



NDA/NA ENGLISH MASTERY SERIES

MODULE 16

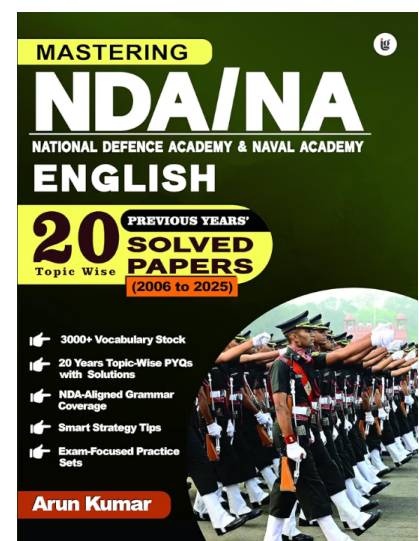
Reading Comprehension

Previous-years NDA/NA comprehension passages with questions and explanations.

From the book

MASTERING NDA/NA ENGLISH

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COMPREHENSION SKILLS

FROM PREVIOUS YEARS' NDA/NA QUESTIONS

[2010 – NDA/ NA I]

PASSAGE - I

When we talk of education in our present age, we think largely in terms of schools and colleges. The man who is well-to-do spends money in sending his son to foreign lands, in the belief that some wonderful process will take place there transforming a dull fellow into a genius. Yet the products of expensive schools and universities often fail to make good. On the other hand, the poor man who has struggled against adversity often earns the highest honour. The fact is that the true background of early education is the home. The home, the influence of the mother, the inspiring examples that are held before the child at an age while he is impressionable, are the true groundwork of character.

1. According to the passage, who helps in our character-building?

- (a) A foreign university
- (b) A well-to-do man
- (c) Examples that inspire
- (d) A man who has earned honour

2. The proper background of early education is

- (a) a school
- (b) a college
- (c) a religious institution
- (d) the home

3. From the passage, we get an impression that the highest honour is earned by

- (a) a man who has received education in a foreign country
- (b) a man who has struggled against adversity
- (c) a man who has seen prosperity alone
- (d) the son of a prosperous man

4. A well-to-do man sends his son to foreign lands

- (a) because it is the fashion of the day
- (b) in the belief that his dull son will be transformed into a genius
- (c) so that the son may learn the customs of those countries
- (d) in order to make his son familiar with the persons and places of those countries

5. The expression "the products of expensive schools and universities often fail to make good" means

- (a) they fail to make a mark in life
- (b) they fail to become intelligent
- (c) they fail to earn proper living
- (d) they do not earn good reputation

PASSAGE - 2

The functional declines of advancing age are depressing. The heart's ability to pump blood drops about one per

cent; blood flow to arms and legs decreases by thirty to forty per cent in old age. The amount of air a person can exhale after a deep breath lessens and the chest wall stiffens with age. However, recent studies have shown that most of these age-associated declines can be delayed by exercise. Exercise lowers the resting heart rate and increases the amount of blood pumped with each beat in older people. When stress is placed on bones through exercise, calcium content rises, with the result that resistance to fracture is improved.

6. Old age is generally a depressing period because

- (a) old people worry more than others
- (b) old people tend to regret their past
- (c) various organs of the body function less efficiently
- (d) old people do very little work

7. The strength of bones can be increased by exercise, because it

- (a) increases the amount of blood pumped by the heart
- (b) increases calcium content in bones
- (c) increases the amount of air exhaled by a person
- (d) lessens the stiffness of the chest wall

8. The word 'exhale' means

- (a) breathe in
- (b) breathe out
- (c) breathe slowly
- (d) breathe fast

9. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Exercise delays natural decay of old age
- (b) Old age problems increase due to exercise
- (c) Exercise increases the heart-beat which is dangerous
- (d) Exercise creates stress which is harmful to bones

10. The chest wall becomes stiff in old age, because

- (a) the heart's ability to pump blood to it drops about one per cent
- (b) the blood flow to various organs decreases
- (c) the resting heart-rate becomes high
- (d) the person's ability to exhale sufficient air lessens.

[2010 – NDA/ NA II]

PASSAGE - 3

An old man with steel-rimmed spectacles and very dusty clothes sat by the side of the road. There was a pontoon bridge across the river, and carts, trucks, and men, women and children were crossing it. The mule-drawn carts staggered up the steep bank from the bridge, with soldiers helping to push against the spokes of the wheels. The trucks wound up and away, heading out of it all. The peasants plodded along in the ankle-deep dust. But the old man sat there without moving.

11. The term "pontoon bridge" means

- (a) a temporary bridge constructed with the help of ropes

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- (b) a bridge made by soldiers during a war
- (c) a bridge supported by floating flat-bottomed boats
- (d) a bridge made with wooden planks

12. The soldiers were “helping to push against the spokes of the wheels” because

- (a) they wanted to stop the carts
- (b) the spokes of the wheels were broken
- (c) the mules refused to draw the carts
- (d) there was a steep elevation

13. The mule-drawn carts staggered up because

- (a) there were too many mule-carts
- (b) the mules were indisciplined
- (c) it was a steep uphill journey
- (d) the carts were blocked by the peasants

14. The reference to the old man in the beginning and the end of the passage indicates that

- (a) the writer wants to compare between the bridge and the motionless old man
- (b) the description that takes place between the first sentence and the last sentence is irrelevant
- (c) there is an unnecessary repetition in the reference to the old man
- (d) the figure of the old man is brought under a sharp focus

PASSAGE - 4

When vegetation sprouts in the desert, it is a good sign, but when the ice in the Arctic and Antarctic begins to turn green, there is something terribly wrong. Reports say that an iceberg, approximately the size of New York City, has broken off from the icy continent. An Argentine team discovered huge cracks in the polar ice caps. These developments can have serious implications. If polar ice fields melt, our coastal cities might be submerged, and sea levels across the world could rise between 3.65 and 6.09 metres in different parts of the earth. This is probably due to global warming.

