

English Series 6

Some unseen comprehension passages for practice

1. Read the passage and answer the questions given below 10

It had been a tiring day and I was looking forward to a quiet evening. My husband would not be back until late and I had decided to settle down in a comfortable armchair in the living-room and read a book. I put the children to bed early and prepared a cold supper and some coffee. Soon I was sitting comfortably with a tray full of food before me and a book at my side. I was just beginning to eat when the telephone rang. I dropped my knife and fork and hurried to answer it. By the time I got back to the living-room, my coffee was already cold. After I finished my supper, I began drinking cold coffee with my book open at page one. Suddenly there was a loud knock at the door. It gave me such a surprise that I spilt the coffee and made an ugly stain on my skirt. Some stranger had lost his way and wanted me to direct him. It took me ages to get rid of him. At length I managed to sit down again and actually read a whole page without further interruption - until the baby woke up. He began crying loudly and I rushed upstairs. The baby was still awake at 11 o'clock when my husband came home. I could have screamed when he asked me if I had spent a pleasant evening.

- A. Write 'True' or 'False' against the following sentences : 4x0.5=2
- a) The writer wanted to get a rest in the evening.
 - b) When the telephone rang she was reading a book.
 - c) A stranger asked her to tell him the way to his destination.
 - d) The husband came home at eleven at night.
- B. Rewrite the following sentences in the correct order: 4x0.5=2
- a) She heard a loud knock at the door.
 - b) She prepared a supper.
 - c) Her baby woke up and cried loudly.
 - d) She started to take her meal.
- C. Answer the following questions: 3x2=6
- a) Who was the writer waiting for?
 - b) How did she intend to spend the evening?
 - c) What happened when she was reading the book?

2. Read the passage and answer the questions given below:

10

As with many insects, the glow-worm's life is divided into four distinct stages: the egg, the larva (equivalent to the caterpillar of a butterfly), the pupa and the adult. The glow-worm begins its life in the autumn as a pale yellow egg. The freshly laid egg is extremely fragile but within a day its surface has hardened into a shell. The egg usually takes about 35 days to hatch, but the exact time varies according to the temperature, from about 27 days in hot weather to more than 45 days in cold weather. By the time it is due to hatch, the glow-worm's light organ is fully developed, and its glow signals that the egg will soon hatch.

After it has left the egg, the larva slowly grows from a few millimeters into the size and shape of the match stick. The larva stage is the only time the insect can feed. The larva devotes

much of its life to feeding and building up its food reserves so that as an adult it will be able to concentrate all its efforts on the task of finding a mate and reproducing. Throughout its time as a larva, approximately 15 months, the glow-worm emits a bright light. The larva's light is much fainter than the adult female's but it can still be seen more than five meters away.

In the final stage of glow-worm's life, the larva encases itself in a pupal skin while it changes from the simple larva to the more complex adult fly. When the adult fly emerges from the pupa the male seeks a female with whom it can mate. After mating, the female lays about 120 eggs. The adult flies have no mouth parts, can not eat and therefore only live a few days. When people talk of seeing a glow-worm they normally mean the brightly glowing adult female.

A. Match the following:

4x0.5=2

Column 'A'

- a) extremely
- b) shell
- c) mate
- d) emerge

Column 'B'

- i) to have sex to produce young
- ii) to appear or become known
- iii) to a very high degree
- iv) the hard outer part of eggs

B. Write 'True' or 'False' against the following sentences:

4x0.5=2

- a) The time taken by the egg to hatch depends on temperature.
- b) The shape of fully grown larva is matchstick.
- c) The larva stage is the shortest stage.
- d) The adult glow-worm spends maximum time to eat.

C. Answer the following questions:

3x2=6

- a) Name the four stages of glow-worm's life.
- b) How many days does the glow-worm's egg take to hatch?
- c) Why can't adult glow-worm live longer?

