

# 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]

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

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

- What did the narrator want from the refrigerator?  
(1) a ham sandwich (2) a fan  
(3) a drink (4) an apple
- 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
- How many laps did it take for the narrator to tire of the pool?  
(1) two (2) four (3) six (4) eight
- Who bought the narrator an ice-cream cone?  
(1) Lucy (2) Sam (3) Peter (4) Prince
- 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]

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

- 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

- 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

- 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]

- 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
- 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
- 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

4. Why did the servant pick the wolf for supper?  
Select the most appropriate answer.
1. Because he wanted to have the tasty meat of wolf.
  2. Because the wolf was in sheep's clothing.
  3. Because the servant thought the wolf to be a fat sheep.
- (1) Only 1    (2) Only 2    (3) Only 3    (4) 1 and 2
5. What is the antonym of the word 'shut' as used in the passage?
- (1) kill    (2) close    (3) imprison    (4) free

### Passage 10

Among the major tasks before us, none is of greater-importance for our strength and stability than the task of building up the unity and solidarity of our people. Our country often stood like a solid rock in the face of common danger and there is a deep underlying unity which runs like a golden thread through all our seeming diversity. There have been occasions when unfortunate and disturbing divisions, some of them accompanied by violence, have appeared in our society.

Political democracy and the way it has functioned in our country is surely a great achievement. Here again we owe an immeasurable debt to Shri J.L. Nehruji for his deep attachment to democracy as a form of government and as a way of life. There is something in our older cultural heritage too. I have particularly in view that enduring strength in Indian life which can best be described as respect for human personality and the spirit of tolerance. I have no doubt in my mind that it is only by methods of persuasion and mutual accommodation and by a constant search for areas of agreement as the basis for action, that democracy and work. It is in this spirit that I shall devote myself to the duties and responsibilities of the office I have been called upon to fill.

[JNV 2017]

1. The writer thinks that
  - (1) we have never faced dangers
  - (2) in our country there is unity underlying diversity
  - (3) our society is tribal in organisation
  - (4) stability of the nation depends upon many factors
2. The author believes that democracy can work
  - (1) if leaders are honest
  - (2) if people participate
  - (3) if method of persuasion and mutual adjustment are employed
  - (4) if people have faith in democracy

3. What is the permanent trend in Indian life?
  - (1) Respect for human personality
  - (2) Love for animals
  - (3) Worship of nature
  - (4) Hero-worshipping
4. Shri Nehru was deeply attached to
  - (1) democracy as a way of life
  - (2) democracy of the Western
  - (3) democracy which emerges from our culture
  - (4) the Indian way of living
5. The writer wants to work for
  - (1) just economic forces
  - (2) just social order
  - (3) democratic forces
  - (4) None of the above

### Passage 11

Desert is a place where there is sand all-around. It is a hot and dry place. There is very little rain in Deserts. So, very few trees grow there. The only plants that grow in the deserts are cactus, date palms and thorny bushes which do not need much water to grow.

The Sahara is the biggest desert in the world. It stretches across the whole of North Africa. The Arabian desert is also a very large desert. In India too, there is a desert called Thar desert in Rajasthan. Life in a desert is tough. The days are very hot and nights are cool. [JNV 2017, 1999]

1. The biggest desert in the world is in
  - (1) India
  - (2) Africa
  - (3) Arabia
  - (4) America
2. In desert regions
  - (1) there is no rainfall
  - (2) it rains heavily
  - (3) there is enough rain
  - (4) there is a little rain
3. The climate in a desert is
  - (1) pleasant
  - (2) difficult
  - (3) comfortable
  - (4) cold
4. Date palms grow in
  - (1) plains
  - (2) hilly regions
  - (3) deserts
  - (4) snowy regions
5. Very few trees grow in deserts because
  - (1) most trees need water to grow
  - (2) there is sand all-around
  - (3) nights are very cold
  - (4) there is no one to take care of trees

### 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]

- Satellites help in the study of  
(1) animals (2) space (3) plastics (4) bacteria
- The word 'fascinated' used in the paragraph means  
(1) pleased (2) interested  
(3) affected (4) enthused
- 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
- The phrase 'present-day man' means  
(1) man who is present (2) man present everyday  
(3) man of everyday (4) man of today
- 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]

- 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
- The witch was trying to  
(1) climb up the tree  
(2) hit Pinku  
(3) take the bag of mangoes  
(4) sleep under the tree
- Pinku was a  
(1) lazy boy (2) shy boy  
(3) courageous boy (4) weak boy
- The witch was  
(1) a bad woman (2) an old lady  
(3) a poor and old widow (4) very strong
- The opposite word for 'brave' is  
(1) gentle (2) coward  
(3) thin (4) kind

### Passage 16

Graham Bell was born at Edinborough, 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]

- Where was Bell born?  
(1) USA (2) Canada  
(3) Scotland (4) France
- 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
- Bell was fond of  
(1) teaching (2) travelling  
(3) talking (4) scientific inventions
- Bell shifted to  
(1) Scotland (2) USA  
(3) Edinborough (4) France
- 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]

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

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

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

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

**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'.
  - still
  - deep
  - shallow
  - 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?
  - Charming
  - Thrilling
  - Soul stirring
  - 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
  - twelve dozen
  - choking
  - serious
  - 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 War  
(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

## Answers

### Passage 1

1. (1) 2. (3) 3. (2) 4. (3) 5. (4)

### Passage 2

1. (2) 2. (1) 3. (3) 4. (1) 5. (2)

### Passage 3

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (3) 4. (3) 5. (2)

### Passage 4

1. (2) 2. (1) 3. (4) 4. (1) 5. (3)

### Passage 5

1. (3) 2. (4) 3. (1) 4. (2) 5. (3)

### Passage 6

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (4)

### Passage 7

1. (3) 2. (3) 3. (4) 4. (1) 5. (2)

### Passage 8

1. (4) 2. (3) 3. (1) 4. (2) 5. (1)

### Passage 9

1. (2) 2. (3) 3. (1) 4. (3) 5. (4)

### Passage 10

1. (2) 2. (3) 3. (1) 4. (1) 5. (2)

### Passage 11

1. (2) 2. (4) 3. (2) 4. (3) 5. (1)

### Passage 12

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (1)

### Passage 13

1. (4) 2. (4) 3. (3) 4. (3) 5. (4)

### Passage 14

1. (2) 2. (2) 3. (3) 4. (4) 5. (2)

### Passage 15

1. (4) 2. (3) 3. (3) 4. (3) 5. (2)

### Passage 16

1. (3) 2. (3) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (3)

### Passage 17

1. (3) 2. (4) 3. (4) 4. (3) 5. (3)

### Passage 18

1. (2) 2. (3) 3. (4) 4. (4) 5. (3)

### Passage 19

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (4) 4. (3) 5. (3)

### Passage 20

1. (3) 2. (3) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (4)

### Passage 21

1. (2) 2. (1) 3. (3) 4. (3) 5. (1)

### Passage 22

1. (2) 2. (3) 3. (2) 4. (3) 5. (1)

### Passage 23

1. (1) 2. (2) 3. (3) 4. (3) 5. (2)

### Passage 24

1. (2) 2. (1) 3. (3) 4. (1) 5. (4)

### Passage 25

1. (2) 2. (3) 3. (4) 4. (3) 5. (3)

### Passage 26

1. (2) 2. (3) 3. (4) 4. (4) 5. (1)

### Passage 27

1. (1) 2. (3) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (1)

### Passage 28

1. (4) 2. (3) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (1)

### Passage 29

1. (4) 2. (3) 3. (2) 4. (2) 5. (3)

### Passage 30

1. (2) 2. (3) 3. (1) 4. (2) 5. (4)

### Passage 31

1. (3) 2. (4) 3. (2) 4. (3) 5. (3)

### Passage 32

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (1) 4. (1) 5. (1)

### Passage 33

1. (1) 2. (2) 3. (4) 4. (3) 5. (3)

### Passage 34

1. (2) 2. (2) 3. (1) 4. (4) 5. (2)

### Passage 35

1. (1) 2. (3) 3. (3) 4. (4) 5. (4)

### Passage 36

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (3) 4. (1) 5. (3)

# Practice Exercise

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

## Passage 1

Mahatma Gandhi is unanimously looked upon as the greatest man of the world today. This is no underserved epithet. The ideals of self-sacrifice and love of truth which he has brought before the world's eyes are simply adorable. His message of truth has awakened the sleeping population of India.

But Gandhiji, like all other personages, belongs not only to a particular country but the whole world. His philanthropic mission is exemplary in the history of mankind. It is no wonder if the future progeny will look upon him as the incarnation of God himself.

1. What has awakened the sleeping population of India?
  - (1) Gandhiji's message of truth
  - (2) Gandhiji's faith in non-violence
  - (3) Gandhiji's ideal of self-sacrifice
  - (4) Gandhiji's vision of free India
2. Like all other personages Gandhiji
  - (1) belongs to the whole world
  - (2) likes truth
  - (3) believes only in non-violence
  - (4) is worshipped as God
3. What does the expression 'unanimously looked upon' mean?
  - (1) Loved by all
  - (2) Regarded by all
  - (3) Decided by all
  - (4) Deputed by all
4. It is no wonder if the future generation will look upon Mahatma Gandhi as
  - (1) a great man of India
  - (2) a lover of human kind
  - (3) the incarnation of God himself
  - (4) a divine person
5. The two ideals Gandhiji brought before the world are
  - (1) self-sacrifice and love of truth
  - (2) truth and non-violence
  - (3) self-sacrifice and non-violence
  - (4) truth and tolerance

## Passage 2

It is strange that ducks mostly swim in water, though their feathers keep dry. They swim in water for long hours and sometimes plunge into water but the feathers still keep dry. What is the secret of it? There is a small oil limb produced in the root of a duck's tail. The duck expels oil by pressing this limb which spreads over their feathers. Generally, all the birds have this oil producing limb but it is well developed in an aquatic animal, there is no sweat producing limb in birds.