15. What can be considered as a “good sign” in the desert?

- (a) When shrubs and trees grow there
- (b) When it snows in the desert
- (c) When ice caps melt and there is water
- (d) When there is vegetation found in the desert

16. The melting of ice fields in the Arctic and Antarctic regions is dangerous because

- (a) the ice will turn green and poisonous
- (b) it will cause huge floods which will destroy coastal regions
- (c) it will create global warming and will badly affect our climate
- (d) huge cracks will develop all over the world

17. Polar ice caps develop huge cracks because

- (a) of the movement of the earth
- (b) of the breaking off of icebergs
- (c) of the crowding of cities like New York
- (d) of rising temperatures

18. What do you think the intention of the author is?

- (a) To describe strange phenomena in nature
- (b) To report findings of research teams working in the polar regions
- (c) To make us aware of the dangers of global warming
- (d) To compare developments in deserts and Arctic regions caused by global warming

PASSAGE - 5

It was a very cold evening and so few people were seen out on the streets. I did not go out myself although it was my habit not to keep indoors after sunset. So I closed all the doors and windows of my room, took the book which had been lying opened on the table, and tried to read it. The cold was getting so severe that I started shivering, so I wrapped myself up with a bigger blanket. But I could not continue reading the book because I was nearly rendered incapable of turning the pages.

19. The author's habit was to

- (a) read in the evening
- (b) sleep in the evening
- (c) play in the evening
- (d) go out in the evening

20. If it was not so cold, the author would have

- (a) liked to work
- (b) liked to sit and look out to the streets
- (c) liked to read
- (d) liked to have a stroll

21. The author could not continue reading the book because

- (a) he did not like to
- (b) he was feeling tired
- (c) he was feeling very cold
- (d) the lights had gone off

22. There were not many people outside because

- (a) it was a rainy evening
- (b) it was a cold evening
- (c) it was a dark evening
- (d) there was heavy snow outside

[2011 - NDA/ INA I]

PASSAGE - 6

Gandhi was not born great. He was a blundering boy, a mediocre student, a poor lawyer, an ordinary individual until he remade himself. He was a self-remade man. He had faith in himself. But above all, he had a deep, touching faith in the peasants, miners, labourers, and young unformed men and women whom he drew into his work. He fed them all an elixir of growth which often transformed nameless, uneducated people into leonine heroes. *The elixir was fearlessness.*

23. Consider the following assumptions:

1. Gandhi was a great man throughout his life.
2. Men are not born great, but they are made great by self-effort.
3. Gandhi liked the ordinary people and neglected the rich.

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4. Gandhi transformed the ordinary masses into great heroes.

Which of the above assumptions can be drawn from the passage?

- (a) 2 and 4
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) None of these

24. Gandhi transformed the uneducated people by teaching them

- (a) work-mindedness
- (b) self-confidence
- (c) fearlessness
- (d) heroism

25. Gandhi's attitude to the labour class was one of

- (a) generosity
- (b) pity
- (c) compassion
- (d) fearlessness

26. The word 'leonine' in the passage means

- (a) lean
- (b) courageous
- (c) timid
- (d) learning

PASSAGE - 7

The dog fence in Australia has been erected to keep out hostile invaders, in this case, hordes of yellow dogs called dingoes. The empire it preserves is that of wool growers. Yet the fence casts a much broader ecological shadow. For the early explorers, a kangaroo or a wallaby sighting marked a noteworthy event. Now try not to see one. Without a native predator, there is no check on the marsupial population. The kangaroos are now cursed more than the dingoes. They have become rivals of sheep, competing for water and grass. The State Governments now cull more than three million kangaroos a year to keep Australia's natural symbol from overrunning the pastoral lands.

27. The 'fence' is meant to keep the

- (a) kangaroo in and the dingo out
- (b) kangaroo in and the sheep out
- (c) sheep in and the kangaroo out
- (d) sheep in and the dingo out

28. Australia's national symbol is

- (a) kangaroo
- (b) wallaby
- (c) sheep
- (d) dingo

29. What has led to the unchecked growth of the marsupial population?

- (a) The building of fences
- (b) The absence of native predator
- (c) The culling of kangaroos
- (d) The availability of water and grass

30. The marsupial population is up in Australia because

- (a) both wallaby and kangaroo count as marsupials
- (b) the kangaroo consumes the water and grass of the sheep
- (c) the dingo cannot get at the kangaroo
- (d) the kangaroos are fenced out

PASSAGE - 8

Not all nocturnal animals have good eyesight. Many of them concentrate on the other senses for finding their way about and for finding food. The sense of touch is very developed in many nocturnal animals, whether they have good eyes or not. The large hairs or whiskers on the faces of cats and mice are sense organs, and the animals react rapidly if these whiskers are touched. The sense of smell is also very important for nocturnal animals such as hedgehogs and field mice. The moist night air holds scent much better than dry air does.

31. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) All nocturnal animals are blind
- (b) Many nocturnal animals do not have good eyesight
- (c) Most nocturnal animals cannot see anything in the dark
- (d) No nocturnal animal has good eyesight

32. The cat's whiskers are organs associated with the sense of

- (a) taste
- (b) touch
- (c) hearing
- (d) smell

[2011 – NDA/ NA II]

PASSAGE - 9

Elephants spray water over their ears to stay cool. The rhythm of an elephant's day is set largely by its watering routine. An adult needs about thirty gallons of water a day. When water is abundant there is no problem. But during droughts, elephants resort to an intriguing technique: digging wells. In a dried-up river bed, they scoop out holes with their forefeet until they reach water. After waiting patiently for the sand to settle, they drink in order of seniority, calves last.

33. According to the passage, water is

- (a) quite important for the elephant
- (b) vital for the elephant's survival
- (c) occasionally useful for the elephant
- (d) often a problem for the elephant

34. According to the passage, elephants spray water over themselves

- (a) to have fun
- (b) to ward off the heat
- (c) to cool their heels
- (d) to quench their thirst

35. During droughts, elephants

- (a) burrow in the sand to avoid heat
- (b) find water in rivers
- (c) dig holes in the river bed to reach the water
- (d) find new water holes

36. When the elephants find water

- (a) the baby elephants drink first
- (b) the oldest adult drinks first

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- (c) the largest elephant drinks first
- (d) the youngest adult drinks first

PASSAGE - 10

One day my brother brought home a new songbird. It was the smallest of them all, a tiny creature of a blue and a red that sparkled when brushed by the sun. But there was a problem—while the others sang, this new bird remained silent. My brother tried coaxing music out of him, in vain. He tried attacking with a stick, but the bird was unmoved. My brother first tried withholding food, but later, when the incentive was offered, the bird ignored it, and twice he knocked over his dish, scattering the seed.

37. One day the writer's brother brought home a bird

- (a) which never ate food
- (b) which flew so high it seemed to touch the sun
- (c) whose colours shone brightly in the sunlight
- (d) which was the largest of all the birds in his collection

38. At first his brother tried to get the bird to sing by

- (a) tempting with food
- (b) placing it in the company of the other birds while they sang
- (c) singing to the bird himself
- (d) withholding food

39. What does the word "coaxing" mean?

- (a) to behave rudely
- (b) to use violent means
- (c) to gently persuade
- (d) to beg repeatedly

[2012 – NDA/ NA I]

PASSAGE - 11

Even in the most primitive societies, the great majority of people satisfy a large part of their material needs by exchanging goods and services. Very few people indeed can make for themselves everything they need --all their food, their clothes, their housing, their tools. Ever since men started living in communities, they have been satisfying their needs by means of specialization and exchange. Increasingly, each individual has concentrated on what he can do best and has produced more of the special goods or services in which he has concentrated, than he can consume himself. The surplus he has exchanged with other members of the community, acquiring in exchange the things he needs that others have produced.

40. According to the passage, the great majority of people can satisfy their needs today by

- (a) providing things for themselves
- (b) exchanging goods and services
- (c) concentrating on what they can do best
- (d) individual specialization

41. Exchange of goods becomes possible only when

- (a) there is no specialization
- (b) goods are produced in surplus
- (c) primitive societies become modern
- (d) individuals make things for themselves

42. Specialization and exchange began when men started

- (a) big industries
- (b) concentrating on their work
- (c) producing things for individual use
- (d) living in communities

43. Exchange of goods and services becomes necessary because

- (a) man is a social being
- (b) reciprocity is the law of life
- (c) trade and commerce are means of progress
- (d) we cannot produce everything we need ourselves

PASSAGE - 12

What interests many people is the possibility of finding an Earth-like planet, and many science fiction stories have been woven around the possibility of there existing a planet somewhere in the universe which is an exact replica of the Earth. There are too many variable quantities in the universe for this to be a possibility worth considering.

What is possible—if planetary systems are as common as they seem to be—is the existence of planets where the conditions are similar to those on Earth and to which our form of life could rapidly adapt. If life had gained a foothold on such a planet, it is possible that life closely paralleling our own planet could have developed.

What sort of conditions are necessary for life as we know it to develop? First of all, of course, a suitable planetary body is essential. Given this, two vital conditions must be satisfied:

The temperature must be neither too hot nor too cold, since intense heat breaks down organic molecules and severe cold prevents activity from going on. Too much short-wave radiation also upsets living organisms. The other prerequisite is a suitable atmosphere—sufficiently dense to give protection from radiation and meteorites, and containing oxygen and water vapour in reasonable quantities.

44. This passage suggests that there

- (a) cannot be another planet like the Earth
- (b) are other planets like the Earth mentioned only in stories
- (c) may be other planets like the Earth in this universe
- (d) is a planet which is exactly like the Earth

45. The hypothesis about the possibility of planets parallel to the Earth gets its strength from the fact that

- (a) the scientists have discovered them
- (b) books have been written about them
- (c) the planetary system exists
- (d) many people have shown interest in it

46. The statement "If life had gained a foothold on such a planet" means that

- (a) if there is life on the planet, it would be like ours
- (b) if we go there, we can develop it like this Earth

I Comprehension Skills I

- (c) even if we try, we cannot go and live there
(d) it is impossible for life to develop there

[2012 – NDA/ NA II]

PASSAGE - 13

There was a farewell ceremony on her last day at school, to which my parents and I were invited. It was a touching ceremony in a solemn kind of way. The City Corporation sent a representative, and so did the two main political parties. There were many speeches, and my grandmother was garlanded by a girl from every class. Then the head girl, a particular favourite of hers, unveiled the farewell present the girls had bought for her by subscription. It was a large marble model of the Taj Mahal; it had a bulb inside and could be lit up like a table lamp.

