**Reading Comprehension**

Reading comprehension passages necessitates that active reading should be employed. Even if the passage is boring or seems off-topic to you which will happen most of the time, stick to it while pretending that you have to explain a 10-second story to your friend.

Each passage has a main point. To find that follow the steps:

*Get Oriented*: Read first sentence or two carefully, generally main idea is hidden in these preliminary statements only. By the time you’re done with the first paragraph, make sure you have an idea of the main  
idea of that paragraph and write that down on scrap paper.

*Find the main idea:* When you start a new paragraph, pay attention to first 2 sentences and try extracting out the main idea of that paragraph*.*

*Set aside the details:* When you encounter example or specific details, just see why those are present and skip ahead.

Articulate a simple story: When you’re done, articulate a simple story and speak it out for yourself.

Language Clues:

Following constructs might help dissecting the paragraph:

* *Big Picture: Some keywords which indicates the conclusion, similar to the powerscore conclusion indicators.*
* *Foreshadowing: the author might drop a clue in the passage about something that he plans to say later in the paragraph. Signal keywords: It was assumed that<Contrast coming> , Current theory<Different theory coming up>,*

*It is true that<contrast coming next>,*

*For some time it was believed that <contrast coming soon>*

Change of direction language: It shows some kind of twist. A twist can show a counterpoint or returns back to the original argument.

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| Signal | Implication |
| However; Yet; On one hand/On the other hand; While; Rather; Instead; In contrast; Alternatively | Indicate contrasting ideas |
| Granted; It is true that; Certainly; Admittedly; Despite; Although | Concede a point (author reluctantly agrees) |
| Actually; In fact; Indeed; Surprisingly | Indicate an unexpected result or phenomenon |
| Nevertheless; Nonetheless; That said; Even so | Assert a position after conceding a point |
| Supposedly; It was once thought; seemingly | Something appeared to be a certain way, but it really wasn’t that way at all |

**Details**: When you observe that some nitty-gritty things are talked about. Just parse over them keeping in mind why that information is mentioned.

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| Signal | Implication |
| For example; As an example; In particular; For instance | Provide an example |
| Furthermore; Moreover; In addition; As well as; Also; Likewise; Too | Add to something that was already said |
| Likewise; In the same way | Provide a new example or detail that goes along with a previous one |
| In other words; That is; Namely; So to speak; a semicolon | Restate something that was already said (in this case, you can use whichever set of words is easier for you to interpret!) |

**General Questions**

Steps to answer a question (General one):

* Prephrase the answer.
* If it’s not possible to prephrase, go through the passage map.
* In case you find 2 choices, see which choice covers the whole passage, in case there are 3 or more choices left, guess and move on.

Notes:

* In case of primary purpose answers the idea should be present either in minor form or in the major form in all the paragraphs.

**Specific Questions**

**Type of questions:**

* **Specific Details:** These types of questions expect you to find specific details about something in the passage.
* **Inference based questions:** Not directly stated in paragraph, but it can be inferred directly by combining 2 or 3 statements. Following keywords can be used – imply, cite, suggest, infer etc.
* **Specific Purpose Questions:** These types of questions ask you why author mentioned that specific piece of information.

Steps to answer a question (Specific one):

* Identify the question.
* Check the relevant information in the passage map and go to that paragraph
* Prephrase the answer
* Eliminate and find a match.

Notes:

* Argue and refute represents different intensity of a proposed idea.
* ‘Refute’ is a kind of extreme keyword.
* If first para gives some contrasts and another following paras give the point of agreement then the overall purpose of passage is the point of agreement.
* Always try to find out the meaning from the context.
* Last line change should also be taken into account.
* Beware of one word off-choice, it might make the choice out-of-context.
* Look for surrounding tense in 'highlighted Question'
* Immediately prephrase the methodologies, if any, discussed in the paragraph.
* 'questioning the validity is an extreme version'
* When passage mention claims/theory of certain set of ‘people’ search for those people and what their thinking is, not of the other people in the passage