been revived to handle the overwhelming numbers of genocide-related cases. This process called Gacaca has the enormous task of seeking the truth of what happened during the genocide, documenting all information gathered and processing lower-level cases (those who looted, destroyed property, or were forced into killing people), and finally seeking that tricky balance between justice and reconciliation. It is no small task, and the judges have received training from various organizations. The AVP meeting began with introductions. I watched as the trainers began to create a new atmosphere within the room. One way they did this was by using Adjective Names (I was 'Lucky Laura' and my Rwandan companion was 'Peace Paule'), insisting that after someone speaks the next person says "Murakose, Lucky Laura, Nitwa Peace Paule" ("Thank you, Lucky Laura, I'm Peace Paule"). There were some ripples of resistance to these new ways of interacting but, again and again, the Rwandan trainers would insist. This was because they saw a deeper value in encouraging people to relate to one another across ethnic groups in a completely new way. And sure enough, I watched the magic of AVP unfold as the group began to gel and create its own safe space away from the pulls of everyday Rwandan life. On that first morning, the trainees turned to a partner and told that person about a time when they had done something good. The partners talked and listened, and then a few shared their stories with the large group. There were stories of saving people's lives, taking in orphans, and so on. After the sharing was over, several participants raised their hands. "How can we know that what these people say is true?" they wanted to know. "I mean," added one woman, "saving someone from a crocodile with just a stick! It's hard to believe." The trainers fielded the questions, but moved on quickly. I suppose they weren't surprised by how almost impossible it is to trust one another in a situation where your neighbour suddenly turned on you or your husband, killed your children and tried to kill you. Later on, the trainers introduced an activity called 'Serial News'. They asked five participants to volunteer to leave the room, and they chose one more to stay to listen to a short, detailed story. Then, one by one, the volunteers came in, listened to the story from the person who came before, and

then retold it to the person who followed. Even though I didn't understand a word, I was laughing just as hard as everyone else as the story changed and changed some more, to the point of becoming unrecognisable. Many said that after seeing how stories can change in the retelling, they would no longer believe hearsay or rumours but that they would be sure to go to the source. As an outsider, I was witnessing how essential AVP is to the process of reconciliation here, how deeply it touches the core. Throughout the workshop the trainers connected the lessons not only to the aims of Gacaca and to Rwanda's violent history, but also to violence at home, against women and children. It was warming to see the two male trainers speak out as strongly against rape and domestic violence as the women. On the third day, the trainers asked the participants how they would use the lessons they had learned so far. As we moved round the circle, we came to an elderly man who gave this testimony: "Before, I was bad. There was trouble even at home. Now I talk softly and my family are wondering what happened to me." The room erupted in applause for this transformation, and then the testimonies continued. Later, I asked: "Why do people believe the transformation testimonies but not the earlier stories of when people had done good things?" "Because they just volunteered this," was the answer. "No one asked them to share this." That made sense to me. But I also wondered, watching the previously stonefaced group laugh and smile and listen deeply, if maybe AVP had started to do the impossible: to plant a small seed of trust that might, with generations to nurture it, one day flower.

QUESTIONS

When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

(a) What evidence is there that the narrator is not Rwandan? [3]

Ans- Credit the three points below or any other valid points.

She describes her companion as Rwandan. • She cannot understand the 'Serial News' even though she appreciates its import. • "As an outsider I was witnessing..." [3]

(b) At one stage of the AVP meetings, the trainers 'moved on quickly' (line 28). Give two explanations why they did this. [2]

Ans- Credit any two points below or any other valid points.

• The 'sharing-of-good-experiences' exercise was in danger of backfiring or could have caused conflict. • They were finding it difficult to provide convincing answers at this juncture. • They had a schedule to keep up with and could not allow any feedback to last too long. [2]

c) In about 80 of your own words, explain the intended effects of each of the four major workshop activities: the use of Adjective Names (lines 11–19); the sharing of good experiences (lines 20–24); the 'Serial News' exercise (lines 32–40); the final testimonies (lines 46–55). [8]

Ans- Credit any eight points below or any other valid points.