My grandmother made a speech too, but she couldn't finish it properly, for she began to cry before she got to the end of it and had to stop to wipe away her tears. I turned away when she began dabbing at her eyes with a huge green handkerchief and discovered, to my surprise, that many of the girls sitting around me were wiping their eyes too. I was very jealous, I remember. I had always taken it for granted that it was my own special right to love her: I did not know how to cope with the discovery that my right had been infringed by a whole school.

47. The farewell ceremony described in the passage is for the

- (a) author's mother who used to teach at his/her school
(b) mother of the head girl teaching at her school
(c) grandmother of the head girl no longer teaching at her school
(d) grandmother of the author who used to teach at his/her school

48. The farewell ceremony made everyone feel

- (a) sad (b) unhappy
(c) happy (d) bad

49. Before the writer attended the ceremony, he/she had thought

- (a) he/she was the only child who loved his/her grandmother
(b) all the girls in the school loved his/her grandmother
(c) only a few girls in the school loved his/her grandmother
(d) only his/her parents loved his/her grandmother

PASSAGE - 14

It is no doubt true that we cannot go through life without sorrow. There can be no sunshine without shadow; we must not complain that roses have thorns but rather be grateful that thorns bear flowers. Our existence here is so complex that we must expect much sorrow and suffering. Yet it is certain that no man was ever discontented with the world who did his duty in it. The world is like a looking glass: if you smile, it smiles; if you frown, it frowns back. Always try, then, to look at the bright side of things. There are some persons whose very presence seems like a ray of sunshine and brightens the whole room. Life has been described as a comedy to those who think and a tragedy to those who feel.

50. The author says that we cannot go through life without sorrow because

- (a) it is our fate
(b) we are always discontented
(c) life is a tragedy
(d) human life is very complex

51. According to the author, no man can be discontented with the world if he

- (a) is determined to be happy
(b) is sincere in discharging his duties
(c) has a healthy attitude to life
(d) likes sunshine

52. The expression "life is a tragedy to those who feel" means that it is a tragedy to those who

- (a) think about the world
(b) believe in fate
(c) do not understand the world
(d) are sensitive and emotional

53. The author says, "There are some persons whose very presence seems like a ray of sunshine and brightens the whole room." The reason for this is that they

- (a) have the capacity to love
(b) talk more of roses and less of thorns
(c) are happy and spread happiness
(d) look good and behave well

54. What is the author's message in this passage?

- (a) Look at the bright side of things
(b) Our existence is so complex
(c) The world is a looking glass
(d) Expect much sorrow and suffering

[2013 – NDA/ NA II]

PASSAGE - 15

It has often been said that the scale of natural phenomena in India and her total dependence on the monsoon have helped to form the character of her people. Even today, major disasters, such as flood, famine, and plague, are hard to check; and in older times, their control was almost impossible. Many other ancient civilizations, such as those of the Greeks, Romans, and Chinese, had to contend with hard winters, which encouraged sturdiness and resourcefulness. India, on the other hand, was blessed by a bounteous nature, who demanded little of man in return for sustenance, but in her terrible anger could not be appeased by any human effort. Hence it has been suggested that the Indian character has tended to quietism, accepting fortune and misfortune alike without complaint.

55. The author's main argument is:

- (a) Description of natural phenomena of India
(b) Unpredictability of Indian monsoon
(c) Correlation between the climate and the character of the inhabitants of a region
(d) Hardships caused by natural calamities

I Comprehension Skills I

56. Which one of the following civilizations did not have to face hardships due to bad winter?

- (a) Indian (b) Greek
- (c) Chinese (d) Roman

57. The expression "India, on the other hand, was blessed by a bounteous nature" means:

- (a) Indian soil is fertile
- (b) India is a land of flora and fauna
- (c) Indian people have been rewarded more generously by nature in proportion to their efforts
- (d) Indian soil is suited for growing a variety of crops

58. Which trait of Indian character has been formed by the monsoon?

- (a) Fatalism (b) Sturdiness
- (c) Asceticism (d) Epicureanism

[2014 – NDA/ NA I]

PASSAGE - 16

In a free country, the man who reaches the position of leader is usually one of the outstanding character and ability. Moreover, it is usually possible to foresee that he will reach such a position, since early in life one can see his qualities of character. But this is not always true in the case of a dictator; often he reaches his position of power through chance, very often through the unhappy state of his country. It is possible that Hitler would never have become the leader of Germany if that country had not been driven to despair.

59. In a free country, one who becomes a leader

- (a) must be of outstanding character and ability
- (b) must show qualities of character from an early age
- (c) is generally of a remarkable character and ability
- (d) must see that his country is free from despair

60. Hitler became a leader because

- (a) he exhibited leadership qualities
- (b) Germany was a free country
- (c) Germany was in despair
- (d) Germans wanted a dictator

61. The passage seems to suggest that

- (a) despair sometimes leads to dictatorship
- (b) Hitler was no leader
- (c) a leader is chosen only by a free country
- (d) a leader foresees his future position

PASSAGE - 17

The dog is a very intelligent animal and it can be trained for many duties. Some dogs work with the police and the army as sentries and trackers, and there are medals that are awarded to dogs for bravery in action. Other dogs act as seeing-eyes for the blind, and some breeds are specially trained for rescue work among mountains and snow. Jobs like herding sheep and cattle and guarding homes are also done by them. Whenever man lives and works in the Arctic Circle, in the desert, in the jungle, in the moors or mountains, the dog is his faithful companion

and help. A common mongrel may possess these qualities just as much as the aristocratic bloodhound.