1. The above passage, describes about a duck's
  - (1) sweat limb
  - (2) oily feathers
  - (3) oil limbs
  - (4) secret of remaining dry
2. The peculiarity of ducks is that they
  - (1) can swim for long
  - (2) can swim very fast
  - (3) can plunge quickly
  - (4) can remain dry inspite of swimming in water
3. The oil limb of a duck is
  - (1) on its back
  - (2) in its tail
  - (3) in its feathers
  - (4) in its feet
4. "What is the secret of it?" Which action of a duck is represented by these words?
  - (1) Swimming
  - (2) Plunging
  - (3) Remaining dry
  - (4) Remaining in water for a long time
5. The oil limb is
  - (1) not developed in all birds
  - (2) not found in all ducks
  - (3) not found in all birds
  - (4) well developed in only some ducks

## Passage 3

The Sahara is the biggest desert in the world. It stretches across the whole of North Africa. The Arabian desert is also a very large desert. In India too, there is a desert called Thar desert in Rajasthan. Life in a desert is tough. The days are very hot and nights are cold.

1. The biggest desert in the world is in
  - (1) India
  - (2) Africa
  - (3) Arabia
  - (4) America
2. Date palms grow in
  - (1) plains
  - (2) hilly regions
  - (3) deserts
  - (4) snowy regions

3. In desert regions
  - (1) there is no rainfall      (2) it rains heavily
  - (3) there is enough rain    (4) there is a little rain
4. The antonym of the word 'hot' is
  - (1) cold                      (2) warm
  - (3) pleasant                (4) difficult
5. Very few trees grow in deserts because
  - (1) most trees need water to grow
  - (2) there is sand all around
  - (3) nights are very cold
  - (4) there is no one to take care of trees

### Passage 4

Mr. Verma is a typist in the town hospital. He lives near the hospital. He, his wife and their daughter, Leela, are a small and happy family. They are hard working. Mr. Verma's wife, Smt. Aruna is busy from morning to evening. She has no servant. She gets up before sunrise and begins her work. She sweeps the rooms, washes the vessels and cooks the food.

Leela wakes up before 6 o'clock. She helps her mother with her work in the kitchen. She brings water from the well and washes the clothes. So, she is busy too. She does her homework after breakfast and leaves for school at nine.

1. Who is a typist in the town hospital?
  - (1) Smt. Aruna                      (2) Leela
  - (3) Mr. Verma                      (4) None of these
2. Who is busy from morning to evening?
  - (1) Smt. Aruna                      (2) Mr. Verma
  - (3) Leela                              (4) None of these
3. Smt. Aruna has no .....
  - (1) room                              (2) food
  - (3) work                              (4) servant
4. Who brings water from the well?
  - (1) Leela                              (2) Smt. Aruna
  - (3) Mr. Verma                      (4) Servant
5. At what time does Leela get up?
  - (1) After 6 o'clock                  (2) Before 6 o'clock
  - (3) At 6 o'clock                    (4) None of these

### Passage 5

There was once a boy who would never pay any attention to his studies. His parents sent him to school but he took to playing on the road and did not care for the opinion of even those friends who helped him in danger. One day a gentleman who was on the look out for a boy-servant, happened to come across him, wandering all alone in the street. He carried him away to a different town and made

him work day and night as a servant. Now, the boy repented his folly and one day while his master was fast asleep, he slipped away and after a good deal of trouble, reached home. He applied himself hard to his books now and rose, in after life, to be a great man.

1. Who took to playing on the road?
  - (1) A servant
  - (2) A boy
  - (3) Parents
  - (4) A gentleman
2. Who helped him in danger?
  - (1) Friends                      (2) Parents
  - (3) A gentleman                (4) A boy-servant
3. What did the gentleman make him to do day and night?
  - (1) Play      (2) Study      (3) Work      (4) Sleep
4. "The boy slipped away when the master was ...."
  - (1) working                      (2) sleeping
  - (3) playing cards                (4) having lunch
5. The opposite gender for the word 'gentleman' is
  - (1) gentlewoman                  (2) lady
  - (3) gentlemen                    (4) madam

### Passage 6

The Earth is known as a 'watery planet' because it is the only planet of the solar system containing water in abundance. The presence of life on our planet is mainly due to water and air. More than two-thirds of the Earth's surface is covered with water. Oceans contain about 97% of the total water available on the Earth's surface. The fresh water found in the form of snow and ice on the ground and water in lakes and rivers accounts for the remaining 3%. Ocean water is always saline. Hence, it is not of direct use to man. It is however, important as it provides the bulk of water vapour that enters the atmosphere where it forms clouds.

1. The presence of life on our Earth is due to
  - (1) good food and crops
  - (2) good roads and motor cars
  - (3) air and water
  - (4) sunlight
2. .... surface of the Earth is covered with water.
  - (1) More than half
  - (2) More than two-thirds
  - (3) Less than half
  - (4) Less than two-thirds



## 3. Spot the correct statement.

- (1) Man uses ocean water directly
- (2) Fresh water is always saline
- (3) Ocean water is always saline
- (4) Earth gets water from Sun

## 4. Oceans contain

- (1) 50% of the total water
- (2) 3% of the total water
- (3) 97% of the total water
- (4) ice and snow

## 5. Which one of the following is not a synonym of 'abundance'?

- (1) Plenty
- (2) Ampleness
- (3) Lack
- (4) Riches

### Passage 7

In our approach to life, be it pragmatic or otherwise a basic fact that confronts us squarely and unmistakably is the desire for peace, security and happiness. Different forms of life at different levels of existence make- up the teeming denizens of this Earth of ours. And no matter whether they belong or the higher groups such as human beings or to the lower groups such as animals, all beings primarily seek peace, comfort and security. Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to a man. Even the lowliest insect strives for protection against dangers that threaten its life. Just as each one of us wants to live and not to die, so do all other creatures.

## 1. The author's main point is that

- (1) different forms of life are found on Earth
- (2) different levels of existence are possible in nature
- (3) peace and security are the chief goals of all living beings
- (4) even the weakest creature struggles to preserve its life

## 2. How is life of a mute creature?

- (1) They are ignorant
- (2) It is as dear as a man itself
- (3) Cannot be forecast
- (4) It is comfortable

## 3. According to the passage, the higher groups are mentioned as

- (1) all the animals
- (2) all human beings
- (3) under threaten
- (4) mute like insects

## 4. The lowliest insect strives for

- (1) food
- (2) existence
- (3) peace
- (4) protection

## 5. Who does want to die?

- (1) One of us and all other creature
- (2) Happiness, peace
- (3) Human beings
- (4) Lower groups of animals

### Passage 8

One of the major crises facing the country is the looming water shortage. A recent report of the UN has named India among the worst countries for poor quality of water. The report ranks 122 countries according to the quality of their water as well as their ability and commitment to improve the situation. Belgium is considered the worst basically because of the quality of its ground water. Rains failed in most parts of India last year and the vast areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra and Odisha were in the grip of devastating drought. People without water turn desperate and violent. Villagers in Rajasthan last year attacked the Food Corporation godowns. Worse may be coming. With man refusing to control pollution (America, the world's greatest polluter, refuses to cooperate with, other countries) the world's getting hotter. This means that the great ice shelves (weighing billions of tonnes) of the Antarctic are collapsing. We cannot even conceptualise the dangerous consequences.

## 1. Belgium, is suffering acutely because

- (1) the sluggish pace of its economy
- (2) the discharge of industrial effluents
- (3) quality of its ground water
- (4) rising cost of living

## 2. Villagers in Rajasthan attacked Food Corporation godowns because of

- (1) low prices offered to them for wheat
- (2) refusal of Food Corporation to buy wheat from the local farmers
- (3) no financial help from the government bodies
- (4) shortage of water

## 3. What major crises is the country facing today?

- (1) Rainfall
- (2) Water shortage
- (3) Drought
- (4) Violent

## 4. The word 'Devastating' means

- (1) Blessed
- (2) Disastrous
- (3) Fortunate
- (4) Peace

## 5. The world's greatest polluter country is

- (1) India
- (2) America
- (3) Belgium
- (4) Unknown

### Passage 9

In Asia and much of Third World, trees are still destroyed in the old-fashioned way: they are cut down for fuel and cropland. In Europe, there is new and potentially more deadly culprit, The Germans call it 'Waldsterben', the dying forest syndrome. But the disease is far more than a German phenomenon. Since, it was first observed by German scientists in the autumn of 1980, the mysterious malady has raced across Europe, blighting woods in countries as far apart as Sweden and Italy. Explanations for the epidemic range from a cyclic change in the environment to a baffling form of tree cancer. But the most convincing evidence points to air pollution. Indeed, saving the rapidly deteriorating forests of Europe will probably require a two-pronged strategy an offensive campaign that includes the breeding of pollution-immune trees and a defensive scheme that calls for reductions in toxic emissions. But both will require more money than is currently being spent on such measures, as well as total commitment to protecting the environment.

1. According to this passage, which one of the following statements is correct?
  - (1) There is less damage in Asia than in Europe
  - (2) More forests are dying in Germany than anywhere else in Europe
  - (3) A cyclic change in the environment is responsible for deforestation
  - (4) Air pollution is the main culprit of destroying European forests
2. Saving the trees of European forests
  - (1) should not be difficult because of the advances in experimental research
  - (2) appears to be a hopeless task and therefore pointless to undertake
  - (3) requires a much bigger budget
  - (4) demands vigilance and punitive measures against those who cut down the trees
3. The dying forest syndrome is a disease that
  - (1) is peculiar to the forests of Asia
  - (2) has spread rapidly over the forests of Europe
  - (3) is confined to the forests of Germany
  - (4) has affected forests all over the world
4. The writer suggests that
  - (1) it is no longer possible to grow trees in industrialised areas
  - (2) pollution immune trees will absorb toxic emissions
  - (3) all pollution-prone trees should be destroyed
  - (4) it is not possible to grow trees that remain unaffected by pollution

5. The writer's approach toward the problem of forest devastation is one of
  - (1) tolerance
  - (2) indifference
  - (3) well thought-out strategy
  - (4) despondency

### Passage 10

Thomas Edison was an American scientist. As a little boy, he used to sell newspapers on the American railway station. Most of the time, he was found in the telegraph office watching the operators at work. One day, he saw the station master's little boy in danger of meeting an accident. Jumping forward, he saved the child and in return for the service the station master taught him all about telegraphy. Many hours did the young man spend in research and to him we owe some of the greatest comforts of modern life. He was only twenty years old when he invented gramophone.