3. Read the passage and answer the questions given below:

10

Now that smoking is considered to be very dangerous to the health, it is especially difficult for children to buy cigarettes or tobacco. Our tobacconist, Mr Soames, has always been very careful about this. If his customers are very young, he always asks them whom the cigarettes are for.

One day, a little girl whom he had never seen before walked boldly into his shop and demanded twenty cigarettes. She had the exact amount of money in her hand and seemed very sure of herself. Mr Soames was so surprised by her confident manner that he forgot to ask his usual question. Instead, he asked her what kind of cigarettes she wanted. The girl replied promptly and handed him the money. While he was giving her the cigarettes, Mr Soames said laughingly that as she was so young she should hide the packet in her pocket in case a policeman saw it. However, the little girl did not seem to find this very funny. Without even smiling she took the packet and walked towards the door. Suddenly she stopped, turned round, and looked steadily at Mr Soames. There was a moment's deathly silence and the tobacconist wondered what she was going to say. All at once, in a clear, solemn voice, the girl declared, 'My dad is a policeman,' and with that she walked quickly out of the shop.

A. Write 'True' or 'False' against the following sentences:

0.5x4=2

- a) Children are not allowed to buy cigarettes.
- b) A little girl bought a packet of cigarette.
- c) Mr Soames did not ask the girl whom the cigarettes were for.

- d) The girl left the shop with a smile.
- B. Fill up the blanks with appropriate words from the text: $4 \times 0.5 = 2$
- Mr Soames was a
 - The little girl had the exact amount of money for
 - Mr Soames never forget to ask whom the cigarettes were for.
 - The girl's father was a
- C. Answer the following questions: $4 \times 0.5 = 2$
- Why did the little girl go to the shop ?
 - What did Mr Soames advise the girl after giving her the cigarettes ?
 - What was the reason that the girl was not afraid of the police ?

4. Read the following text and do the exercises given below: 10

The phone rang on the Dr Allen's desk. "Hello," she said, picking up the phone. "Dr Allen here." "Oh, good morning, Dr Allen," a voice said. "It's Jenny Anderson here, Professor Smith's secretary. It's about the meeting on Monday. You are definitely coming, aren't you?" "The meeting. Yes, of course," Dr Allen said, looking in her diary. "It's at eleven, I see." "Well, no. We had to change the time," Jenny Anderson said. "It's going to be at twelve. I'm sure I told you." "But I've got a lecture at twelve," Dr Allen said. "But surely you can cancel your lecture – just for once," Jenny Anderson suggested. "The meeting's very important, as you know." "I've never cancelled a lecture in my life," Dr Allen told her. "Sorry!" There was a silence. "However," she went on, "I've got an idea. I've just got a new cassette recorder – rather a good one, in fact. I'll record my lecture beforehand – and then I'll be able to come to the meeting." "Wonderful," said Jenny Anderson. "I'll tell Professor Smith you'll be there, then."

At five to twelve on Monday morning Dr Allen went along to the lecture room. There were about twenty students waiting for her. "I'm sorry," she told them, "I won't be able to give my lecture today." The students looked surprised. Dr Allen explained that she had an important meeting. "However," she went on, "although I can't be with you myself, my voice can!" She gestured towards the cassette recorder on the table. "You see, I've recorded my lecture and you can listen to it while I go to my meeting. So, in a way, I'll be in two places at once! One of the miracles of modern science!" Feeling rather pleased with herself, Dr Allen switched on the cassette recorder and left.

The meeting in Professor Smith's office finished a little early, so Dr Allen decided to go back to the lecture room. She stood for a moment outside the door, listening to her own voice. Then, very quietly, she opened the door. To her surprise, the room was empty. But then, as she looked around, she saw a number of small cassette recorders – all 'listening' to her lecture!

"Well," she thought, "if I can be in two places at once, so can they!"