62. The passage tells us that dogs

- (a) can be trained to do different kinds of work
- (b) are capable of difficult work
- (c) are of different types
- (d) alone are a great help to man

63. Medals are awarded to some dogs for

- (a) their brave deeds
- (b) working with the police
- (c) serving as sentries
- (d) being able to perform difficult work

64. The passage implies that

- (a) only dogs are faithful but not man
- (b) man would have felt helpless without dogs
- (c) the dog has certain qualities that make it man's trustworthy companion
- (d) dogs can do almost anything

65. The phrase "aristocratic bloodhound" in the passage means

- (a) the dog kept by wealthy people
- (b) a pedigree dog
- (c) a dog fond of blood
- (d) any big dog

[2017- NDA/ NA I]

PASSAGE - 18

We had just passed Tenali, where I roused myself in order to hear the name of the station. As I was falling asleep again, a violent jolt shot me into the arms of somebody in the seat opposite. The engine with one wheel broken was lying across the track and beside it was the luggage van, likewise, derailed. Groaning, wheezing, gasping, sputtering in its death agony, the engine was like a fallen horse which, snorting, trembling in every limb, its flanks heaving, its chest labouring, seems incapable of making the smallest effort to struggle on to its legs again.

66. The author had roused himself as he wanted to

- (a) get off
- (b) meet someone
- (c) know the name of the station
- (d) keep himself awake

67. The engine stopped because

- (a) the driver had stopped it
- (b) one of the wheels was broken
- (c) there was a halting place
- (d) there was no fuel

68. The engine is compared to a fallen horse because

- (a) it was groaning like a horse
- (b) it was lying across the track
- (c) it could make no effort to stand upright
- (d) it had a broken wheel

PASSAGE - 19

I Comprehension Skills I

I was beginning to tire a little now. I had been cutting steps continuously for two hours, and Tenzing, too, was moving very slowly. As I chipped steps around still another corner, I wondered rather dully just how long we could keep it up. Our original zest had now quite gone and it was turning more into a grim struggle. I then realised that the ridge ahead, instead of still monotonously rising, now dropped sharply away, and far below I could see the North Col and Rongbuk glacier. I looked upwards to see a narrow ridge running up to a snowy summit. A few more whacks of the ice-axe in the firm snow and we stood on top.

69. Which of the following is the most appropriate description of the area in which the narrator had been moving?

- (a) A steep rocky slope
- (b) A peak with a flight of steps
- (c) A high peak covered with snow
- (d) A long ridge

70. 'I had been cutting steps continuously for two hours' suggests that

- (a) the climber was unskilled in the art of making steps
- (b) he had to cut the steps out of snow before climbing up which was necessarily a slow process
- (c) the slowness was caused by the fact that as soon as he cut the steps they were again covered with snow
- (d) he had to work suspended from a ledge

71. 'It was turning more into a grim struggle' would mean

- (a) that after the long exertion he was feeling so weak that any further climbing meant a hard struggle with the forces of nature
- (b) that Tenzing was making the task more difficult
- (c) that strong cold wind was pushing him down from above and that he had to struggle with the forces of nature
- (d) that he was in a mood to give up ultimately.

[2018 – NDA/ NA I]

PASSAGE - 20

The rule of the road means that in order that the liberties of all may be preserved, the liberties of everybody must be curtailed. When the policeman, say, at a road-crossing steps into the middle of the road and puts out his hand, he is the symbol not of tyranny but of liberty. You have submitted to a curtailment of private liberty in order that you may enjoy a social order which makes your liberty a reality. We have both liberties to preserve – our individual liberty and our social liberty. That is, we must have a judicious mixture of both. I shall not permit any authority to say that my child must go to this school or that, shall specialize in science or arts. These things are personal. But if I say that my child shall have no education at all, then society will firmly tell me that my child must have education whether I like it or not.

72. According to the author, the "rule of the road" implies:

- (a) the rule regulating the traffic on the road

- (b) the principle on which a road is constructed to ensure safe traffic
- (c) unrestricted freedom for all to lead a happy life
- (d) restricted individual freedom to ensure freedom for all

73. The author thinks that when a policeman signals you to stop on a road-crossing, he is:

- (a) behaving in a whimsical manner
- (b) interfering with your freedom to use the road
- (c) protecting the liberty of all to use the road
- (d) mischievously creating hurdles in your way from some personal motive

74. The author is of the view that we should:

- (a) have absolute individual liberty without any restrictions imposed by the society
- (b) have everything controlled by the society without any kind of individual liberty
- (c) try to strike a sensible balance between our individual liberty and our social liberty
- (d) have more of social liberty than individual Liberty

75. The author holds that:

- (a) educating or not educating his child is matter of personal liberty
- (b) educating or not educating his child is also a matter of social liberty
- (c) choosing the school for his child is a matter of social liberty
- (d) choosing the subject of study for his child is a matter of social liberty

76. The most suitable title of the passage would be:

- (a) The Policeman at a Road Crossing
- (b) The Laws of the Road
- (c) Importance of Liberty
- (d) Education of Children

PASSAGE - 21

My most interesting visitor comes at night, when the lights are still burning—a tiny bat who prefers to fly in through the open door, and will use the window only if there is no alternative. His object in entering the house is to snap up the moths that cluster around the lamps. All the bats I have seen fly fairly high, keeping near the ceiling; but this particular bat flies in low, like a dive-bomber, zooming in and out of chair legs and under tables. Once, he passed straight between my legs. Has his radar gone wrong, I wondered, or is he just plain crazy?

77. Consider the following statements:

- (1) The tiny bat flew in low like a dive-bomber.
- (2) The tiny bat like all bats keeps near the ceiling.
- (3) It has lost direction because its radar has gone wrong.
- (4) It wants to entertain the author with its skill in flying.

