

Module 1. Reading Comprehension

Directions: Carefully read each passage below, and then answer the questions that follow. Select the choice that, on the basis of the passage, best answers the question.

Read the passage below and mark the choice that best answers the question below:

Text 1

Giant kelp is the fastest-growing plant in the world. Under ideal conditions one plant can grow as much as 2 feet a day and reach a height of 200 feet in less than five months. There are very few areas in the world where conditions are such that the giant kelp can grow and thrive. It requires an abundance of sunlight, a strong ocean current to bring up the nutrients from the bottom, a rocky ocean floor for the plant to take hold, and cool water temperatures. In the Northern Hemisphere the giant kelp is found only off the Pacific coast of North America. When conditions are right, the giant kelp flourishes in vast marine forests. For the scuba diver the experience of a kelp forest is unforgettable. There are seasonal changes to these marine forests, just as with terrestrial ones. In summer the warmer ocean temperatures cause the plant's blades to loosen, then detach, and drift slowly down toward the bottom, like the autumnal shedding of leaves in a forest. The kelp forest thus completely rejuvenates itself every two years. Moreover, the kelp forests are home to vast menageries of aquatic life. Living creatures come to the forests by the hundreds of thousands to seek refuge and food. A rocky bottom cannot support more than 100 pounds of fish per acre, but the same area covered with kelp can support three times as much

Comprehension question:

What is NOT suggested in the passage?

- A. Giant kelp is the fastest growing plant in the world
- B. Giant kelp can only grow in few areas with suitable conditions
- C. The area covered with kelp can support three times as much fish as the area without
- D. Because of the drop in ocean temperature the plant's blades detach, similar to the shedding of leaves
- E. Every two years the kelp forest is completely restored

Text 2

Read the passage below and mark the choice that best answers the question below

Salt comes from dead, dried-up seas or living ones. It can bubble to the surface as brine or crop out in the form of salt licks and shallow caverns. Below the skin of the earth it lies in white veins, some of them thousands of feet deep. It can be evaporated from salt "pans," boiled down from brine, or mined, as it often is today, from shafts extending half a mile down. . The history of the world according to salt is simple: animals wore paths to salt licks; men followed; trails became roads, and settlements grew beside them. When the human menu shifted from salt-rich game to cereals, more salt was needed to supplement the diet. But the underground deposits were beyond reach, and the salt sprinkled over the surface was insufficient. Scarcity kept the mineral precious. As civilization spread, salt became one of the world's principal trading commodities.

Comprehension question:

The selection suggests that historically

- A. Salt was hard to obtain and therefore expensive
- B. Salt was plentiful
- C. Animals helped people find salt
- D. Salt was often sprinkled over the surface
- E. The history of the world is simple

Text 3

Read the passage below and mark the choice that best answers the question below

Total colour-blindness is most uncommon among the people who are classified as colour-blind. Actually, this disability covers three different types. Some colour-blind people see all colours as we normally do – except for an inability to see red or green. There are the people who must memorize that the top light in a traffic signal is always the red one. Then there are others who are unable to distinguish yellows and blues. The person who is unable to see any colours at all sees the world in shades of light and dark grays. The world to him is much like a black and white movie.

Comprehension question:

A suitable title for this selection is

- A. Total blindness
- B. Total colour-blindness
- C. Distinguishing colours
- D. Types of colour-blindness
- E. Incidence of colour-blindness

Text 4

Read the passage below and mark the choice that best answers the question below

Trees grow tall and wide-crowned as a measure of competition with other trees, racing upward, reaching outward for sunlight and water. And a tree doesn't stop getting larger – as a terrestrial mammal does, or a bird, their size constrained by gravity, but not in the same way as a condor or a giraffe. It doesn't need to locomote, and it fortifies its structure by continually adding more wood. Given the constant imperative of seeking resources from the sky and the soil, and with sufficient time, a tree can become huge and then keep growing. Giant sequoias are gigantic because they are very, very old. They have survived all the threats that could have killed them.