- A. Find the words from the text which are similar in meaning to the following words: $4 \times 0.5 = 2$
- Certainly
 - earlier
 - wonderful event
 - vacant
- B. Put the following statements in the correct order: $4 \times 0.5 = 2$
- She told them that her voice could be with them.
 - Students were waiting for her lecture.
 - Dr Allen was told to attend a meeting at 12.
 - She recorded her lecture and went to the classroom at 11:55.
- C. Answer the following questions: $3 \times 2 = 6$

- a) Who was Jenny Anderson?
- b) What was Dr. Allen's idea not to cancel the lecture?
- c) What did Dr. Allen see when she returned to the lecture room? Was she angry?

5. Read the passage and answer the questions given below:

10

The government claims that legislation on abortion and the newly- launched Safe Delivery and Free Health Services Programme have helped reduce the combined maternal mortality and morbidity ratio. In 2006, it stood at per 1,000 live, births, in 2009, the ratio came down to 229 per 1,000 live births, a significant improvement in material mortality rate in three years. The rate of progress makes it likely that Nepal will meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) of 134 per 1,000 live births by 2015.

The government has launched the National Free Health Service and Free Maternity Health services Programme. According to new provisions, the government funded health outlets across the country would provide necessary maternity services. For instance, the government-run Aama Safety Programme will reimburse the transportation costs incurred by pregnant women during travel. These incentives have led to an increase in the number of pregnant women seeking health care services. But worryingly, many pregnant women continue to lose their life even after reaching health facilities. According to the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Study, 80 percent of the pregnancy related deaths in health outlets are due their late arrival and in critical conditions. The number of women dying during abortion has also doubled despite the legalization of abortion in the country in 2002- as even the clinically trained health care providers do not possess required expertise. Moreover, many women seek abortion late into their pregnancies, which can be fatal if the pregnancy exceeds 12 weeks, the safe and legal limit for abortion.

As such, many challenges lie on the path of providing women with quality maternity services. One such challenge is to ensure that enough health care providers such as doctors and nurses are available at rural health and sub-health posts. The health care personnel posted in a particular place should serve out their terms rather than being transferred midterm with the change in the government, as has been happening thus far. But more man power alone will not be enough. Infrastructure like beds and delivery equipment should also be in adequate supply for them to function effectively. Hence, a comprehensive approach to maternal health is the need of the hour.

A. Match the words in column 'A' to their meanings in column 'B':

4x0.5=2

Column 'A'

Column 'B'

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| i) keep on | significant |
| ii) threat | incentive |
| iii) important | continue |
| iv) something that encourages someone to do something | challenge |

B. State whether the following statements are 'True' or 'False'

4x0.5=2

- a) It is impossible that present progress rate of maternal mortality will meet the MDG of the MMR.
- b) The government run Aama-Safety Programme pays money for pregnant women for traveling cost.
- c) The safe and legal limit for abortion is more than 12 weeks.

d) Not only manpower but also infrastructure can play effective role in maternal health.

C. Answer the following questions:

2 x 3 = 6

- a) By what figure has maternal mortality in Nepal been improved in 2009 compared to 2006 ?
- b) Why has the number of women been dying doubled despite the legalization of abortion?
- c) What should be done for providing women with quality maternity services?

6. Read the following text and answer the questions given below:

10

Bill Fuller, the postman, whistled cheerfully as he pushed his bicycle up the hill towards of old Mrs Dunly's house. His work for the day was almost finished: his bag, usually quite heavy when he set out on his round, was empty now except for the letter that he had to deliver to Mrs Dunley. She lived over a mile for the village so that, when Bill had a letter for her, he always finished his day's work much later. He did not mind this, however, because she never failed to ask him for a cup of tea.

When Bill entered the gate of Mrs Dunley's house, he was surprised not to find her working in her garden. She usually spent most afternoons there when the weather was fine. Bill went straight round to the back of the house, thinking that she might be in the kitchen. The door was locked and the curtains were drawn. Puzzled, he returned to the front of the house and knocked hard on the door. There was no answer. Bill thought that this was very strange he knew that Mrs Dunley rarely left the house. Just then he noticed that her bottle of milk, which was delivered early in the morning, was still on the doorstep. This worried him. If Mrs Dunley had not taken in her milk, perhaps she was ill. Bill walked round the house until he found an open window. It was small, but he just managed to squeeze through. He went into the hall. There he almost fell over Mrs Dunley who was lying at the foot of the stairs, unconsciously. Realizing that there was little he could do for her, Bill rushed out of the house, stopped a passing car and in order to take Mrs Dunley to the City Hospital told the driver to telephone for an ambulance as soon as he got to the village.