Which of the above statements may be assumed to be true from the information given in the passage?

I Comprehension Skills I

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3
(c) 2 and 4 (d) 3 and 4

78. The bat entered the room:

- (a) because there was no alternative
(b) to eat the moths round the lamps
(c) as it had gone mad
(d) as it preferred to fly in through the open Door

79. After comparing the habits of the tiny bat with those of other bats, the author was:

- (a) sure that this bat had lost its direction
(b) not sure of its preferences
(c) surprised to find that it was an expert flier
(d) unable to give the correct explanation for its behavior

80. The author calls the tiny bat an “interesting visitor”. This means:

- (a) the bat visits him at night
(b) the bat is interested in the moths
(c) the bat has peculiar qualities
(d) the bat surprises him by zooming in and out like a dive-bomber

81. What, according to you, can be the most suitable title for the passage?

- (a) Someone Visits Me
(b) Night of Mysteries
(c) My Nocturnal Visitor
(d) A Funny Visitor

[2018 – NDA/ NA II]

PASSAGE - 22

“Now ladies and gentleman,” said the conjuror, “having shown you that the cloth is absolutely empty, I will proceed to take from it a bowl of goldfish. Presto!”

All around the hall people were saying, “Oh how wonderful! How does he do it?”

But the Quick Man on the front seat said in a big whisper to the people near him, “He-had-it-up-his-sleeve.”

Then the people nodded brightly at the Quick Man and said, “Oh, of course”; and everybody whispered round the hall, “He-had-it-up-his-sleeve.”

“My next trick,” said the conjuror, “is the famous Hindostanee rings. You will notice that the rings are apparently separate; at a blow they all join (clang, clang, clang) — Presto!”

There was a general buzz of stupefaction till the Quick Man was heard to whisper, “He-must-have-had-another-lot-up-his-sleeve.”

Again everybody nodded and whispered, “The-rings-were-up-his-sleeve.”

The brow of the conjuror was clouded with a gathering frown.

“I will now,” he continued, “show you a most amusing trick by which I am enabled to take any number of eggs from a hat. Will some gentleman kindly lend me his hat? Ah, thank you — Presto!”

He extracted seventeen eggs, and for thirty-five seconds the audience began to think that he was wonderful. Then the Quick Man whispered along the front bench, “He-has-

a-hen-up-his-sleeve,” and all the people whispered it on, “He-has-a-lot-of-hens-up-his-sleeve.”

The egg trick was ruined.

It went on like that all through. It transpired from the whispers of the Quick Man that the conjuror must have concealed up his sleeve, in addition to the rings, hens, and fish, several packs of cards, a loaf of bread, a doll's cradle, a live guinea pig, a fifty-cent piece, and a rocking chair.

82. “The brow of the conjuror was clouded with a gathering frown.” The sentence means that the conjuror:

- (a) was very pleased
(b) was very sad
(c) was rather angry
(d) was very afraid

83. “The egg trick was ruined.” This means that:

- (a) eggs were all broken
(b) people were unconvinced
(c) conjuror was disappointed
(d) the trick could not be performed

84. According to the Quick Man, the conjuror:

- (a) had everything bought for production
(b) produced things with the magic he knew
(c) had things in the large sleeves of his coat
(d) created an illusion of things with his magic

85. The author believes that the Quick Man was really:

- (a) foolish
(b) clever
(c) wrong
(d) right

86. The conjuror extracted seventeen eggs from the hat of:

- (a) the Quick Man
(b) his own
(c) one gentleman from the audience
(d) None of the above

PASSAGE - 23

(Conversation)

Magda: Good morning, Mrs. Smiles. It's wet, isn't it?

Mrs. Smiles: Yes, it is, isn't it? How are you today? All right? You haven't been studying too hard, have you? You look a bit pale.

Magda: I don't, do I? Well, I haven't been out much lately. I don't like this weather a bit. Why, we haven't had a dry day for weeks, have we?

Mrs. Smiles: No, I don't think we have. Let's see, you'll be going back home next month, won't you?

Magda: Oh no, I'm not going back yet. My sister's coming over first.

Mrs. Smiles: Oh, is she? You're looking forward to that, I expect. How long is it since you saw her?

Magda: Nearly a year now. Yes, I am looking forward to it very much.

Mrs. Smiles: She's coming over here to study?

Magda: Yes, that's right. I shan't go back home until she's settled down. I don't think I ought to, ought I?

Mrs. Smiles: Well, no. She's younger than you are, is

I Comprehension Skills I

she?

Magda: Yes, she's only eighteen.

87. Magda had not been out much lately because:

- (a) she had not been keeping well
- (b) she was busy with her studies
- (c) the weather had been unpleasant
- (d) her sister had come over to stay

88. Magda was not going back home yet because:

- (a) it had been raining heavily
- (b) her sister was coming over
- (c) her studies were not completed
- (d) she was not feeling well

89. Mrs. Smiles says, "You're looking forward to that." This means Magda was ____ her sister's arrival:

- (a) expecting with pleasure
- (b) preparing hard for
- (c) thinking greatly about
- (d) watching with joy

90. Magda's sister was coming to:

- (a) visit her sister
- (b) help Mrs. Smiles
- (c) settle down in England
- (d) pursue her studies

91. Mrs. Smiles and Magda are:

- (a) classmates
- (b) school friends
- (c) neighbours
- (d) sisters-in-law

[2019 – NDA/ NA I]