1. Which country did Thomas Edison belong to?
  - (1) India
  - (2) China
  - (3) America
  - (4) Japan
2. Where did he sell newspapers?
  - (1) At the railway station
  - (2) At the airport
  - (3) At the bus-stop
  - (4) At the mall
3. What did he do in the telegraph office?
  - (1) Talk to the people
  - (2) Help the people
  - (3) Fill the details
  - (4) Watch the operators
4. What was his age when he invented gramophone?
  - (1) Eighteen
  - (2) Twenty-four
  - (3) Twelve
  - (4) Twenty
5. Who was in danger?
  - (1) Thomas Edison
  - (2) The station master
  - (3) The station master's little boy
  - (4) None of the above

### Passage 11

Ram Mohan Roy was born at Radhanagar in the Hoogly district of Bengal on 22nd May, 1772. His father, Ramakant Roy, had settled at Radhanagar after giving up his post under Sirajuddoula, the Nawab of Bengal. He had been unjustly treated by the Nawab and he also had some trouble about his lands. So, he became unattached to the world and generally spent his time in prayer and thinking of God.

- Who was born at Radhanagar?
  - Sirajuddoula
  - Ram Mohan Roy
  - Ramakant Roy
  - The Nawab of Bengal
- According to the passage, the word 'unattached' means
  - separate
  - unloved
  - involved
  - trouble
- Who spent his most of the time in prayer?
  - Ramakant Roy
  - Sirajuddoula
  - Ram Mohan Roy
  - None of these
- Choose the incorrect statement.
  - Radhanagar is in Bengal
  - Ramakant Roy worked under Sirajuddoula
  - Ram Mohan Roy had trouble about his lands
  - Ramakant Roy became unattached to the world
- The district Hoogly is in
  - Odisha
  - Paschim Banga
  - Bihar
  - Uttar Pradesh

### Passage 12

On a summer day, a stag felt very thirsty. He went in search of water. After searching for a long time, he came across a lake. He began to drink water. While drinking, he saw his own reflection in the water. His beautiful branching horns attracted him very much. He was proud of his horns but he condemned God for giving him thin, ugly legs. In the meantime, a hunter came in the forest. The stag thought that his life was in danger. The dogs chased him. But his ugly legs helped him very much in running very fast. He defeated the dogs but his branching horns were caught in a thick bush. At the same time, the dogs came and killed him.

- What was the stag proud of?
  - His height
  - His horns
  - His legs
  - God
- Which season is mentioned in the story?
  - Winter
  - Summer
  - Spring
  - Autumn
- What did he hate in himself?
  - His horns
  - His stomach
  - His body
  - His thin legs
- The opposite of the word 'thick' is
  - Small
  - thin
  - large
  - fast
- ..... helped the stag.
  - His horns
  - His thin legs
  - His body
  - His stomach

### Passage 13

Florence Nightingale was born on 15th May, 1820, at Florence in Italy. Her parents called her Florence after the name of the city where she was born. Her main ambition was to be a nurse and so she gave up all thoughts of marriage and personal happiness. She spent years visiting hospital after hospital.

Day and night, she visited every bed in the hospital to see that no patient was neglected and all were as comfortable as possible. However hard, she might have worked all day, every night she would take her lamp and move from bed to bed. The soldiers named her 'The Lady with the Lamp'.

- In which city was Florence Nightingale born?
  - France
  - Italy
  - Florence
  - London
- What was her main ambition?
  - Nursing
  - Teaching
  - Personal happiness
  - Travelling
- Where did she spend years?
  - In schools
  - In forests
  - In hospitals
  - In the temple
- What did she do every night?
  - Sleep in her bedroom
  - Did not sleep at all
  - Watched mysterious dreams
  - Visited all the patients
- What did the soldiers name her?
  - The Lady without the Lamp
  - The Lamp with the Lady
  - The Lady with the Lamp
  - No Lady without the Lamp

### Passage 14

The blue whale is the largest living animal to have ever lived on the planet Earth. Blue whales are way larger than the largest dinosaur that ever lived. The largest blue whales can grow as large as 100 feet long, which is longer than three school buses put together!

Even though blue whales are huge, they eat tiny creatures known as krill. The blue whale may eat over 8000 pounds of krill in a single day!

- Which is the largest living animal on the Earth?
  - Elephant
  - Human
  - Ostrich
  - Blue whale

2. The blue whale eats.....
  - (1) sharks
  - (2) big fish
  - (3) humans
  - (4) small creatures called krill
3. Blue whales can grow
  - (1) 1100 ft
  - (2) 100 ft
  - (3) 1000 ft
  - (4) 10 ft
4. 8000 pounds of krill may be eaten by
  - (1) elephant
  - (2) crocodile
  - (3) blue whale
  - (4) dinosaur
5. Opposite of 'longer' is
  - (1) bigger
  - (2) higher
  - (3) shorter
  - (4) greater

### Passage 15

A woodpecker is a kind of bird. Woodpeckers are found all over the world except in the North and South poles, Australia and New Zealand. There are over 200 different kinds of woodpeckers. The two largest woodpeckers, the imperial woodpecker and the ivory-billed woodpecker are most likely extinct. Animals that are extinct are no longer found on Earth.

Woodpeckers have sharp bills for drilling into wood and short, stiff tails. Woodpeckers also have very long tongues, which help them get at insects deep within trees. Woodpeckers are often heard drumming loudly on trees. Woodpeckers can even become pests if they learn to drum on siding of a house.

1. Why do woodpeckers have long tongues?
  - (1) So they can drum on trees
  - (2) To get at insects on the ground
  - (3) To get at insects within trees
  - (4) To eat seeds
2. When do woodpeckers sometimes become pests?
  - (1) When they become extinct
  - (2) When they drum on houses
  - (3) When they eat suet
  - (4) When they visit feeders
3. Woodpeckers are not found in
  - (1) South Poles
  - (2) Australia
  - (3) New Zealand
  - (4) All of these
4. The word 'extinct' means
  - (1) the two largest woodpeckers
  - (2) pest
  - (3) insects
  - (4) animals that are no longer found

5. Woodpeckers use their sharp bills for
  - (1) flying high
  - (2) drilling wood
  - (3) sitting on the tree branches
  - (4) drinking

### Passage 16

Rainbows are often seen when the Sun comes out after or during a rainstorm. Rainbows are caused when sunlight shines through drops of water in the sky at a specific angle. When white sunlight enters a raindrop, it exits the raindrop a different colour. When light exits lots of different raindrops at different angles, it produces the red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet that you see in a rainbow. Together, these colours are known as the spectrum. These colours can sometimes be seen in waterfalls and fountains as well.

1. Rainbows are often seen
  - (1) after a rainstorm
  - (2) before a rainstorm
  - (3) after the Sun sets at night
  - (4) before a storm
2. Rainbows are produced when
  - (1) light exits many raindrops at different angles
  - (2) the Sun causes a rainstorm
  - (3) the spectrum causes a rainstorm
  - (4) the Sun comes out after a storm
3. Which one of the following is a synonym of the word 'specific'?
  - (1) exact
  - (2) general
  - (3) common
  - (4) similar
4. What is spectrum?
  - (1) Bright part of the rainbow
  - (2) Entire colour of rainbow
  - (3) Indigo and violet
  - (4) Sunlight
5. How many colours are there in a rainbow?
  - (1) 5
  - (2) 7
  - (3) 6
  - (4) 4

### Passage 17

Venus, named after the Roman God of love and beauty, is the second planet from the Sun and the closest planet to Earth. The thick cloud cover on Venus reflect the Sun's light which causes Venus to be the second brightest object in our night sky. Venus is also called the evening star.

Venus is also the hottest planet. It covered by very thick, rapidly spinning clouds of water vapour and carbon dioxide. These clouds hold in heat and are continually warming the planet. The surface of Venus can reach almost 900° F!

- Which planet is closest to Venus?  
(1) Mars (2) Jupiter  
(3) Earth (4) Mercury
- The surface of Venus can reach  
(1) 9000° (2) 900° (3) 910° (4) 90°
- Venus is often known as  
(1) Roman Star (2) Night Star  
(3) Morning Star (4) Evening Star
- Venus was named after the  
(1) God of Sacrifice (2) Roman God  
(3) Love and Rome (4) Love and Beauty
- Venus is the.....planet.  
(1) closet (2) coldest  
(3) hottest (4) darkest
- We must strive with our total commitment  
(1) defeat and overcome the enemies of the nation  
(2) revitalise our rich past culture  
(3) inject scientific temper into our past culture  
(4) make scientific advancements
- Our freedom fighters envisioned that in free India  
(1) there should be an egalitarian society  
(2) women would enjoy higher privileges and rights than others  
(3) the country would be taken forward by some selected classes of the society  
(4) industrialisation should occupy the top priority
- Opposite word for 'equal' is  
(1) complete (2) inequal  
(3) equality (4) unequal

### Passage 18

The martyrs who laid down their lives for the freedom of the country, had a lofty vision of the future. They wanted the nation to be free from all the slavery and bondage. They wanted an India in which all the communities would live in perfect harmony and in which there would be no high class and no low class and no low class of people, the curse of untouchability having been wiped out completely.

Women would enjoy equal rights with men and contribute their fullest to the making of a great nation. Such a vision was in keeping with the ancient glory of the country renowned for its splendid achievements in literature, art and culture. We must now revitalise this ancient culture of ours with tolerance as its masthead. If we forget or cease to take pride in our noble heritage. We shall have to face severe indictment in the court of history which is a ruthless judge and seldom spares the erring people.

- The martyrs who died for the freedom of India wanted  
(1) the country to be the strongest nation in the world  
(2) the country to rule over the other nations  
(3) the country to be free from slavery  
(4) the people to give up their antiquated customs
- These martyrs wanted that  
(1) there should be reservation in the jobs for the backward section of the society  
(2) there should be perfect communal love and peace in the country  
(3) the old caste system should be retained in the future  
(4) the women should look after their families only

### Passage 19

Dr. S Radhakrishnan, the illustrious philosopher statesman of India, was one of the greatest sons of our motherland. He cautioned the world against the domination of Science in society. It is erroneous to claim that scientific knowledge would bring with it perpetual progress and a steady improvement in human relations.

The recent period of great scientific achievements has also increased human misery in the world wars, concentration camps, atomic destruction, cold war, deadly wars in the middle East, Persian Gulf and at many other places in the world. Growth in human wisdom has not been commensurate with the increase in scientific knowledge and power.

The fear of universal destruction hangs over the world. There is a feeling of disenchantment, anxiety and even despair. Science had failed to liberate man from the tyranny of his own nature. Mankind is passing through a critical period and an education of the human spirit has become essential. In order to remake society, man has to remake himself. If humanity is to survive, man must integrate his knowledge with a social responsibility.