The use of Adjective Names • freed the judges from the pressures of day-to-day existence, (1) • encouraged them to overcome racial or tribal divisions (2) • and to think laterally. (3) The sharing of good experiences • got them to bond and listen to each other on a one-to-one basis (4) • and to overcome their mutual suspicion. (5) The 'Serial News' exercise • provided some entertainment on a lengthy/demanding course (6) • and illustrated how facts are distorted (7) • so that one should always double check them. (8) The final testimonies • demonstrated how people could regret what they had done and make a fresh start (9) • and enabled the course members to prove how much they had benefited from the workshop. (10) [8]

(d) Suggest two reasons why the Gacaca judges might have objected to the use of Adjective Names. [2]

Ans- Credit any two points below or any other valid points.

- They never had to use such names before/the names were utterly strange.
- The names went against their own customs.
- The names were English rather than chosen from their own language.
- They felt that such nicknames insulted people of their status.

[2]

(e) In about 80 of your own words, explain four major aims of the AVP workshop in Rwanda. [8]

Ans- Credit any four points below or any other valid points. Award two marks for each general point.

The AVP workshop • was training Rwandan Gacaca judges (1) • to distinguish truth from falsehood, (2) • serious from less serious charges (3) • while, at the same time, bringing the previously hostile groups together. (4) • The Gacaca judges were being involved to promote the regeneration and reconstruction of the country (5) • and being trained to apply any lessons learnt to the home as well (6) • and to work together regardless of gender. (7) 4 x 2 =[8]

ESSAY

1. 'When considering a future career, the most important factor is money.' How far do you agree?

Ans- You may add these points-

- ☐ What constitutes a worthwhile career?
- ☐ Vocational occupations
- ☐ Self-satisfaction
- ☐ Self-realisation (Maslow)
- ☐ Economic realities
- ☐ Relation of money to happiness
- ☐ Cost of education
- ☐ The qualifications you want
- ☐ What you are capable of achieving
- ☐ Career choices and the market
- ☐ Several other factors may be suggested – availability of courses
- ☐ Domestic circumstances

2. 'Believing in evolution demands that one rejects the existence of a creator.' Discuss.

Ans- You may add these points-

- ☐ The two can be compatible
- ☐ Scientists have been proven wrong
- ☐ Much depends on our perception of the created and the creator
- ☐ Monotheistic teaching and the book
- ☐ Logic versus faith
- ☐ Science and evolution
- ☐ GM and cloning
- ☐ Artificial intelligence
- ☐ Many prominent physicists believe in a creator God
- ☐ Revelation is endless – our exploration of the cosmos

CHAPTER 2

COMPREHENSION

Study the information below to answer Question 2 parts (a)–(f)

WHO GETS THE PAINTING?

Jaco Have you finished now?

Lawyer I'm sorry, the reading of wills can be so tedious ...

Doma ... yes, if you've nothing to gain from them!

Lawyer Hmm. There is actually only one thing left and it is ... er ... rather delicate and unorthodox.

Nolly Is it that enormous painting by Tonino Totti?

Lawyer Well, yes it is, actually.

Petra So who has Daddy left it to? Come on, the suspense is killing me.

Doma Yeah, must be worth at least \$3 million by now.

Lawyer Actually, your father had it valued just before he died. At least \$4.1 million.

Jaco Wow!

Petra Phew! Hope he's splitting it four ways then. That's still a million each.

Lawyer Ah, that is the delicate part ...

Jaco ... how so?

Lawyer Your father has instructed that only one of you can have it.

Doma Eh?

Lawyer Yes, and the unorthodox part is you have 30 minutes from now to decide what you would do with it, if it were given to you, and then you have to justify your reasons to me.

Nolly What? You have to choose one of us?

Lawyer Precisely. Those were his strict instructions in the will.

Doma Heavens! Got pen and paper? Let's go!

Lawyer Certainly. So please go away somewhere and all come back in 30 minutes. Then we'll each hear one another's bids.

Nolly Together? In front of each other?