PASSAGE - 24

I do not wish to suggest that because we were one nation we had no differences, but it is submitted that our leading men travelled throughout India either on foot or in bullock-carts. They learned one another's languages and there was no aloofness amongst them. What do you think could have been the intention of those farseeing ancestors of ours who established Setubandha (Rameshwar) in the South, Jagannath in the East, and Haridwar in the North as places of pilgrimage? You will admit they were no fools. They knew that worship of God could have been performed just as well at home. They taught us that those whose hearts were aglow with righteousness had the Ganges in their own homes. But they saw that India was one undivided land so made by nature. They, therefore, argued that it must be one nation. Arguing thus, they established holy places in various parts of India and fired the people with an idea of nationality in a manner unknown in other parts of the world. And we Indians are one as no two Englishmen are. Only you and I and others who consider ourselves civilized and superior persons imagine that we are many nations. It was after the advent of railways that we began to believe in distinctions, and you are at liberty now to say that it is through the railways that we are beginning to abolish those distinctions. An opium-eater may argue

the advantage of opium eating from the fact that he began to understand the evil of the opium habit after having eaten it. I would ask you to consider well what I had said on the railways.

92. According to the author, India

- (a) has never been one nation
- (b) has been an aggregate of several nations
- (c) has always been one nation along with differences
- (d) became a nation after the British came

93. Why did the great sages of India establish pilgrimages in the different corners of the country?

- (a) Because they wanted to push people to travel to different places
- (b) Because they could observe the underlying unity of the country as made by nature
- (c) Because they themselves had travelled to these places
- (d) Because they wanted people to be religious everywhere

94. In the passage, the author's attitude towards the railways is

- (a) critical
- (b) sympathetic
- (c) indifferent
- (d) apathetic

95. What does the author mean when he says that "whose hearts were aglow with righteousness had the Ganges in their own homes"?

- (a) One need not visit the Ganges to take holy bath
- (b) The Ganges has been polluted, so one should bath at home
- (c) One should take a holy dip in the Ganges to purify one's heart
- (d) The purity of heart is superior to observance of any ritual

96. The passage is written in a

- (a) dialogic style
- (b) prescriptive style
- (c) descriptive style
- (d) analytical style

[2019 – NDA/ NA II]

PASSAGE – 25

Studies serve for delight, for ornament, and for ability. Their chief use for delight is in privateness and retiring; for ornament, is in discourse; and for ability, is in the judgment and disposition of business. For expert men can execute, and perhaps judge of particulars, one by one; but the general to counsels and the plots and marshalling of affairs come best from those that are learned.

To spend too much time in studies is sloth; to use them too much for ornament is affectation; to make judgment wholly by their rules is the humor of a scholar. They

I Comprehension Skills I

perfect nature and are perfected by experience: for natural abilities are like natural plants, that need pruning by study; and studies themselves do give forth direction too much at large, except they be bounded in by experience.

Crafty men condemn studies, simple men admire them, and wise men use them; for they teach not their own use, but that is a wisdom without them and above them, won by observation. Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider.

97. According to the author, why should one study?

- (a) To gather information about the world
- (b) To pass the time in a creative way
- (c) For pleasure, enhanced capability and holistic growth
- (d) To become only worldly wise

98. Why does the author not recommend too much of studies?

- (a) Because it reflects idleness
- (b) Because it requires too much money
- (c) Because it is dangerous for the health of the mind
- (d) Because it makes men crafty

99. According to the author, how can the studies be perfected?

- (a) By reflection
- (b) By application
- (c) By conversation
- (d) By experience

100. Which kind of human beings denounce studies?

- (a) Innocent
- (b) Cunning
- (c) Stupid
- (d) Wise

101. According to the author, one should read to

- (a) only argue
- (b) only believe
- (c) evaluate and understand
- (d) preach and believe

[2023 – NDA/ NA II]

PASSAGE – 26

People by and large are concerned with and pursue self-interest. They are unlikely to be motivated to use renewable resources in a prudent and sustainable fashion. They are unlikely to be motivated under the following conditions: if their resource catchments are vast, so that degradation of any particular portion affects them very little; or if they have open before them possibilities of substitution as any one resource element is depleted; or if their control over the resource base is tenuous, so that others may, at any time, deplete a resource they value, even if they use it in a restrained fashion.

Indeed, exhaustive use is highly likely when any one of these three conditions obtains. It is only when people perceive their resource catchments as limited, possibilities of substitution of exhausted resource elements as not readily feasible, and their own control over the resource base as secure, will they be motivated to use the resources in a prudent fashion. People, rooted

in a locality, and retaining control over their resource base are most likely to fulfil all three prerequisites for sustainable resource use; and therefore to behave in ways conducive to the conservation of biodiversity within their localities.

102. Why, according to the writer, can't people be motivated to use a resource prudently?

- 1. They feel that others may overuse the resource
- 2. It is possible to substitute the resource
- 3. Abundance of the resource availability

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

103. When do people use resources exhaustively?

- (a) When the substitution of resource is felicitated by NGOs
- (b) When the resource is about to expand
- (c) When the resource use has little impact
- (d) When they desire desperately for sustainable development

104. The self-interest of people affects the use of renewable resources

- (a) positively
- (b) erratically
- (c) affirmatively
- (d) indifferently

105. People rooted in a locality

- (a) cause harm to available resources
- (b) generate resources
- (c) believe in conservation and reproduction of resources
- (d) consume resources freely

106. Which among the following is closest in meaning with the word 'deplete'?

- (a) exhaust
- (b) complete
- (c) replete
- (d) desperate

[2024 – NDA/ NA I]

PASSAGE – 27

The grouping or assemblage of plants, animals and microbes we observe when we study a natural forest, a grassland, a pond, a coral reef or some other undisturbed area, is referred to as the area's biota or biotic community. The plant portion of the biotic community includes all vegetation, from large trees down through to microscopic algae. Likewise, the animal portion includes everything from large mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians through to earthworms, tiny insects and mites. Microbes encompass a large array of microscopic bacteria, fungi and protozoans. Thus, the biotic community comprises a plant community, an animal community and a microbial community.