Comprehension question:

The passage suggests that

- A. Giant sequoias are the largest trees on earth
- B. Trees keep growing throughout the entire time of their existence
- C. In many ways trees are like animals
- D. Birds are much smaller than trees and mammals
- E. Trees feed on soil minerals

Text 5

Read the passage below and mark the choice that best answers the question below

By the 1850s, Russian interest in Alaska began to wane as a consequence of changing economic prospects and geopolitical concerns. The fur trade in sea otter pelts, which had been profitable in Russian America for more than a century, slumped for both ecological and commercial reasons. Russia's contemporaneous acquisition of new lands from China lessened further the importance of Alaska. After weighing all its options, the tsarist government concluded that it had little choice but to sell its American colony. Great Britain had shown sustained interest in obtaining Alaska as an addition to its territory in British North America (Canada), and had potentially threatened it during the Crimean War. Russia in particular recognized that the long-standing economic ambition of the Hudson's Bay Company to tap Alaskan resources made the region vulnerable to British designs. But, after losing the Crimean War to Britain, France, and Turkey in 1856, the tsar was in no mood to negotiate with Great Britain or to see Alaska absorbed by a recent enemy. Russia thus turned to the only other potential buyer, the United States.

Comprehension question:

Russia decided to sell Alaska to the United States because

- A. It started selling sea otters' fur to the United States
- B. Alaska lost its importance for Russia because it had acquired other new lands and the USA was the only political option
- C. The region was vulnerable to British designs
- D. Russia wanted to consolidate its ties with the USA
- E. Great Britain was not interested in buying Alaska

Text 6**Read the passage below and mark the choice that best answers the question below**

Should governments make their citizens exercise more and eat less? New York has been at the forefront of the battle of the bulge. Its mayor, Michael Bloomberg, thinks he knows best and he is rich enough not to care if others disagree. He did encounter vocal opposition when he proposed last summer to ban the sale of giant containers of sugary drinks. In a hearing conducted by New York City's Board of Health, Mary Markowitz, the borough president of Brooklyn testified against Mr Bloomberg's plan. "I'm overweight not because I drink Big Gulp sodas, but frankly because I eat too much pasta, pastrami sandwiches, pizza, bagels with cream cheese and lox, red velvet cake and cheesecake, don't exercise as much as I should, and my genes are working against me. I was an overweight kid and I'm an overweight adult."

Comprehension question:

Which is NOT correct according to the passage?

The campaign of the mayor of New York

- A. targeted a ban on the sale of giant containers of sugary drinks
- B. was welcomed by all New-Yorkers
- C. faced many protests
- D. was focused on fighting obesity
- E. was proposed as a way to encourage healthy living

Text 7**Read the passage below and mark the choice that best answers the question below**

It wasn't long before the early settlers in North America realized that they were lacking sufficient manpower to plant, harvest and process the backbreaking crop of sugar cane. The first slave ships arrived in 1505 and continued unabated for more than 300 years. Most came from western Africa, where Portuguese colonies had already established trading outposts for ivory, pepper and other goods. To most of the European merchants, the people they put on cargo ships across the Atlantic – a horrendous voyage known as the Middle Passage – were merely an extension of the trading system already in place. By the middle of the 19th century, more than 10 million Africans had been forcibly removed to the New World and distributed among the sugar plantations of the Brazil and the Caribbean. During these three centuries sugar was by far the most important of the overseas commodities that accounted for a third of Europe's entire economy.

Comprehension question:

According to the passage the Middle Passage was:

- A. journey made by slaves from Africa to sugar plantations
- B. voyage from Europe to new colonies
- C. one of the medieval rites
- D. the settlers' way to respond to harvesting different crops
- E. a new way of dealing with distributing sugar

Text 8

Read the passage below and mark the choice that best answers the question below

At the most basic level, an underlying rule in all English conversation is the proscription of ‘earnestness’. Although we may not have a monopoly on humour, or even on irony, the English are probably more acutely sensitive than any other nation to the distinction between ‘serious’ and ‘solemn’, between ‘sincerity’ and ‘earnestness’. This distinction is crucial to any kind of understanding of Englishness. I cannot emphasize it strongly enough: if you are not able to grasp these subtle but vital differences, you will never understand the English – and even if you speak the language fluently, you will never feel or appear entirely at home in conversation with the English. Your English may be impeccable, but your behavioural ‘grammar’ will be full of glaring errors.