Lawyer Yes. Sorry again, his wishes.

30 minutes later

Lawyer So who would like to speak first?

Jaco I will if you like. Simple, I'd like to sell the painting. Now, right now.

Nolly Really? And keep the money for yourself?

Jaco [*laughing*] Oh no, of course not. Give it to two charities – Animal Rescue and Doctors Overseas.

Lawyer By all means ask questions, any of you.

Nolly Okay. Why, Jaco? That seems most irregular.

Jaco As you all know, I have a steady, well-paid job and a comfortable lifestyle so I believe others should share Dad's inheritance.

Lawyer A noble gesture.

Doma Yes, but giving away so much of Dad's hard-earned wealth? Sinful, I think.

Nolly And if you sell it you won't know where it will go. I, on the other hand, would like to donate it to the Galleri Nationali.

Doma What? Give it away? To some art gallery?

Nolly So what? Daddy has left us enough already. Anyway, it's not just 'some art gallery', it's the country's leading gallery. This way the nation would get to keep it.

Doma Yeah, you've always had the easy way, haven't you? After all, your husband is loaded. Private schools, luxury cars, jet set holidays ...

Nolly Well, that may be, but our father *did* have to earn it the hard way, you know, Doma.

Petra True, but Nolly, we couldn't possibly give it away. What a waste. I would keep it, let it increase in value, retain it for the family and then decide later.

Jaco But no-one would ever see it then.

Nolly Yes, and it's a national treasure, so it's about time it stopped gathering dust.

Doma Talking of dust, have you seen the state of the family home?

Jaco Not lately. Remember, Dad left five years ago for the nursing home, so I never went to the house again.

Doma Well, it's falling to bits. I would like to auction Totti's 'Sleeping Madonna' and use the money to renovate the house.

Petra But why? It's going to be put up for sale soon, isn't it?

Doma [*sheepishly*] Actually, I'd like to live in it, with permission from you all, of course.

Jaco What? It's worth millions. No way!

Doma I'm not so sure. Maybe the painting is worth more?

Lawyer So what *are* you all going to do with the house? You could sell just the house itself now, and then later the grounds separately to put some more houses on. It would be worth even more that way.

Nolly That way it *would* be worth more than the Totti. Makes the painting not seem so important, then, eh?

Lawyer Certainly puts it into perspective, I must admit.

Jaco So, who *does* get the painting, Mr Ranieri?

Lawyer er ..

QUESTIONS

Note: When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

(a) In Table A below there are a range of personality features.

TABLE A

for the greater good	money-centred	avaricious	only looking out for oneself
friendly	not concerned with money	moody	generous

In Table B place **six** of these features in pairs to show the contrasting personalities of Nolly and Doma.

TABLE B

NOLLY as contrasted with DOMA

[6]

Answers must be paired correctly as opposites:

Nolly Doma

Generous --- Avaricious

For the greater good---- Only looking out for oneself

Not really concerned about money ----Money-centred

(b) Explain why you think the father asked the lawyer to make the decision rather than himself.

Ans-Credit any of the following, or similar:

- ☐ he may have been a coward and not wanted to do it himself (1)
- ☐ he may have been frightened of the other three's reactions (1)
- ☐ he may have loved each child equally (1) and could not bear to choose just one (1)
- ☐ he may have been too ill to make a decision himself (1)
- ☐ he may have been non compos mentis (1) so it would not have been legal (1)

(c) In your opinion, why would the lawyer **not** give the painting to Doma? Justify your response.

Ans-Credit any of the following, or similar:

- ☐ he is the first to mention money ['must be worth \$3million now'] so perhaps greedy (1)
- ☐ over keen to get the dilemma solved (1), painting him in a bad light (1)
- ☐ unhappy with Nolly wanting to give the money away (1) as the father had worked so hard for it (1)
- ☐ jealous of Nolly (1) as she has no money worries (wealthy husband) (1)
- ☐ appears to be selfish (1) as he wants the house for himself (1)
- ☐ eager to point out how poor the quality of the house is (1), to put the others off wanting it anyway (1)
- ☐ pique at the first comment Doma makes (offensive?) (1)

(d) The lawyer could have given the painting to any one of the other children. **In your own words**, explain the strengths of each of their claims to the painting.