- Dr. S Radhakrishnan has  
(1) emphasised that Science should be banished from the society  
(2) opposed the teaching of Science in educational institutions  
(3) favoured scientific thinking in life  
(4) counseled that preponderance of Science in life does not necessarily generate happiness



2. The recent past of tremendous scientific progress has
  - (1) made the world a very happy place
  - (2) led to global warming
  - (3) brought about internal transformation in men
  - (4) shown that human wisdom has not kept pace with galloping scientific knowledge
3. Man is despaired of Science because
  - (1) Science has given too much knowledge
  - (2) Science has brought him excessive material comforts
  - (3) he has become a captive of Science
  - (4) he is confronted with the nightmare of total annihilation of the world
4. Man can save humanity only if he
  - (1) abandons Science
  - (2) brings about an internal transformation in himself
  - (3) makes his life more comfortable with scientific gadgets
  - (4) goes back to nature and primitive times
5. In this passage, the writer has tried to show that
  - (1) Science is the only savior that shall lead humanity forward
  - (2) Science can bring about an end to all the wars
  - (3) social change comes with the advancement of Science
  - (4) human wisdom must grow proportionately with growth of knowledge to evolve a creative integration to help mankind

### Passage 20

Most of us use the products of science railways, aeroplanes, electricity, wireless and thousands of others—without thinking how did they come into existence. We take them for granted, as if we were entitled to them as a matter of right. And we are very proud of the fact that we live in an advanced age and and ate ourselves so very advanced. Now, there is no doubt that our age is a very different one from previous ages and I think it is perfectly correct to say that it is far more advanced. But that is a different thing from saying that we as individuals or groups are more advanced. It would be the height of absurdity to say that because an engine driver can run an engine and Plato or Socrates could not, the engine driver is more advanced than, or is superior to, Plato or Socrates. But it would be perfectly correct to say that the engine itself is a more advanced method of locomotion than Plato's chariot was.

1. Which one of the following statements is correct?
  - (1) An engine driver cannot be compared to Plato or Socrates
  - (2) Plato or Socrates is in no way inferior to the engine driver
  - (3) Plato or Socrates surpassed the engine driver in every respect
  - (4) An engine driver is cleverer than Plato or Socrates
2. According to the passage, the word 'doubt' means
  - (1) unsureness
  - (2) surity
  - (3) distinct
  - (4) precise
3. Many of us make use of machines
  - (1) with full knowledge of their genesis
  - (2) without knowing how were they invented
  - (3) with very little knowledge of their mechanism
  - (4) without any knowledge of their historical significance
4. In this passage, the writer mentions Plato and Socrates to emphasise that
  - (1) they had a great respect for learning
  - (2) they were men of great scholarship
  - (3) people as individuals in the modern age are not more advanced than their predecessors
  - (4) the engine is a better mode of locomotion than Plato's chariot
5. Which is not the product of Science?
  - (1) Wireless
  - (2) Aeroplanes
  - (3) Electricity
  - (4) Wood

### Passage 21

Bees are insects. Bees are special insects because they can fly! They can move through the air like an airplane! They need to fly to get to the flowers!

Bees can have three colours. They can be yellow, red and orange. All bees are black in some places. Bees have three main parts. They have a head. They have a body. And, they have a stinger. The stinger is used to defend against enemies. They also have six legs. They use their legs to stand and climb. They also use their legs to eat and collect pollen. Bees live in many places. They live in Africa, Australia, Asia, Europe, North America, South America. The only continent that bees do not live on is Antarctica!

1. What are bees?
  - (1) Mammals
  - (2) Birds
  - (3) Reptiles
  - (4) Insects

2. How do bees fly?
  - (1) They use their legs      (2) They use their head
  - (3) They use their wings    (4) None of the above
3. The bees defend against enemies with their
  - (1) legs                        (2) wings
  - (3) head                        (4) stinger
4. Bees do not live in
  - (1) Antarctica                (2) Australia
  - (3) Europe                     (4) Africa
5. Bees have
  - (1) five legs, two wings      (2) six legs, two wings
  - (3) six legs, one wing        (4) five legs, one wing

### Passage 22

My name is Sam. Today is very hot. The Sun is very strong. I am hot. I want to be cool. How can I get cool ?

Wait.... I know!

I can go to the pool. The pool is cool. I can swim in the pool. Is the pool open? Or is the pool closed?

Where is the phone? I need to call the pool. I need to find out if the pool is open or closed.

—Ring! Ring!—

“Hello! My name is Andrea. I am at the pool. Can I help you?”

“Hi, Andrea. Is the pool open?”

“Yes. The pool is open.”

“Okay. Thank you!”

“You are welcome. Bye!”

Great! The pool is open! Now I can cool down!

1. What is the weather like today?
  - (1) It is cold                    (2) It is cool
  - (3) It is warm                  (4) It is hot
2. Sam is hot but Sam wants to be
  - (1) cold      (2) cool      (3) warm      (4) hot
3. How can Sam get cool?
  - (1) He can go to the library
  - (2) He can go to the pool
  - (3) He can go to school
  - (4) He can go to work
4. Why does Sam talk to Andrea?
  - (1) Because she is his friend
  - (2) Because she knows his sister
  - (3) Because Sam needs to know what time it is
  - (4) Because Sam wants to know if the pool is open
5. Opposite word of ‘open’ is
  - (1) strong
  - (2) down
  - (3) close
  - (4) hot

### Passage 23

The Ganga is a holy river of the Hindus. The Hindus call the Ganga ‘Mother Ganga’. Every Hindu wishes to die on the banks of the holy Ganga, so that he may reach heaven. At Allahabad, the Yamuna also joins it and the confluence is known as Triveni. After flowing through Bihar and Bengal, it flows into the Bay of Bengal.

The Ganga is very useful for the country. It brings with it rich soil from the mountains and spreads it on the land to make it very fertile. The fields in this area produce two crops a year. The Ganga is also very useful in other ways. Many saints and holy persons live on its banks and we can learn much from their teachings and wisdom.

1. Which is the holy river of the Hindus?
  - (1) The Ganga                    (2) The Yamuna
  - (3) The Sindhu                  (4) None of these
2. What do Hindus call it?
  - (1) Father Ganga                (2) Mother Ganga
  - (3) Devi Ganga                  (4) Sister Ganga
3. What is the opposite of ‘Heaven’?
  - (1) Earth                         (2) Paradise
  - (3) Hell                            (4) Ganga
4. What is the name of the confluence?
  - (1) Hindus                        (2) Ganga
  - (3) Allahabad                    (4) Triveni
5. What does every Hindu wish to do at the bank of holy Ganga?
  - (1) Prayer                         (2) Sacrifice
  - (3) Meditation                    (4) Die

### Passage 24

In Shantiniketan, the boys rise very early in the morning. Sometimes, before it is light. They attend to the drawing of water for their bath. They make-up their beds. They do all those things that tend to cultivate the spirit of self-help. I believe in the hour of meditation and I set fifteen minutes both in morning and evening for that purpose. I do not insist on this period of meditation because it can make them hypocrites and make them believe that they are meditating. But I do insist that they remain quiet, so that they can exert the power of self-control.

1. .... get up early in the morning.
  - (1) Students
  - (2) Attendants
  - (3) Teachers
  - (4) Boys

2. What do they do early in the morning?
  - (1) Their homework
  - (2) Pray to God
  - (3) Cook their lunch
  - (4) Do all their work like drawing water from wells and washing their clothes
3. How much time is set for meditation?
  - (1) One hour
  - (2) Ten minutes twice a day
  - (3) Fifteen minutes twice a day
  - (4) Fifteen minutes thrice a day
4. Why should they remain quiet?
  - (1) Not to make noise
  - (2) Not to disturb others
  - (3) To practice silence
  - (4) To practice self-control
5. The opposite of 'before' is
  - (1) forward
  - (2) after
  - (3) backward
  - (4) early

### Passage 25

People think all insects are our enemies. Children like to kill flies, bugs and mosquitoes. Many kinds of insects are our enemies. Some of them harm our trees, our clothes, our books, our houses and some of them poison our food. Some of them bite us and spread diseases.

But many insects are our friends too. They eat insects that we want to get rid of.

There are many insects that are neither our friends nor our enemies. They do nothing to help or harm us.

1. "Some of them bite us..."  
'Some' here refers to
  - (1) People
  - (2) Children
  - (3) Enemies
  - (4) Insects
2. Some insects do good to us because
  - (1) they live in our houses
  - (2) they spoil some kinds of food
  - (3) they save us from harmful insects
  - (4) they eat harmful insects
3. Some insects do more harm than good because
  - (1) they are annoying
  - (2) they are covered with dirt
  - (3) they spread diseases
  - (4) they eat other insects
4. In this passage, the writer tells us about
  - (1) the nature of children
  - (2) many kinds of insects
  - (3) usefulness of insects
  - (4) the nature of insects

5. Which of the following statements about the insects is wrong?
  - (1) Insects are harmful
  - (2) Insects harm our important belongings
  - (3) Insects are the carriers of many diseases
  - (4) Insects live in clean conditions

### Passage 26

Have you heard of a place called Kanya Kumari? It is a cape at the Southernmost end of India. We sometimes say that the Himalayas are the crown of Mother India, so we can regard Kanya Kumari as her holy feet. At Kanya Kumari, there is a famous old temple. It stands on the Southern most point of land, very near the shore. Pilgrims bathe in the sea and go up into the temple for worship. In the temple, there stands a praying figure of a girl-Goddess; she stands facing the Bay of Bengal in the East. The Goddess is called Kanya Kumari. The place is called Kanya Kumari after her. In foreign countries, it is generally known by the name Cape Camorine; but its Indian name Kanya Kumari has now become popular.