Comprehension question:

It is suggested in the passage that

- A. The English value earnestness highly
- B. Having an excellent command of English is not enough – you need to have a grasp of the way the English behave.
- C. Grasping behavioural differences needn’t be emphasized
- D. The English are known for their sense of humour
- E. It is important to speak English fluently in order to understand the English

Text 9

Read the passage below and mark the choice that best answers the question below

If you feel bored, frustrated and trapped in your job, you are a likely candidate for not just a job change but a “downshift”. This trend from the US, where it is practiced by ten per cent of the population, has arrived in Britain. But how do you achieve one aspect of the downshifter’s dream – financial independence? First, try living on less money. Ms Jones, co-author of the book “The Downshifter’s Guide to Happier, Simpler Living” suggests you don’t use money to keep the treadmill turning. Downshifting doesn’t necessarily mean changing your job, but taking steps to stop your work taking over your life. It can involve flexible working, job sharing. School term-time – working or cutting down to fewer days at work. All of these things can lead to a better quality of life.

Comprehension question:

Which of the statements below is supported by the passage?

- A. Personal time should be given more priority than company time
- B. The harder you work the more money you get
- C. Work should always be enjoyable and fun
- D. It’s impossible to strike a balance between personal time and company time
- E. Downshifting means simpler living, i.e. trading part of your income for more time

Text 10

Read the passage below and mark the choice that best answers the question below

Japan’s sliding birth rate has created many one-child families, and although daughters can manage the company back-office, in Japan its outward face must still be male, says Chieko Dare. She is one of several marriage consultants who help match ambitious young men and the marriageable daughters of business families. If the meetings go well, the men agree to drop their own surname and are adopted by their new bride’s family, becoming both the head of the clan and of its business. Ms Dare’s consultancy claims to have brokered 600 of these marriages. Most of her clients are families who own small and medium-sized businesses. She says the union can not be just a business transaction. If the couples do not like each other, both marriage and business will fail.

Comprehension question:

The passage suggests that

- A. Marriages between ambitious young men and marriageable girls can only take place with the help of a marriage consultancy
- B. Chieko Dare's consultancy is the most successful marriage consultancy in Japan
- C. Son-in-law adoptions are a growing trend in Japan because traditionally, men but not women, head businesses
- D. The reason sons-in-law are adopted by their new bride's family is that they do not like their own names
- E. Marrying into a business family is always strictly business

Module 2

Use of English. Grammar

2.1 Tenses/Temporality

Select the correct form of the verb

11. I was extremely shocked to hear that Peter arrested

- A. is
- B. will have been
- C. had been
- D. was
- E. had

Select the correct form of the verb

12. You can borrow my suitcase if you it back

- A. will bring
- B. bring
- C. have brought
- D. will have brought
- E. would bring

Select the correct form of the verb

13. Why are you so late? I here now for an hour

- A. am waiting
- B. have been waiting
- C. will have been waiting
- D. will wait
- E. had waited

Select the correct form of the verb

14. Teenagers today live at a time of great uncertainty and are more likely to complain of life stressful than young people of previous generations

- A. finding, do
- B. having found, would
- C. finding, did
- D. found, -
- E. find, will

Mark the most suitable answer

15. He that he had just arrived from Beijing

- A. talked
- B. said
- C. told
- D. had spoken
- E. rejected

Module 2 Use of English –Grammar

2.2 Modality. Modal verbs

Mark the most suitable option to complete the sentence

16. I think I left my wallet behind. I need to go back to your office and check

- A. might have
- B. might
- C. should
- D. could
- E. ought to have

Mark the most suitable option to complete the sentence

17. One month earlier, Alair Schroeder lost her wedding band at the lake's dog beach her brother not been visiting from out of town with his dog

- A. would never have, had
- B. would have, should
- C. had, if
- D. may have, provided
- E. should have, had

Mark the most suitable option to complete the sentence

18. I have friends who love to stay at home, but they go to work

- A. should, need
- B. would, have to
- C. may, had to
- D. ought to, should
- E. shall, must

Mark the most suitable option to complete the sentence

19. I wish I his phone number so that I could call him now

- A. knew
- B. had known
- C. would know
- D. will know
- E. would have known

Module 2 Use of English – Grammar

2.3 Adverbs, Adjectives, Quantifiers, Intensifiers, un/countable nouns)

Mark the most suitable option

20. When changing jobs, it is important to consider salary and benefits

- A. both
- B. either
- C. yet
- D. or
- E. neither

Mark the most suitable option

21. According to the latest survey the figures were three times in France ... in Germany

- A as high ... as
- B higher ... to
- C. highest ... than
- D the size of
- E. as low ... then