Credit any of the following, or similar:

Jaco

- ☐ acting in a noble way
- ☐ helping other people
- ☐ recognises that he has a good job and lifestyle so does not need the money
- ☐ supporting 2 charities

Petra

- ☐ concerned that each gets a 1/4 share
- ☐ the only one to keep it in the family
- ☐ thinking of the future
- ☐ making the family richer
- ☐ postponing the decision till later

Nolly

- ☐ not selfish
- ☐ giving it to a worthy body
- ☐ sharing the pleasure with the nation
- ☐ not keeping it for just the family
- ☐ knowing where it is going

(e) Do you think the lawyer has a difficult task in making his choice? Answer **in about 40 words**, giving reasons to support your answer.

Ans-Credit reasons for both 'yes' and 'no' responses:

Yes, because:

- ☐ 2 or 3 siblings have sensible suggestions
- ☐ should he have sympathy for the poorer sibling, Doma?
- ☐ should he try to be fair to all four? It is a difficult tightrope to walk
- ☐ need to not just consider the family but the needs of the country as the painting is a national treasure
- ☐ might be vilified nationally if painting is sold abroad

No, because:

- ☐ he is being paid (well) for it
- ☐ it does not affect him personally
- ☐ he is used to this kind of family dispute
- ☐ he has to make difficult decisions all the time
- ☐ he must have considerable expertise/seniority as the client is rich and would want the best solicitor
- ☐ he has known that he would have to perform this task at some point, so would have been prepared for it

(f) Do you think a painting should be worth more than a house? Justify your answer.

Credit any of the following points or any other valid point.

- ☐ emotion, e.g. shock, horror, anger that a painting can be worth more than a house
- ☐ or no surprise at all
- ☐ topsy-turvy priorities of society
- ☐ each one's comparative value to society and future worth
- ☐ only one such painting, many houses
- ☐ or appropriate that something valuable can exceed the mundane

☐ cultural or national importance would be more important than any house.

Any combination of marks up to 3

ESSAY

1. 'I wish I were outdoors and not stuck in a classroom!' Examine the possible benefits of learning in the open air.

Ans-

- ☐ The importance of play in early education
- ☐ A break from the traditional curriculum
- ☐ Demands of a curriculum may be seen to conflict with freedom
- ☐ Various opportunities for inner city children
- ☐ Theatre and drama
- ☐ Creative writing
- ☐ Health and safety concerns
- ☐ Improvement in cognitive ability
- ☐ Less exposure to traffic and pollutants
- ☐ Restorative and good for mental health
- ☐ In some countries, teaching traditionally takes place outside because of climate or lack of buildings

2. To what extent does participation in sport promote character development?

Ans-

- ☐ Calls for leadership
- ☐ Calls for teamwork
- ☐ Requires stamina and endurance
- ☐ Participation may be as a supporter
- ☐ Can take on aggressive characteristics
- ☐ Other activities can also be character building
- ☐ Sport has a community function
- ☐ Can give hope to youth
- ☐ Give confidence to the disabled

CHAPTER 3

Study the magazine article below to answer Question 3 parts (a)–(f).

BeiDou

China's fledgling satellite navigation system will soon benefit hundreds of millions of users around the world and provide a cheaper and, in some cases, better alternative to the Global Positioning System (GPS), say industry specialists. The BeiDou network has sixteen navigation satellites hovering over the Asia-Pacific region, but global coverage will be achieved when the network has more than thirty-five satellites. By 2020 China will introduce this world-leading navigation system to more than 100 cities and 200 million users across its own country before spreading it to the rest of the world.

BeiDou has recognisable advantages over the three other global navigation systems – *GPS* of the United States, *Galileo* of Europe and Russia's *Glonas* – said Cao Jianlin, Vice-Minister of Science and Technology. The most important is short-message communication. The military is already reaping the benefits of the new system even though it has not yet reached full capacity. A naval fleet conducting patrols in the South China Sea have used BeiDou since

2013 to provide positioning, security and protection for its ships.