A. Write 'True' or 'False' against the following statements: 4x0.5=2

- a) Bill was riding his bicycle up the hill.
- b) Mrs Dunley was generally fond of working in her garden.
- c) Bill went into the house through a small window.
- d) Bill had never failed to ask Mrs Dunley for a cup of tea.

B. Rearrange the following sentences in the correct order:

4x0.5=2

- a) Mrs Dunley was found senseless.
- b) Mrs Dunley was found now no where around the house.
- c) Bill entered the house.
- d) Bill took her out for treatment.

C. Answer the following questions:

3x2=6

- a) Where did Mrs Duley live ?
- b) Why was Bill surprised when he went into the main entrance ?
- c) How did Bill help Mrs Dunley ?

7. Read the advertisement and answer the questions given below:

15

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

An INGO working in the education sector in Nepal seeks a qualified Nepali national to fill a position of Deputy Director. Duty position of this position is at the INGO's office in Kathmandu and will include frequent trips to visit project sites.

Minimum Qualification

- Master's or higher Degree in Education, Management, or related field,
- At least 10 years of working experience in organizational management and HR development,
- Proven track record of working with NGOs and GO counterparts,
- Strong leadership capacity and team management skill,
- Consensual management style / democratic decision making skills,
- Excellent English language and report writing skills,
- Experience in the education sector and will be an asset,
- International experience will be considered additional asset.

Expressions of interest should be received before 15 December 2009.

Certificates need not be provided at this time. Only short-listed candidates will be notified and called for interviews. Interested applicants may submit cover letter and CV to: nep.ingo@gmail.com

We are an Equal Opportunity provider, Affirmative Action Employer committed to workplace diversity.

Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

A. Match the words given in column 'A' with their meaning in column 'B':

4x1=4

Column 'A'

- a) consensual
- b) asset
- c) committed
- d) minority

Column 'B'

- i) willing to work hard
- ii) a small group within a community
- iii) agreeable
- iv) value

B. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words from the advertisement:

4x1=4

- a) The INGO works in the field of
- b) The minimum qualification of applicants should be.....
- c) should be sent to nep.ingo@gmail.com

C. Answer the following questions:

4x2=8

- a) For what position is the vacancy announced?
- b) What is the minimum work experience of the applicants in related field?
- c) What is the dead line of application?
- d) How can applicants send their applications?

8. Read the following advertisement and answer the questions given below:

15

Are you a nursing professional ?

Are you a nursing professional?

Hams Heritage Hospitals at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu is a co-operation project between Hams Hospital Pvt. Ltd. Nepal and Heritage Hospitals Ltd. India. The hospital group has Vacancies for nursing personnel for Kathmandu as well as India operations. Candidates with a minimum PCL qualification are eligible to apply.

While the hospital in India is a well established and renowned tertiary care super speciality Hospital, the Hospital in Nepal is in the process of a major upgrade in terms of technology with various high end equipments such as CT Scanner, Digital X-ray etc. to be installed very shortly. Some of the most eminent doctors of Nepal including those from TUTH are associated with this project.

Selected candidates shall be exposed to modern equipments, up-to-date work practices and a remuneration that's at par with the best in the industry.

Candidates selected for India in addition to the standard package are also eligible for outstation allowance, free accommodation and return fare to home country once a year.

Apply with a full bio-data addressed to the Medical Director Hams Heritage Hospitals, Buddhanagar Kathmandu, Nepal within 10 days.

HAMS Heritage Hospitals

Diagnostics + Patient Care +Research

HAMS Heritage Hospitals

Buddhanagar, Kathmandu.