1. Kanya Kumari is situated
  - (1) in the Bay of Bengal
  - (2) at the Southern most end of India
  - (3) in the Arabian Sea
  - (4) at the South-Eastern end of India
2. At Kanya Kumari, there is an old temple which is
  - (1) in the sea
  - (2) in the deep sea
  - (3) very near the sea
  - (4) on a hill top
3. The temple at Kanya Kumari is named after
  - (1) the Goddess called Kanya Kumari
  - (2) the Goddess of the sea
  - (3) the Himalayas
  - (4) a girl who built the temple
4. What is true about the Kanya Kumari temple?
  - (1) A famous old temple
  - (2) Very near the sea
  - (3) A deity of Goddess Kanya Kumari
  - (4) All of the above
5. What does the word 'holy' mean?
  - (1) sacred
  - (2) whole
  - (3) hole
  - (4) a festival name

### Passage 27

To sum up the whole, we should say that the aim of the Platonic philosophy was to exalt man into a God. The aim of the Baconian Philosophy was to

provide man with what he requires while he continues to be a man. The aim of Platonic philosophy was to raise us far above the vulgar wants. The aim of Baconian Philosophy was to supply our vulgar wants. The former aim was noble; but the latter was attainable. Plato drew a good bow; he aimed at the stars and therefore, though there was no want of strength or skill, the shot was thrown away. His arrow was indeed followed by a track of dazzling radiance; but it struck nothing. Bacon fixed his eye on a mark which was placed on Earth and hit it in the white. The Philosophy of Plato began with words and ended in words, noble words indeed, words such as were to be expected from the finest of human intellects exercising boundless dominion over the fittest of languages.

1. The above passage presents Platonic Philosophy as
  - (1) giving rise to vulgar wants
  - (2) too idealistic in terms of a realistic/assessment of a man
  - (3) no more than mere words
  - (4) being pragmatic
2. What does the word 'vulgar' mean?
  - (1) Dirty
  - (2) Ordinary
  - (3) Mannerly
  - (4) Polite
3. Which one of the following best reflects the underlying tone of the passage?
  - (1) All ideas regarding man are couched in noble words
  - (2) Man when exalted into a God comes to nothing
  - (3) It is better for man to continue to the man
  - (4) It is the image of man conceived differently that makes the basic distinction between different systems
4. Which of the following words/sentences in the passage confirm the exalted notions of man according to Plato?
  - (1) Exercising boundless dominion
  - (2) He aimed at the stars
  - (3) Fixed his eye on the mark and hit it in the white
  - (4) There was no want of strength or skill, the shot was thrown away

### Passage 28

Butterflies are some of the most interesting insects on the planet Earth. There are more than seventeen thousand different kinds of butterflies ! Butterflies come in all shapes and sizes.

Butterflies go through four main stages of life. The first stage is the egg stage, followed by the larva stage. As a larva, or caterpillar, the future butterfly eats as much as possible. As it grows, it sheds its outer skin, or exoskeleton. This may happen four or five times. After a few weeks, the caterpillar enters the next stage of its life, the chrysalis stage. In the chrysalis, the caterpillar will liquify into a soup of living cells. Then, it will reorganise into a butterfly and the metamorphosis is complete. In later parts of the chrysalis stage, you can see the forming butterfly through the chrysalis.

When the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis, it pumps its wings to send blood through them so that it can fly. Most butterflies only live a couple of weeks, just enough time to drink flower nectar and to mate. Some, like the Monarch butterfly, however, may live many months.

1. Which of the following is not true?
  - (1) Butterflies must wait until blood drains into their wings before flying
  - (2) The butterfly may shed its skin 10 to 12 times
  - (3) Caterpillars liquifies into a soup of living cells
  - (4) Most butterflies live for weeks, at the most for a few months
2. The second stage of life of a butterfly is .....
  - (1) larva
  - (2) egg
  - (3) chrysalis
  - (4) butterfly
3. Which of the following statements is true?
  - (1) There are about a thousand different kinds of butterflies in the world
  - (2) There are more than seventeen thousand different kinds of butterflies
  - (3) There are only a few hundred different kinds of butterflies
  - (4) There is only one kind of butterfly in the world
4. The word 'metamorphosis' used in the passage would mean .....
  - (1) translation
  - (2) transformation
  - (3) stagnation
  - (4) adjustment
5. Find the antonym of the word 'emerges' given in the last paragraph.
  - (1) appears
  - (2) reveals
  - (3) disappears
  - (4) rises

### Passage 29

One day, a rich man took his son on a trip to village. He wanted to show him how poor someone can be. They spent time on the farm of poor family.

Dad asked, “ Did you see how poor they are? What did you learn?” Son said, “We have one dog, they have four, we have pool, they have rivers, we have lanterns at night, they have stars, we buy foods, they grow theirs, we have walls to protect us, they have friends, we have encyclopaedias, they have Bible” Then, he headed, “Thanks dad for showing me how poor we are.”

- Where did the rich man take his son?  
(1) Park (2) Trip  
(3) Hospital (4) Picnic
- Encyclopaedia is a kind of  
(1) newspaper  
(2) games  
(3) set of books containing vast information  
(4) place of rural area
- What did the rich man want to show his son?  
(1) Friends (2) Poor family  
(3) Dogs (4) Rivers
- Who grows food?  
(1) Rich man (2) Farmers  
(3) Poor family (4) Nobody
- What will be the moral of this passage?  
(1) It's not about money that make us rich  
(2) We should not visit poor family  
(3) One should believe in God  
(4) We should avoid hurting others

### Passage 30

Once, an old man was sitting on a bench of a garden with his 25 years old son. There was a tree beside the bench. Old man saw a bird sitting on the tree. He asked the son- what's this? Son replied- it's a crow. The old... man again asked what's this? Son said- I already told you that it's crow. The old man again asked what's this? Son angrily said- are you deaf or mad, papa? How many times to tell you it's a crow. Can't you understand?

Old man patiently replied- my dear son, when you were 5 years old, you asked me 174 times the same question that what's this and I replied every time with a kiss that, it's a crow! Now, I asked you 3 times and you were irritated.

- Who was sitting with the old man in a garden?  
(1) Unknown (2) Friend  
(3) Nobody (4) Son
- How many times did the old man ask the same question to his son?  
(1) 3 times (2) 174 times  
(3) 5 times (4) 25 times
- Who got irritated?  
(1) An old man (2) Son  
(3) Crow (4) Not known
- Who was deaf?  
(1) An old man (2) Son  
(3) Crow (4) Nobody else
- What was the age of the son, when he asked the similar question again and again?  
(1) 25 years (2) 5 years  
(3) 174 years (4) Not clear

### Passage 31

I felt lonely in a classroom full of boys and girls and a teacher. The teacher walked up to me smiling. She put her hand tenderly on my shoulder and asked—“What is your name?” ‘Abhayankar...’— I whispered.

“Say loudly, so I can hear it,” she said. I tried but I could not. My lips were dry, perhaps sealed. I could not open my mouth. Then the teacher asked me to write my name on the blackboard. I went up to the blackboard, lifted the white chalk and as I was about to write, my mind went blank. I knew my name, I knew how to write it, but standing in front of so many boys and girls and the teacher made me uncomfortable.

- What does not describe the narrator?  
(1) Nervous (2) Uncomfortable  
(3) Confident (4) Timid
- The opposite of ‘sealed’ is .....  
(1) close (2) tight  
(3) open (4) free
- The word ‘whispered’ means  
(1) said slowly (2) told loudly  
(3) kept quiet (4) did not speak
- The boy could not write his name, because he was .....  
(1) lonely (2) afraid  
(3) sick (4) nervous
- The teacher was ..... towards the boy.  
(1) sympathetic (2) rude  
(3) unhelpful (4) indifferent



**Passage 32**

Pratap was a king and yet he had no love of comfort. He had the welfare of his people at heart. He was proud of his honour and he was so good to the people that they were ever willing to sacrifice their all for his welfare. There is a story that Pratap once gave his turban to a poet who had pleased him with his verses. The poet went to Akbar's court but took off the turban before bowing to the emperor, who was surprised and asked him why he bowed bare headed. The poet answered, "Your Majesty, this turban belonged to a man, who has never bowed his head to another man. This is Maharana Pratap's turban."

1. What was the name of the king in the story?  
(1) Akbar (2) Shah Jahan  
(3) Ranjit Singh (4) Pratap
2. What did Pratap give to the poet?  
(1) His horse (2) His turban  
(3) His necklace (4) His kingdom
3. Who bowed bare headed to Akbar?  
(1) The poet (2) Pratap  
(3) The people (4) All of these
4. Choose the incorrect statement.  
(1) Rana Pratap was a great king  
(2) He hated poets  
(3) He was proud of his honour  
(4) He never bowed his head to another man
5. The antonym of 'comfortable' is  
(1) relaxed (2) pleasant  
(3) free from pain (4) uncomfortable

**Passage 33**

Theseus was the son of Aegeus, king of Athens. The people of Athens were sad because the king of Crete demanded a human sacrifice from them every year. So, seven youths and seven maidens were sent to Crete each year. They never came back to Athens, for a monster ate them. This monster was a man with a bull's head and was called the Minotaur. Theseus decided to go to Crete as one of the seven young men and to kill the monster. With his courage and cleverness, he succeeded in his plan and killed the monster.

1. What was the name of the father?  
(1) Theseus (2) King of Athens  
(3) Aegeus (4) Crete
2. What did the king of Crete demand?  
(1) A human sacrifice (2) Theseus  
(3) Kingdom (4) King of Athens

3. Who were sent to Crete every year?  
(1) Ten animals  
(2) Seven boys and seven girls  
(3) Seven men (4) Seven women
4. What was the name of the monster?  
(1) Theseus (2) Crete  
(3) Aegeus (4) Minotaur
5. Who is the hero of the story?  
(1) Aegeus (2) Minotaur  
(3) King of Crete (4) Theseus

**Passage 34**

Issac Newton was a great scientist. He was born in 1642 and died in 1727. He discovered the law of gravitation. It was the falling of an apple in the garden that set him thinking. He was trying to find why the Earth went round the Sun and the Moon round the Earth. He asked himself, "Why does an apple fall to the Earth?" This led him to his discovery. Newton also found out that white light is made up of seven colours. We see these colours in the rainbow. He also made many other discoveries. Newton was a very learned man. But he was very humble. Shortly before his death, he said, "I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore while the great ocean of truth lay undiscovered before me."

1. Issac Newton was a great  
(1) doctor (2) teacher (3) leader (4) scientist
2. He was born  
(1) in 1727 (2) in 1627  
(3) in 1642 (4) in 1742
3. .... colours make the white light.  
(1) Five (2) Ten  
(3) Three (4) Seven
4. Choose the word which means of opposite of 'discovered'.  
(1) Found (2) Lost  
(3) Searched (4) Started
5. Choose the word that has the same meaning as 'learned'.  
(1) Knowledgable (2) Lazy  
(3) Clever (4) Happy

**Passage 35**

Venus is sometimes called Earth's sister planet, though its similarities with Earth are limited, apart from size and relative condition of its surface. It is easily observed with the naked eye and is sometimes called the "evening star" or

“morning star.” Venus is covered by thick, noxious clouds of sulphuric acid that obscure its surface. The thick layers of cloud create an extreme insulating effect (like the greenhouse effect) that radiates heat back to the surface and raises the temperature to over 425°C.