BeiDou can provide valuable intelligence for the government, and its success is in part owing to the technology behind the atomic clock. Atomic clocks are a crucial tool in navigation systems as their accuracy and stability are key requisites. Only the United States and a few countries in Europe have mastered this technology to date, and Washington banned its export to China. But Chinese scientists have made a breakthrough themselves in this research so that BeiDou can now achieve a positioning accuracy of 10 metres for public use (but as little as 10 centimetres for military use), comparable to GPS.

The system began in 2000, originally solely for military use, but China's planned injection of \$300 million into Europe's civilian Compass system in 2003 did not materialise, so instead the Chinese government decided to plough full steam ahead on its own. BeiDou was then tested successfully at Nyingchi Airport in Tibet, sitting in a narrow valley between towering mountains. Without BeiDou it is unlikely planes would be able to operate there safely. In May 2008 when a devastating earthquake hit Sichuan Province and severed communications with the outside world, rescue teams carried BeiDou handsets capable of sending and receiving 120 Chinese characters to communicate with their headquarters. Border guards in Yunnan Province now carry hand-held tracking devices. The system also provides precision in those transactions that require utmost speed and accuracy, such as bank transfers.

'BeiDou will eventually have broader applications than GPS and will be easier for users to locate other people,' commented Cao Hongjie, vice-president of UniStrong, the global navigation company producing BeiDou. One example is a locating system that can be installed on bicycles or carried by elderly people or children. Users can set a range of activities on the locator, and an alarm will be triggered if the monitored object goes offline. Similarly ships and aircraft can be tracked, hopefully avoiding in the future the pain of mysteriously disappearing craft. Opponents to the system, of course, immediately point fingers towards Big Brother in this brave new world. But in January 2013 UniStrong introduced BeiDou to the Beijing city government at a cost of \$45 million to serve the city's transport and logistics system and help control the flow patterns of an ever-increasing traffic behemoth. Transport companies can also keep better track of their vehicles and can use the short-message function to dispatch drivers more efficiently. Indeed, China's transport ministry decreed that 80% of all coaches, tourist buses and dangerous goods vehicles in nine major provinces had to install BeiDou by 2013.

However, science observers are warning that excessive government support for BeiDou could make it less competitive, and they suggest that the market should have the final say. Only success in the open market can really prove its worth.

China has also opened BeiDou for foreign users. The government has produced an interface control document in English describing how to access its functions and services. Unlike other systems BeiDou is totally open and can be used concurrently with other systems. Vice-Minister Cao has invited international companies to develop client-side devices and services based on BeiDou. 'We welcome the competition,' he said.

(a) In your own words as far as possible, explain the advantages of using BeiDou as given in paragraph 5.

Credit any of the following uses:

- ☐ will be better than GPS / make it simpler to find out where others are (1).
- ☐ if attached to bicycles or if an old person or child has it on their person (1), can show where they are (1). The device can be programmed (1) so that an alarm goes off if they disappear offline (1)
- ☐ in the same way, one can follow boats and planes (1) so that there should be no more cases of them vanishing without trace (1)

- ☐ it aids urban areas to cope with their growing traffic (and logistical) problems (1) by managing the flow of vehicles (1)
- ☐ businesses transporting goods are able to know more accurately where their vehicles are (1) and can facilitate better communication with their drivers (1)
- ☐ so advantageous that most commercial vehicles have been made to use it (1)

(b) What other advantages of BeiDou are given in the rest of the passage? Do **not** repeat any material from 3(a). Answer **in about 60 words**.

Credit any of the following uses:

- ☐ it is a cheap(er alternative to GPS) (better than GPS – if not mentioned in **(a)**)
- ☐ short-message communication is used by naval ships (to provide positioning, security and protection)
- ☐ valuable intelligence for the government
- ☐ a high positioning accuracy (of 10 m for the public and 10 cm for the military)
- ☐ allows planes to land safely in difficult places
- ☐ handsets allow for messaging by rescue teams
- ☐ border guards use hand-held tracking devices
- ☐ speed and accuracy in sending money transfers
- ☐ it is (totally) open / can be used with other systems

(c) What is the mixed metaphor in paragraph 4?