Mark the most suitable option

22. One of the most frequent complaints among airline passengers is that there is not legroom.

- A. many
- B. very
- C. plenty
- D. enough
- E. sufficiently

Mark the most suitable option

23. I was very grateful to my host family because they took of me

- A. a good care
- B. the good care

- C. the better care
- D. good cares
- E. the best care

Module 2 Use of English – Grammar

2.4 Situations

Mark the most suitable option to complete the dialogue between two people

24. Where should I hand in this application?

- A. By the end of the month
- B. At window number four
- C. Sorry, I don't have one
- D. Because it is important
- E. I haven't applied yet

Mark the most suitable option to complete the dialogue between two people

25. Whose coffee cup is this on my desk?

- A. It's not his desk
- B. I don't think so
- C. Cream and sugar, please
- D. I was wondering where I left it!
- E. What a nice gift!

Mark the most suitable option to complete the dialogue between two people

26. Who's the new chef at Fontaine's bakery?

- A. They now open at six in the morning
- B. The bakery has been there for five years
- C. The man who worked at Central Pastry Shop
- D. I don't think so
- E. I like croissants

Module 2. Use of English -Grammar

2.5 Phrasal Verbs and Prepositions

Mark the most suitable option

27. He turned two hours late and then expected me to fix dinner for him.

- A. Back
- B. Over
- C. Up
- D. In
- E. Down

Mark the most suitable option

28. You can have the car, but please it back in one piece

- A. take
- B. carry
- C. bring
- D. pick
- E. fetch

Mark the most suitable option

29. My French is very rusty. I must before I go to Paris

- A. brush it up
- B. brush up it
- C. brush it through
- D. brush it down

E. brush over it

Mark the most suitable option

30. I knew I couldn't really afford a new coat but she *persuaded* me to buy it

- A. talked me over
- B. talked back to me
- C. talked me up
- D. talked me into it
- E. talked me out of it

Module 3. Use of English – Vocabulary

3.1 Phraseology /Collocations

Mark the most suitable option

31. In the distance they a glimpse of a dark green car

- A. grabbed
- B. took
- C. caught
- D. found
- E. got

Mark the most suitable option

32. The bus station is located near museums, monuments and other tourist attractions in the city

- A. conditionally
- B. conveniently
- C. affordably
- D. belatedly
- E. comfortably

Mark the most suitable option

33. He was not the brightest student in the class but he studied really which was all his parents expected of him.

- A. hard
- B. difficult
- C. well
- D. easy
- E. badly

Mark the most suitable option

34. He is not very reliable. Most of what he is saying should be taken with a pinch of

- A. sugar
- B. pepper
- C. salt
- D. coffee
- E. cocoa

Mark the most suitable option

35. Would you like me to give you a lift? No, I'll get to the theatre under my own

- A. steam
- B. vapour
- C. air
- D. water
- E. smoke

Which feeling or state of mind does each sentence refer to? Mark the most suitable answer

36. Sometimes she had to *pinch herself* to make sure it was not all a dream
- A. angry
 - B. happy
 - C. sad
 - D. incredulous
 - E. disgusted

Module 3 Use of English – Vocabulary
3.2 Synonyms, Antonyms, Paronyms

Mark the most suitable option that will best complete the meaning of the sentence
Mark the most suitable option that will best complete the meaning of the sentence

37. The teacher ... the girl's apology and let her off.
- A. approved
 - B. agreed
 - C. accepted
 - D. applied
 - E. attracted

Mark the most suitable option that will best complete the meaning of the sentence

38. The audience showed a lack of enthusiasm
- A. distinctive
 - B. distinct
 - C. distinguished
 - D. distant
 - E. dysfunctional

Mark the most suitable option that will best complete the meaning of the sentence

39. One of the major responsibilities of this position is to approve proposals and to their implementation
- A. override
 - B. oversee
 - C. overbear
 - D. overcome
 - E. overtake

Mark the most suitable option that will best complete the meaning of the sentence

40. This knife is too to cut the bread
- A. dumb
 - B. dull
 - C. crisp
 - D. ductile
 - E. blunt