

Reading Comprehension

Comprehension of an unseen passage means a complete and thorough understanding of the passage. The main object of comprehension is to test one's ability to grasp the meaning. Reading comprehension enables students to improve their interpretation skills and enrich their vocabulary. A variety of questions like short answer type questions, completion of incomplete sentences, filling the blanks with appropriate words and exercises based on vocabulary are set forth for the purpose.

One should keep the following points in mind while answering the questions of a given passage:

1. Read the passage quickly to have some general idea of the subject matter.
2. Read the passage again and underline the important points.
3. Read the questions and try to know what has been asked.
4. Read the passage again and underline the portions where the probable answers may be available.
5. Use, as far as possible, your own words to answer the questions in a precise way.
6. Always use complete sentences while answering a question.
7. If you are asked to give the meaning of some words or phrases, try to express your idea in your own words as clearly as possible.
8. Don't give your own opinions or comments about anything unless you are asked to do so.

Passage 1

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

Ashoka was a great emperor. He thought that the duty of a great king was to protect the people and safeguard their rights. He gave protection to the public and made arrangement for justice. He instructed his officials to behave properly with the public. He engraved the message of justice and non-violence on pillars and installed them at different places. Some of the pillars still tell us about his greatness. He opened hospitals for the infirm and the old where good treatment was given to the patients. He also opened hospitals for animals. He was really great as he advocated pity and mercy for all living creatures.

I. Tick the correct alternative:

1. Ashoka engraved pillars for:
 - (a) becoming great and famous
 - (b) establishing his supremacy
 - (c) spreading the message of justice and non-violence
 - (d) getting praise from public

2. Find words from the passage which mean the same as:
 - (i) Advised
 - (ii) Weak
3. What did Ashoka think about the duty of a king?
4. What message did he engrave on pillars?
5. What did he do for the old and the infirm?
6. Where did he install the engraved pillars?
7. 'He was really great.....' How?

Passage 2

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

Discipline teaches us self-control, self-restrain and respect for laws. It produces a sense of duty. There is discipline in heavenly bodies, stars and planets. The ordered growth and decay (death) show that there is discipline everywhere in nature. The school and colleges cannot run without discipline. Discipline makes us civilized. We learn to respect the views and rights of others. Games and sports make the players disciplined. Discipline stands for law and order. A well-disciplined person always does his work (duty) honestly. If there is no discipline in society, people shall do as they please and that may be harmful for the society. Where there is no discipline, there is disorder. Without order and discipline there can be no peace in the society. Discipline keeps us within limits.

I. Tick the correct alternative:

1. Discipline teaches us -

(a) self-control	(b) respect for laws
(c) self-restrain	(d) All of the above
2. Discipline stands for -

(a) law and order	(b) law and power
(c) order and power	(d) power
3. What shows that there is discipline everywhere in nature?
4. What does a well-disciplined person always do?
5. What will happen if there is no discipline in the society?
6. How can there be peace in the society?

Passage 3

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

There is a story of a man who thought he had a right to do what he liked. One day, this gentleman was walking along a busy road, spinning his walking-stick round and round in his hand, and was trying to look important. A man walking behind him objected.

"You ought not to spin your walking-stick round and round like that!" he said.

“I am free to do what I like with my walking-stick,” argued the gentleman.

‘Of course you are,” said the other man, “but you ought to know that your freedom ends where my nose begins.”

The story tells us that we can enjoy our rights and our freedom only if they do not interfere with other people’s rights and freedom.

I. Tick the correct alternative:

1. The gentleman was walking along a-

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| (a) lonely road | (b) busy road |
| (c) narrow road | (d) dusty road |

2. The man who protested was a-

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| (a) teacher | (b) passer-by |
| (c) policeman | (d) farmer |

3. Why was the gentleman on the road moving his walking stick round and round?

4. Who objected him?

5. What argument did the gentleman give?

6. What did he say in reply?

7. What does the story tell us?