Its surface is rocky, dusty and dotted with mountains and canyons and a few volcanic hot spots. There are many lava flows.

1. Why is Venus called Earth's sister planet?
  - (1) It is close to Earth
  - (2) It is similar in size to Earth
  - (3) It is hotter than Earth
  - (4) Much like Earth, Venus can support life
2. What does the word “obscure” mean in the sentence, “Venus is covered by thick, noxious clouds of sulphuric acid that obscure its surface.”
  - (1) cover
  - (2) damage
  - (3) extend
  - (4) create
3. Which of the following is not a feature of Venus-surface?
  - (1) volcanoes
  - (2) canyons
  - (3) plains
  - (4) glaciers
4. The thick clouds on Venus .....
  - (1) make it much colder than Earth
  - (2) radiate extreme heat back to the surface
  - (3) allow heat to escape into space
  - (4) make the planet very colourful
5. Give the suitable title for the passage?
  - (1) Planets
  - (2) Venus and Earth
  - (3) Venus, A Planet
  - (4) None of these

### Passage 36

There are two types of camels in the world. One has a single hump, and the other has two. The dromedary camel has a single hump, and has domesticated in Arabia over 4,000 years ago. They are also found in North Africa, India, Pakistan and Australia. The size of the hump varies, becoming smaller and leaning to one side during times of starvation. The lips of dromedary camels are thick to allow them to eat coarse and thorny desert plants. Their long legs keep their bodies high off the ground to avoid the baking heat of the desert's surface.

Bactrian camels have two humps, and are found in the deserts of Central Asia. They are extremely adept at withstanding wide variations in temperature-from freezing cold to blistering heat.

They can survive without water for months at a time, but when water is available, they may drink up to 57 liters at once. When well fed, the humps are plump and erect.

1. What types of camel are there in the world?
  - (1) Dromedary
  - (2) Bactrian
  - (3) Both (1) and (2)
  - (4) None of these
2. Single hump camels are found in .....
  - (1) India and Pakistan
  - (2) India and Sri Lanka
  - (3) Pakistan and Nepal
  - (4) Australia and Nepal
3. One unique characteristics of Dromedary camel to avoid the baking heat of the desert's surface is
  - (1) thick lips
  - (2) thick hump
  - (3) long neck
  - (4) long legs
4. Bactrian camels have ..... humps.
  - (1) one
  - (2) two
  - (3) three
  - (4) four
5. The feature that make Bactrian camels unique is
  - (1) Adept at various temperature
  - (2) Adept only at freezing temperature
  - (3) Adept only at hot temperature
  - (4) None of the above

### Passage 37

A woodpecker is a kind of bird. Woodpeckers are found all over the world except in the North and South poles, Australia and New Zealand. There are over 200 different kinds of woodpeckers. The two largest woodpeckers, the Imperial Woodpecker and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker are most likely extinct. Animals that are extinct are no longer found on Earth.

Woodpeckers have sharp bills for drilling into wood, and short, stiff tails which help prop them up against tree trunks and branches. Woodpeckers also have very long tongues, which help them get at insects deep within trees. Woodpeckers are often heard drumming loudly on trees before they are seen. Woodpeckers can even become pests if they learn to drum on siding of a house. Woodpeckers can easily be attracted to backyard bird feeders with sunflower seeds or suet. Suet is a kind of animal fat that is very tasty to woodpeckers and other birds.

1. Why do woodpeckers have long tongues?
  - (1) To get at insects on the ground
  - (2) To eat seeds
  - (3) To get at insects deep within trees
  - (4) So that they can drum on trees

2. When do woodpeckers sometimes become pests?

- (1) When they become extinct
- (2) When they visit feeders
- (3) When they eat suet
- (4) When they drum on houses

3. Woodpeckers are often .....

- (1) found in Australia
- (2) found in the North Pole
- (3) heard before they are seen
- (4) seen before they are heard

4. The two largest woodpeckers in the world are

- (1) pests
- (2) most likely no longer on Earth
- (3) normally found at bird feeders
- (4) found all over the world

5. Which one of the following is a synonym of the word 'Attracted'?

- (1) Prevent
- (2) Reject
- (3) Discourage
- (4) Charm

### Passage 38

Humming birds are amazing little birds. They are the smallest of all birds and weigh less than even a penny. The bee humming bird, at barely more than two inches long, is the smallest bird in the world!

Unlike most birds, humming birds have iridescent feathers. Iridescent feathers glitter and shine in the Sun. Humming birds are often dazzling combinations of greens and reds or greens and blues. Others are violet, orange, golden, silver or other combinations only Mother Nature could dream up. All humming birds have long bills to insert into flowers. Some humming birds have special bills to fit into specific flowers. Humming birds are the only birds that can fly backwards.

Humming birds are also unique among bird species in that they drink nectar from flowers. You can attract humming birds to your yard with special feeders that are filled with sugar water. These feeders are usually bright red in colour because humming birds are attracted to red.

1. Humming birds are the only birds that

- (1) can fly backwards
- (2) are small
- (3) will come to bird feeders
- (4) are green

2. Compared to other birds, humming birds are

- (1) about the same size
- (2) lighter
- (3) heavier
- (4) larger

3. To attract humming birds to your yard, put up feeders with ..... in them.

- (1) sugar water
- (2) flowers
- (3) berries
- (4) seeds

4. What colour is most humming birds feeders?

- (1) White
- (2) Green
- (3) Red
- (4) Golden

5. Humming birds eat

- (1) insects
- (2) berries
- (3) the story doesn't say
- (4) flower nectar

### Passage 39

The first battle of the American Revolution occurred at Lexington, Massachusetts in 1775. The American colonists were angry about numerous taxes issued by the British king. In 1776, the colonists issued the Declaration of Independence, a document written by Thomas Jefferson that outlined America's intention to become a new country separate from England. England wanted to maintain control of America, and vowed to fight the colonists. The war lasted eight long years. The Americans won many important battles such as those at Saratoga and Yorktown. Many American heroes emerged such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. Finally, in 1781, the British surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia and a new nation was born two years later.

1. Why did the war happen?

- (1) Colonists were angry about their bad living conditions.
- (2) England attacked the colonists.
- (3) Colonists were angry about having to pay so many taxes.
- (4) Colonists wanted to have more land.

2. Which of the following was not true about the Declaration of Independence?

- (1) It said that the colonists wanted their own country.
- (2) It said that England wanted a separate country.
- (3) It said that colonists wanted to be separate from England.
- (4) It was written by Thomas Jefferson.

3. Which of the following was not an American hero who emerged from the war?

- (1) Thomas Jefferson
- (2) George Washington
- (3) Benjamin Franklin
- (4) Abraham Lincoln

4. What happened first?
  - (1) The Declaration of Independence
  - (2) The Revolutionary War
  - (3) Evolution of heroes
  - (4) Many taxes were issued against the colonists
5. What happened last?
  - (1) The Battle of Lexington
  - (2) The Declaration of Independence
  - (3) Many taxes were issued against the colonists
  - (4) The Americans won important battles at Saratoga and Yorktown

### Passage 40

At this stage of civilisation, when many nations are brought into close and vital contact for good and evil, it is essential, as never before, that their gross ignorance of one another should be diminished, that they should begin to understand a little of one another's historical experience and resulting mentality. It is the fault of the English to expect the people of other countries to react as they do, to political and international situations. Our genuine goodwill and good intentions are often brought to nothing, because we expect other people to be like us. This would be corrected if we knew the history, not necessarily in detail but in broad outlines, of the social and political conditions which have given to each nation its present character.

1. According to the author of 'Mentality' of a nation is mainly product of its
  - (1) history
  - (2) international position
  - (3) politics
  - (4) present character
2. The need for a greater understanding between nations
  - (1) was always there
  - (2) is no longer there
  - (3) is more today than ever before
  - (4) will always be there
3. The character of a nation is the result of its
  - (1) mentality
  - (2) cultural heritage
  - (3) gross ignorance
  - (4) socio-political conditions
4. According to the author his countrymen should
  - (1) read the story of other nations
  - (2) have a better understanding of other nations
  - (3) not react to other actions
  - (4) have vital contacts with other nations

5. Englishmen like others to react to political situations like
 

(1) us	(2) themselves
(3) others	(4) each others

### Passage 41

What needs to be set right is our approach to work. It is a common sight in our country of employees reporting for duty on time and at the same time doing little work. If an assessment is made of time they spent in gossiping, drinking tea, eating 'pan' and smoking cigarettes, it will be shocking to know that the time devoted to actual work is negligible. The problem is the standard which the leadership in administration sets for the staff. Forget the ministers because they mix politics and administration. What do top bureaucrats do? What do the below down officials do? The administration setup remains weak mainly because the employees do not have the right example to follow and they are more concerned about being in the good books of the bosses than doing work.

1. The employees in our country
  - (1) are quite punctual but not duty conscious
  - (2) are not punctual, but somehow manage to complete their work
  - (3) are somewhat lazy but good natured
  - (4) are not very highly qualified
2. According to the writer, the administration in India
  - (1) is by and large effective
  - (2) is very strict and firm
  - (3) is affected by red tape
  - (4) is more or less ineffective
3. The word 'assessment' means
 

(1) enquiry	(2) report
(3) evaluation	(4) summary
4. The leadership in administration
  - (1) sets a fine example to the employees
  - (2) is of a reasonably high standard
  - (3) is composed of idealists
  - (4) is of a very poor standard
5. The central idea of the passage could be best expressed by the following
  - (1) The employee outlook towards work is justified
  - (2) The employees must change their outlook towards work
  - (3) The employees would never change their work culture
  - (4) The employer-employee relationship is far from healthy

**Passage 42**

Emily and dad planted a garden. Emily waited for the plants to grow. Then, she watched for the vegetables to get ripe. “When can we pick the tomatoes?” Emily asked. “Tomorrow”, said Dad. But, as the Sun came up, squirrel chomped on every tomato.

Emily’s dog, Molly, munched on the cucumbers.

When the Sun climbed high in the sky, Emily put on her garden gloves. She picked ten jalapeno peppers.