Ans-☐ 'plough full steam ahead' (on its own)

(d) Using the passage and your own knowledge, explain what problems might arise from the creation of systems such as BeiDou.

Ans-Credit any of the following, or any other valid point:

- ☐ 'Big Brother' watching people's every movement
- ☐ spying
- ☐ disputes with other countries
- ☐ ability to launch weapons or cause wars
- ☐ stalking issues
- ☐ hacking

(e) Give **two** reasons why you think that a manufacturer, such as UniStrong, might welcome competition from another company.

Credit any of the following, or any other valid point:

- ☐ help UniStrong achieve success in the open market (1)
- ☐ would force UniStrong continue to develop better products (1)
- ☐ would make UniStrong try to keep abreast / ahead of the world market (1)
- ☐ would make UniStrong produce cheaper products to remain competitive (1)

(f) (i) Explain the meaning of the following words or phrases as they are used in the passage. You may write the answer in one word or a short phrase:
fledgling (line 1), reaping (line 11), key (line 16), have mastered (line 17), excessive (line 45), and open (line 47)

Ans-Fledgling growing, budding, blossoming, embryonic, developing, burgeoning

Reaping receiving, gaining, garnering, getting, obtaining, enjoying

Key essential, crucial, decisive, pivotal, necessary

Have mastered have grasped / understood / comprehended / got the hang of
/ become proficient / picked up

Excessive too much, extreme, exorbitant, disproportionate

Open accessible, free, available, unbounded

(ii) Use these words in six separate sentences to illustrate their meanings as used in the passage. Your sentences should not deal with the subject matter of the passage.

Fledgling The fledgling shoots of economic recovery were a welcome sign for the beleaguered government after months of financial turmoil and public unrest.

Reaping If he is nasty to others then they will be nasty back so that, after all, he is only reaping what he has sown.

Key After scoring 48 goals last season he will be the key player in our team this year.

Have mastered They are delighted to have won the doubles final as it shows how they have mastered all the finer points of technique and strategy in tennis.

Excessive Phil used excessive force to obtain the spy's secrets and was reprimanded by his boss in no uncertain terms.

Open Both amateurs and professionals are eligible for this year's golf tournament because entry is completely open, unlike previous years when only amateurs were allowed to take part.

Essays

1. 'Crime affects the whole of society, not just the immediate victims.'

Discuss.

You may use these points-

- ☐ 'Society' may be considered to consist of small groups/families/schools etc. or may be discussed in a broader sense
- ☐ Degree of safety/security in society
- ☐ Constant media coverage can instil fear
- ☐ Society's monitoring of the victims of crime affects attitudes/confidence in the justice system
- ☐ Types of crime (violence, rape, burglary, murder, terrorism, motoring etc.)
- ☐ Depends whether it is localised, happens in the same neighbourhood
- ☐ Depends whether the victims are known (family, friends, neighbours)
- ☐ Society can view victims with indifference, as a reality show (as if it couldn't happen to them)
- ☐ It is difficult to empathise unless you become a victim

2. The growing demand for air travel puts pressure on our environment.

How should we respond to this?

You may use these points-

- Escalation of air travel over the last 30 years (airports have to expand to keep up with demand)
- Budget airlines and flying incentive schemes
- Almost global coverage by air
- Emissions of carbon dioxide, heat and other particulates from aircraft have increased in recent years
- Environmental pollution at ground level around airports is more concentrated due to associated transport networks
- Contributes to enhanced global warming
- Latest aircraft are fitted with more environmentally friendly engines
- Major resistance to airport expansion
- Perhaps we should embrace the fact that the world is accessible to everyone
- Allows tourism/economic development in low income countries
- Airports are often built in remote areas
- Creation of jobs
- Response to the statement should show balance but also make an assessment of 'how we should respond', after weighing up all the arguments.