Help Line “: 4786111

Email: hamsheritage@hotmail.com

A. Find the words similar to the following words from the text. 4x1=4

a) tradition b) tertiary c) well-known d) allied

B. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words from the advertisement: 3x1=3

a) HAMS Heritage Hospitals is located at

b) The vacant post in the hospital is

c) is depended on the hard work of the personnel.

C. Answer the following questions: 4x2=8

a) Who founded the HAMS Heritage Hospitals ?

b) What is the plan of the hospital in Nepal ?

c) What facilities are offered to the candidates who are selected for India ?

d) Who should the applicants address to in their applications ?

9. Read the letter and answer the questions given below and answer the following questions :

Sanepa, Lalitpur
February 2, 2009

The Editor,
The Kathmandu Post,
Kathmandu.

Dear Sir,

Motor car accidents are on the increase in our city these days. Every day one gets to read in the papers people being run over by cars or hit by motorcycles. They are either being killed or seriously injured. This is most depressing.

It was only yesterday I saw an old lady, trying to cross the road at New Baneshwor, very narrowly escape being run over by a speeding car. It must have been running at a speed of 60 kilometres per hour. Such reckless driving in the city is a hazard. It causes fatal accidents to pedestrians trying to cross the road.

Although there are speed limits, drivers do not seem to care and the traffic authorities are not strict in enforcing the regulation. What use is the rule if it is not enforced or followed?

I hope your newspaper will publish this letter and raise public awareness to the hazards of reckless driving. Everyone must work together to bring pressure on the traffic police and local authorities to check reckless driving and make roads safe for the people.

Yours sincerely,
Ramesh Kattel

A. Give similar words to the following: 4x0.5=2

- a) wounded b) miserable c) careless d) consciousness

B. Choose the correct alternates and complete the following sentences: 3x1=3

a) This is an example of

- i) a business letter ii) personal letter
iii) a letter to an editor of a newspaper

b) This letter has been written

- i) to encourage the driving speed ii) to lessen road accidents
iii) to aware passers-by

c) A speeding car ran over The previous day.

- i) a girl ii) an old lady iii) Ramesh Kattel

C. Answer the following questions:

4x2=8

- a) What causes road accidents in cities ?
b) Who are responsible for not being driven vehicles in a normal way ?
c) What example of the road accident is mentioned in the letter ?
d) When was the letter written and whom is it addressed to ?

10. Read the following letter and answer the questions given below:

15

Mills Area, Janakpur
Jan. 12, 2009

To
The Chief,
The District Police Office,
Dhanusha, Janakpur.

My youngest son, Shreekanta Chauhan, a lad of fourteen, is missing. He left home to attend school, as usual, in the morning. It is now about 8 p.m. but he has not returned. We all feel worried to hijack. He generally returned home at 4:30 p.m. I have made enquiries at Janaki Boarding School where he is studying but the school authorities are unable to give me any definite clue. The school says he left school as usual at 4 o'clock. One of his class fellows, however, says that he saw him go towards the Ram Janaki Temple at about 5 p.m. with a man who appeared to be middle-aged and who wore a green jacket and black pants.

Shreekanta is of a dark complexion, with a black mole on the left side of the nose and small scar on his right cheek. He is about five feet tall and has a slender body. He walks with his head straight. His name is tattooed on his right wrist. When seen last, he was wearing his school uniform: a sky-blue shirt, grey pants a blue tie.

Please do your best to trace him safe and sound.

Yours faithfully,
Chuni Saran Chauhan

A. Match the following :

4x0.5=2

Column 'A'

Column 'B'

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| a) The missing boy was | i) physically slim with 5 feet height. |
| b) A class fellow saw him | ii) a school student. |
| c) Shreekanta looked | iii) being walked with a stranger. |

B. Rewrite the following sentences in the correct order:

4x1=4

- Chuni registered the report of missing his son to the police.
- Shreekanta left home for school as usual.
- He didn't return home from school.
- His family made enquiries at school and with friends. office .