Squirrel watched from a tree. Rabbit watched from behind a bush. Molly watched from a lawn chair. In the kitchen, Emily and Dad made a big batch of spicy salsa. Emily dipped a tortilla chip in the salsa, Crunch! Everyone was happy with the harvest.

- What did the squirrel chomp?
  - Tomatoes
  - Potatoes
  - Guava
  - Berries
- What did the dog named Molly munch on?
  - Tomatoes
  - Potatoes
  - Cucumber
  - Pea
- What did Emily and her dad do with the peppers?
  - They made salsa
  - They sold it
  - They threw it
  - They didn’t do anything
- What did Emily pick from the garden?
  - Lemone
  - Jalapeno
  - Berries
  - Pea
- Who were happy with the harvest?
  - No one
  - Some one
  - Any one
  - Every one

**Passage 43**

The Rajputs have always been fighting-men. They brought up their sons to become warriors. Before a child could lift real sword, he was given a toy one and with it he slashed at the heads of animals to strengthen his baby arm. Before he could walk, he was lifted on to the back of his father’s war-horse. And if he could neither read nor write, he was not ashamed, if he could ride. In this way, the Rajput boys grew up strong and hardy, perfect horsemen and swordsmen and as a rule perfect gentlemen for they fought clean and fair.

- What are Rajputs?
  - Labourers
  - Beggars
  - Saints
  - Fighting men

- What did they want their sons to become?
  - To become kings
  - To become saints
  - To become warriors
  - To become farmers
- What did the boys do to strengthen their arm?
  - Played with a toy-sword
  - Fired guns
  - Wrestled with siblings
  - Took exercise daily
- Give the antonym of ‘war’.
  - Holiday
  - Peace
  - Special
  - Fight
- What is given to child before using the real sword?
  - A toy gun
  - A statue
  - A toy sword
  - An arrow and bow

**Passage 44**

Gandhiji always loved his people—Muslims as much as Hindus. Even when Pakistan was formed, he spoke for the Muslims of India who were comparatively few in number. Many Hindus thought that he favoured the Muslims too much. Nathuram Godse held misguided ideas of this kind. At a prayer meeting at Birla House in New Delhi, Godse shot Gandhiji on 30th January, 1948. The Great Mahatma died with ‘Hey Ram’ on his lips. He was murdered, yet he was calm and peaceful even in death. It seemed as if he were sleeping.

- Which two religions are mentioned in the passage?
  - Hinduism
  - Islamism
  - Jainism
  - Both (1) and (2)
- Who shot Gandhiji?
  - Nathuram Godse
  - Kalooram Godse
  - Vikram Godse
  - Shivlal Godse
- Who died with ‘Hey Ram’ on his lips?
  - Mahatma Gandhi
  - Subhash Chandra Bose
  - Bhagat Singh
  - Jawaharlal Nehru
- Who were less in number?
  - Hindus
  - Muslims
  - Jains
  - Buddhists
- When did Gandhiji die?
  - 1947
  - 1946
  - 1948
  - 1949



## Passage 45

Nagaland, one of India's smallest states, is located in the North-East part of India. It is bound by Myanmar on the East, Arunachal Pradesh on the North, Asom on the West and Manipur on the South. Nagaland is mostly mountainous except for the part bordering the Asom valley. The Nagas, inhabitants of Nagaland, form more than twenty tribes. *Konyak* is the largest of the Naga tribes.

Folk songs and ballads popular among the Nagas uphold such values as bravery, love, generosity etc. Dances are mostly woven around war themes and are performed with amazing mock war emotions. The bamboo dance is a well-known dance of the Nagas.

Wood carving is a famous Naga craft. The *Konyaks*, the best wood carvers among all the Naga tribes, are skilled in carving human and animal figures. Weaving is a traditional Naga art in which each tribe has its own special designs and colours. Shawls, shoulder bags and intricately woven mats and baskets make magnificent souvenirs for tourists.

1. Naga folk dances are mostly based on the theme of .....  
 (1) harvesting (2) religion  
 (3) war (4) health
2. Which Naga tribe is having the best wood carvers?  
 (1) The Angamis (2) The Konyaks  
 (3) The Zemris (4) The Aos
3. Which of the following statements is not correct?  
 (1) The Western part of Nagaland is not mountainous.  
 (2) Moatsu is a festival associated with agriculture.  
 (3) Naga girls perform the bamboo dance.  
 (4) The Konyaks are the smallest of the Naga tribes in number.
4. The word 'souvenirs' in the last paragraph means .....  
 (1) trophies or prizes  
 (2) some things to preserve the memory of an occasion  
 (3) crowns  
 (4) special shoes
5. A synonym for the word 'mock' used in the fourth paragraph is .....  
 (1) real (2) laughing  
 (3) artificial (4) ridiculing

## Passage 46

A person who looks at the good side of things sees good things. We call such a person an optimist. One, who looks at the dark side of things, is a pessimist. One, who looks at the good qualities of others, will make many friends and live a happy life. The others, will make their own as well as the lives of others miserable. We expect others not to look at or mind our bad qualities. Let us remember that the others too expect the same from us. A very good way to live a happy life with several friends is to learn to look at the qualities of others.

1. Who is an optimist?  
 (1) One who looks at the good side of things  
 (2) One who looks at the bad side of things  
 (3) One who thinks in a different way  
 (4) One who has a scientific attitude
2. What do we expect from others?  
 (1) They must help us financially  
 (2) They must be social and helpful to the poor  
 (3) They must work hard day and night  
 (4) They must not look at or mind our bad qualities
3. What does a pessimist do?  
 (1) One who looks at the good side of things  
 (2) One who looks at the dark side of things  
 (3) One who craves for status and money  
 (4) One who seeks help from others always
4. What life does an optimist lead?  
 (1) Sorrowful (2) Tensed  
 (3) Happy (4) Jealous
5. Which is the synonym to 'unhappy'?  
 (1) Miserable (2) Miser  
 (3) Stake (4) Jealous

## Passage 47

Having taken leave of his father at last, the young man set-off on a long journey into foreign lands. "When luck does not favour, an artist goes to a place where his name is not known." He said to himself and turned in a direction which he did not know. He was footsore and hungry when at last he arrived on the bank of a turbulent river, hindering his further passage until he could cross it. Espying a boat at a nearby ferry, he went thither. There were other men too, each with his fare ready in his hand. But, the young man had not even a broken cowrie on him.

"Pay the fare and only then step into the boat," the boatman told him. The young man was at his wit's end and the other people began to smile at his foolishness of going about without any money on him.



- Where was the young man going?
  - Foreign lands
  - Another state
  - Town
  - Village
- What was his condition when he came to the river bank?
  - Happy
  - Angry
  - Hungry
  - Embarrassed
- What did the other people have in their hands?
  - Luggage
  - Fare
  - Goat
  - Bucket
- What did the boatman tell him?
  - To go and take a bath first
  - To help him unload the luggage from boat
  - To sing a song for his entertainment
  - To pay the fare and then step into boat
- Why did the other people smile?
  - On his foolishness of going without money
  - On his ragged clothes
  - On his manners of behaviour
  - On his story that he told them

### Passage 48

Sugar comes from a plant which is called 'sugarcane'. The sugarcane grows in the hot countries. When sugarcane are ripe, they are cut down. Then, their large green leaves are taken off. The canes, then are tied in bundles and sent to the sugar mills. Here, they are pressed hard, so that all the juice comes out of them. The juice now looks like dirty water. It is, then cleaned and heated in iron pans. All the water goes off, leaving the sugar behind. The sugar is brown in colour. It is heated again and cleaned till it becomes white. This is called cane sugar. In the past, all the sugar we used came to India from Java and other countries. Now, sugar is made in our own country. There are many sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

- In which type of countries are sugarcane grown?
  - Hot countries
  - Cold countries
  - Humid countries
  - Arid countries
- Which are the sugar producing states in India?
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Bihar
  - UP and Bihar
  - None of these
- What is the first colour of sugar?
  - Black
  - Brown
  - Red
  - White

- Which part of sugarcane is cut off before sending them to sugar mills?
  - Roots
  - Branches
  - Seeds
  - Leaves
- The opposite word for 'tied' is
  - Untied
  - Crooked
  - Threw
  - Kept

### Passage 49

One day a cat dies due to old age and goes to heaven. There she meets the lord God himself. The lord tells the cat, "You've lived a good life and if there is any way I can make your stay in heaven more comfortable, please let me know." The cat thinks for a moment and says, "Lord, all my life I have lived with a poor family and had to sleep on the hard wooden floor. Can I have a pillow to sleep on?" The lord stops the cat and says, "Say no more", and a wonderful fluffy pillow appears.

About a week later, the lord God stops by to see the cat and finds her in a deep sleep on the pillow. The lord gently wakes the cat and asks her, "How are things since you arrived?" The cat stretches, yawns and then replies, "It's wonderful here! In fact, it is much better than I could have expected! And those little meals on wheels you've been sending by are the best!"

- The mice were tired of .....
  - eating whatever they could get
  - searching for new places to live
  - looking for work
  - getting chased by everyone
- What did the cat ask God for?
  - A mouse to eat every day.
  - Send her back to earth.
  - Give her a comfortable pillow to sleep on.
  - Make the world a better place to live.
- What will be a suitable title for this story?
  - God is great
  - The tired mice
  - Tom and Jerry
  - Cat in heaven
- Which of the following is an antonym of the word 'fluffy' in the passage?
  - Rough
  - Hard
  - Woolly
  - Messy
- Which of the following is the meaning of 'deep' in the passage?
  - Sound
  - Blissful
  - Relaxing
  - Obscure

**Passage 50**

One day, a mother duck and her little ducklings were on their way to a lake. The ducklings were very happy following their mother. All of a sudden the mother duck saw a fox. She was frightened and shouted, "Children, hurry to the lake. There's a fox."

The ducklings hurried towards the lake. The mother duck wondered what to do. She began walk back and forth dragging one wing on the ground. The fox became happy. He said to himself, "It seems that she's hurt and can't fly! I can easily catch and eat her!" Then he ran towards her. The mother duck ran, leading the fox away from the lake. The fox followed her. Now, he wouldn't be able to harm her ducklings. The mother duck looked towards her ducklings and saw that they had reached the lake. She was relieved, so she stopped and took a deep breath.

The fox thought she was tired and came closer, but the mother duck quickly spread her wings and rose up in the air. She landed in the middle of the lake and her ducklings followed her. The fox could not reach them because they were in the middle of the lake.

1. How did the mother duck save her ducklings?

- (1) By killing the fox
- (2) By running towards the lake, leaving her children
- (3) By shouting and giving instructions
- (4) By diverting the attention of the fox and letting her children move towards the lake

2. Why did the fox become happy after looking at the mother duck?

- (1) He thought the mother duck got hurt and could not fly so he could easily kill her
- (2) Because he killed the mother duck
- (3) Because he killed the ducklings
- (4) Because the fox was hungry

3. Find synonym for the word 'wonder'.

- (1) Stop
- (2) Speculate
- (3) Shout
- (4) Hurry

4. The mother duck was relieved because

- (1) she managed to escape from the fox
- (2) she entered into the lake
- (3) her ducklings reached the lake and were safe
- (4) the fox reached the lake and was safe from her

5. Write antonym for the word 'quickly'.

- (1) Lastly
- (2) Slowly
- (3) Finally
- (4) Continuously

**Answers****Passage 1**

1. (1) 2. (1) 3. (2) 4. (3) 5. (1)

**Passage 2**

1. (4) 2. (4) 3. (2) 4. (3) 5. (1)

**Passage 3**

1. (2) 2. (3) 3. (4) 4. (1) 5. (1)

**Passage 4**

1. (3) 2. (1) 3. (4) 4. (1) 5. (2)

**Passage 5**

1. (2) 2. (1) 3. (3) 4. (2) 5. (2)

**Passage 6**

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (3) 4. (3) 5. (3)

**Passage 7**

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (2) 4. (4) 5. (1)

**Passage 8**

1. (3) 2. (4) 3. (2) 4. (2) 5. (2)

**Passage 9**

1. (3) 2. (3) 3. (2) 4. (4) 5. (3)

**Passage 10**

1. (3) 2. (1) 3. (4) 4. (4) 5. (3)

**Passage 11**

1. (2) 2. (1) 3. (1) 4. (3) 5. (2)

**Passage 12**

1. (2) 2. (2) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (2)

**Passage 13**

1. (3) 2. (1) 3. (3) 4. (4) 5. (3)

**Passage 14**

1. (4) 2. (4) 3. (2) 4. (3) 5. (3)

**Passage 15**

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (4) 4. (4) 5. (2)

**Passage 16**

1. (1) 2. (1) 3. (1) 4. (2) 5. (2)

**Passage 17**

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (3)

**Passage 18**

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (2) 4. (1) 5. (4)

**Passage 19**

1. (4) 2. (4) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (4)

**Passage 20**

1. (1) 2. (1) 3. (2) 4. (3) 5. (4)

**Passage 21**

1. (4) 2. (3) 3. (4) 4. (1) 5. (2)

**Passage 22**

1. (4) 2. (2) 3. (2) 4. (4) 5. (3)

**Passage 23**

1. (1) 2. (2) 3. (3) 4. (4) 5. (4)

**Passage 24**

1. (4) 2. (4) 3. (3) 4. (4) 5. (2)

**Passage 25**

1. (4) 2. (4) 3. (3) 4. (2) 5. (4)

**Passage 26**

1. (2) 2. (3) 3. (1) 4. (4) 5. (1)

**Passage 27**

1. (4) 2. (1) 3. (4) 4. (2)

**Passage 28**

1. (2) 2. (1) 3. (2) 4. (2) 5. (3)

**Passage 29**

1. (2) 2. (3) 3. (2) 4. (3) 5. (1)

**Passage 30**

1. (4) 2. (1) 3. (2) 4. (4) 5. (2)

**Passage 31**

1. (3) 2. (3) 3. (1) 4. (4) 5. (1)

**Passage 32**

1. (4) 2. (2) 3. (1) 4. (2) 5. (4)

**Passage 33**

1. (3) 2. (1) 3. (2) 4. (4) 5. (4)

**Passage 34**

1. (4) 2. (3) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (1)

**Passage 35**

1. (2) 2. (1) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (3)

**Passage 36**

1. (3) 2. (1) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (1)

**Passage 37**

1. (3) 2. (4) 3. (3) 4. (2) 5. (4)

**Passage 38**

1. (1) 2. (2) 3. (1) 4. (3) 5. (4)

**Passage 39**

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (4) 4. (4) 5. (4)

**Passage 40**

1. (4) 2. (3) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (2)

**Passage 41**

1. (1) 2. (4) 3. (3) 4. (4) 5. (2)

**Passage 42**

1. (1) 2. (3) 3. (1) 4. (2) 5. (4)

**Passage 43**

1. (4) 2. (3) 3. (1) 4. (2) 5. (3)

**Passage 44**

1. (4) 2. (1) 3. (1) 4. (2) 5. (3)

**Passage 45**

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (3)

**Passage 46**

1. (1) 2. (4) 3. (2) 4. (3) 5. (1)

**Passage 47**

1. (1) 2. (3) 3. (2) 4. (4) 5. (1)

**Passage 48**

1. (1) 2. (3) 3. (2) 4. (4) 5. (1)

**Passage 49**

1. (4) 2. (3) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (1)

**Passage 50**

1. (4) 2. (1) 3. (2) 4. (3) 5. (2)

# Self Practice

**Directions** There are four passages in this section. Each passage is followed by five questions. Read each 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. You have to choose the correct answer and indicate your correct response.

## Passage 1

Unless mothers are truly well educated, the upbringing of the children, both male and female, must suffer in the most important stages. This must be so whatever progress is to be made in the organisation of our schools and colleges. Therefore, we must pay much greater and more scientific attention to the education of girls than we are doing now.

Rushing girls into schools and colleges and enabling them to qualify for a degree is not enough. The education we should give to girls is one that should equip them for undertaking the duties of enlightened mothers, the task of the upbringing of children, both boys and girls, in the critical years of their life.

1. Who should be necessarily well educated?  
(1) Fathers (2) Mothers  
(3) Children (4) None of these
2. Where should we pay more attention?  
(1) To the education  
(2) To the dancing classes  
(3) To the cooking classes of girls  
(4) None of these
3. What is the plural of child?  
(1) Childs (2) Children  
(3) Babies (4) None of these
4. What is the opposite gender of 'male'?  
(1) Man (2) Woman  
(3) Girl (4) Female
5. The purpose of girls' education is  
(1) enabling them to qualify for a degree  
(2) enabling them to undertake the duties of enlightened mother  
(3) enabling them to cook delicious food  
(4) not given in the passage

## Passage 2

There was a king called Midas. One day, he was walking through the fields, he met a man. He was God Pan. He challenged God Apollo to play better music than he could. King Midas was asked to be the judge. Both Gods played music well. But Midas was a great fan of God Pan the winner. Now Apollo was very angry. He shouted, "Can't you tell beautiful music when you hear it? What is wrong with your ears?" Midas ears began to grow bigger and bigger and he found that he could move them about. He ran to near by lake and saw that he had grown ass's ears.

1. What was the name of the king?  
(1) Midas (2) Pan  
(3) Apollo (4) None of these
2. Who challenged God Apollo?  
(1) Midas (2) Pan  
(3) A man (4) None of these
3. Which one of the following is a synonym of the word 'challenge'?  
(1) Approval (2) Dare  
(3) Agreement (4) Assent
4. Who became very angry?  
(1) Apollo (2) Pan  
(3) Midas (4) None of these
5. Who was the judge in the story?  
(1) Apollo (2) Midas  
(3) Pan (4) None of these

## Passage 3

The weather is very cold in taiga ecosystems. The winter season lasts a long time, and the weather is icy cold. Storms are severe, bringing biting cold winds. Summers never get very warm and the summer season is exceptionally short.

Short, stubby grass and shrubs grow in taiga regions, but they are better known for their beautiful evergreen trees. All the trees you think of when you imagine kinds of Christmas trees are at home in the taiga. Pines, firs, and spruce trees are common. The thin, waxy leaves (sometimes called needles) of evergreen trees hold in water all year round. People living and working in taiga regions often disrupt the natural balance. Activities such

as hunting, trapping and fishing affect the animal populations, sometimes thinning them to the point that they are endangered. Mining for oil and gas and harvesting trees does irreparable damage, destroying animal habitats and robbing the Earth of important oxygen sources.

- Which of the following best describes the seasons in a taiga ecosystem?
  - The winter is very cold and long, while the summer is short and slightly warm.
  - There is heavy rain in winter and the summer is hot.
  - Snow falls in the winter and rain falls in the summer.
  - None of the above
- What characteristic of the trees in the taiga is well known?
  - The tree trunks are very tall.
  - They are evergreen with thin waxy leaves.
  - The trees shed their leaves in winter.
  - The trees do not use photosynthesis for making their food.
- Which human activities disrupt the natural balance of the taiga ecosystems?
  - Planting new trees
  - Using natural resources in a way that makes resources renewable
  - Not damaging animal habitats
  - Hunting, trapping and fishing
- The phrase 'biting cold' in the first paragraph means .....
  - cold which can be tolerated
  - warm
  - very cold and unpleasant
  - None of the above

- The word 'irreparable' in the fourth paragraph means .....
  - drastic
  - too serious to put right
  - slight
  - None of these

### Passage 4

Plants need sunlight and water to make their own food. You can do an experiment to test if this is true. Place a bucket over a patch of green grass. After a few days, lift the bucket. You will see that the grass is not as green anymore. If you leave the bucket in place for a week, the grass will become very dull. This happens because the grass cannot make food in the dark. Remove the bucket. In a few days, the grass will start turning green again.

- What do plants need?
  - Grass
  - Sunlight
  - Air
  - None of these
- What is the experiment?
  - A way to grow grass
  - A way to test an idea
  - A way to use a bucket
  - A way to use air
- Give the opposite of 'Dull'?
  - Bright
  - Light
  - Brown
  - Sunlight
- According to the passage, how long does it take for the grass to become dull?
  - a month
  - a week
  - a year
  - a few days
- Why do plants need sunlight and water?
  - To do an experiment
  - To make their food
  - To consume water
  - To live longer

## Answers

### Passage 1

1. (2) 2. (1) 3. (2) 4. (4) 5. (2)

### Passage 2

1. (2) 2. (1) 3. (2) 4. (4) 5. (2)

### Passage 3

1. (1) 2. (2) 3. (4) 4. (3) 5. (2)

### Passage 4

1. (2) 2. (1) 3. (1) 4. (4) 5. (2)