C. Answer the following questions:

4x2=8

- What is the letter about ?
- What did the family reckon of Shreekanta missing ?
- Write any four physical features of the boy.
- Where does Shreekanta live ?

11. Read the following text and do the activities that follow:

Anuradha Koirala, who won CNN Hero of the Year 2010 Award, received a heroic welcome upon her arrival from the United States to Kathmandu. Her fans , well wishers and associates received her with open arms at the Tribhuvan International Airport. Hundreds of those present at

the airport showered garlands on her, and some out of joy even burst into tears. Scores of journalists who descended upon the airport premises to cover her homecoming scrambled for interviews and pictures.

Koirala also suffered a blow to her chest during a brief scuffle that broke out between media-persons and her well wishers.

“This award is but yours and every single Nepali here in home and abroad deserves this. It is an outcome of the solidarity you have demonstrated against the worst form of trafficking in human, domestic violence and social evils,” said Koirala. “This honour, I think, has added more responsibility on my shoulders to live up to expectations of trafficked women and girls.” Koirala maintained that she was just a medium for Nepal and Nepalis to fight for the cause. Asked if she ever expected to win the title, Koirala said, “Not at all till CNN’s Anderson copper announced my name as the winner during a star-studded ceremony at The Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on November 19. With the announcement, the first thing I remembered was my home country and I was eager to return home to share the joyous moment with you all.”

Koirala led a rally to Maiti Nepal in Gaushala later in the day. Her associates at Maiti Nepal, her workplace, rolled out a red carpet to welcome the hero.

A. Write the meaning of the following words from the text: 4x1=4

- (a) prize
- (b) output
- (c) means
- (d) function

B. Choose the best answer and complete the sentences: 3x1=3

- (a) Anuradha was warmly welcomed in ...
 - (i) Kathmandu
 - (ii) the United States
 - (iii) Los Angeles
- (b) ... made media-persons feel difficulty in movement at the airport.
 - (i) The rules of the airport
 - (ii) Nepalis in abroad
 - (iii) All Nepali people
- (c) Anuradha said the award belongs to ... by right.
 - (i) Only Koiralas
 - (ii) Nepalis in abroad
 - (iii) All Nepali people
- (d) Immediately after the announcement of her name as the winner, she desired to come back to Nepal to ...
 - (i) See her well wishers
 - (ii) Resume her work in Maiti Nepal
 - (iii) Share her happiness

C. Answer the following questions: 3x1=3

- (a) Why was Anuradha warmly welcomed?
- (b) What was she awarded the title for?
- (c) How was she welcomed at her work place, Maiti Nepal?

20. Read the following text and do the activities given below:

For me the events of last weekend were a reflection of some of the problems of society today. On Saturday afternoon, I attempted to stop a robbery at one of my local shops. No one came to my aid during my endeavours, now I have a black eye and broken ribs.

The apathy and disinterest of bystanders shocked me the four youths responsible for the robbery made their escape in a Volvo, which suggests that it is easier to make a dishonest living rather than an honest one. The shop-owner has shown no interest in my well-being and no gratitude for my attempt to protect his property.

I suppose I am fortunate that my injuries are not so serious, but I have found the experience saddening. When will the public stop turning a blind eye to such events, actively help to prevent them; and responsibility for factors such as high unemployment which lead to this sort of crime?

- A. Find the words from the above passage that are similar in meaning to the following words/phrases: $4 \times 1 = 4$
(a) Gratefulness (b) attempts (c) wounds (d) lack of concern
- B. Write whether the following statements are true or false. $4 \times 1 = 4$
(a) The passage tells about the bank robbery.
(b) The youths were successful in their attempt.
(c) The writer believes that it is better to rob people than to do an honest job.
(d) The writer was sad because he was hurt.
- C. Answer the following questions: $3 \times 2 = 6$
(a) Where did the robbery take place?
(b) How did the writer get hurt?
(c) How does the writer regard the shop-owner?