The particular kind of biotic community found in a given area is, in large part, determined by abiotic factors such as the amount of water or moisture present, the temperature, the salinity, or the type of soil in the area.

I Comprehension Skills I

These abiotic factors both support and limit the particular community. For example, a relative lack of available moisture prevents the growth of most species of plants, but supports certain species, such as cacti; these kinds of areas are deserts. Land with plenty of available moisture and a suitable temperature support forests. The presence of water is the major factor that sustains aquatic communities.

The first step in investigating a biotic community may be simply to catalogue all the species present. Species are the different kinds of plants, animals and microbes in the community. A given species includes all those individuals which have a strong similarity in appearance to one another and which are distinct in appearance from other such groups. Each species in a biotic community is represented by a certain population – that is, by a certain number of individuals that make up the interbreeding, reproducing group.

107. Which one of the following does not belong to the biotic community?

- (a) Water (b) Human
- (c) Protozoa (d) Bush

108. The nature of the biotic community largely depends on:

- 1. Biotic components
- 2. Abiotic components

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

109. Which of the following is not an abiotic factor?

- (a) Temperature (b) Humidity
- (c) Algae (d) Moisture

110. In the passage, the word 'aquatic community' refers to:

- (a) Biotic community inhabiting the land
- (b) Biotic community found in water
- (c) Biotic community found in the air
- (d) Assemblage of rain and moisture

111. Species are defined on the basis of:

- (a) Similarities only
- (b) Differences only
- (c) Both similarities and differences
- (d) None of the above

[2024 – NDA/ NA II]

PASSAGE – 28

We live in a time when globalisation is rapidly encompassing travel, information, trade and investment. The internet ties people together in ways unimagined a few years ago. The globalisation of health, however, remains an elusive goal, similar to the globalisation of economic well-being. In *The Coming Plague*, Laurie Garrett describes an unwelcome form of globalisation: the globalisation of disease.

Garrett examines the recent history of emerging diseases such as AIDS, Ebola, Hantavirus, Rift Valley Fever,

Legionnaires' disease, and others. She also explains the resurgence of familiar diseases like tuberculosis, cholera and pneumonia as a consequence of the widespread and unwise use of antibiotics. Many of the new diseases are clearly linked to changes in land use, which bring humans into close contact with rodents or other animals that harbour viruses previously unknown to medicine and often deadly to humans.

Resurgent diseases, by contrast, are a creation of our medical practices. By treating people with antibiotics without restraint, we unknowingly select strains that are immune to the antibiotics and that pass on their resistant genes to unrelated bacteria by way of plasmid transfer.

The heroes of her book are the women and men on the front lines of epidemiology. Garrett makes a plea for a greater commitment from our universities, medical schools and government agencies to train workers who will be capable of recognising new diseases and who will be able to move seamlessly in the laboratory, the hospital and the field in pursuit of knowledge and public health intervention around the world.

112. What, according to the passage, is the 'unwelcome form of globalisation'?

- 1. Globalisation of diseases
- 2. Elusive goal of globalisation
- 3. History of fatal diseases
- 4. Selective use of antibiotics

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 3 only (d) 1 and 4

113. According to the passage, globalisation of health has become imperative due to:

- (a) the globalisation of diseases
- (b) public health intervention
- (c) the creation of new medical systems
- (d) the indiscriminate use of antibiotics

114. According to the passage, resurgent diseases are affected by:

- 1. Medical practices
- 2. Overuse of antibiotics
- 3. Emergence of new strains

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

115. According to the passage, many new diseases are emerging due to changes in land use because:

- (a) Humans are coming in contact with unfamiliar viruses
- (b) Urbanisation makes pathogens proliferate
- (c) Humans become adaptive and pass on their genes to related bacteria by way of plasmid transfer
- (d) Humans are inadvertently releasing new viruses

116. What is the meaning of the word "epidemiology" in the passage?

- (a) The historical study of the spread of diseases
- (b) The scientific study of the spread and control of diseases

I Comprehension Skills I

- (c) The scientific study of the invention and uses of drugs
- (d) The scientific study of the uses of drugs

[2025 – NDA/ NA I]

PASSAGE – 29

An attempt to determine the number of languages in the world is affected by other factors. A new language do continue to be discovered even these days, as unexplored regions of the world begin to be opened up. The discovery does not usually take place straight away. Often there are similarities with an already known language which makes the investigators assume that what they have found is just a dialect of that language. Only after a considerable period of contact does it transpire that the speech is so different that it has to be considered a different language. It takes a language survey to establish the facts, and there are still many countries where such surveys are incomplete or have not even begun. The people may be known, but the identity of their language may not be. Because many such people are bilingual or multilingual, and converse with outsiders in lingua franca, it may take a while before linguists come to realise that there is an ethnic language there at all.

117. Which one of the following is NOT the reason for the difficulty in estimating the number of languages of the world?

- (a) New languages continue to be discovered.
- (b) There are still unexplored regions.
- (c) New languages are considered a dialect of a known language.
- (d) People who speak the language do not claim their language.

118. Which one of the following is a way to establish the discovery of a new language?

- (a) By establishing contact over a period of time with speakers of the language.
- (b) By finding the similarities of the language with other languages.
- (c) By comparing with the lingua franca of the region.
- (d) By conducting a survey of all languages of the region.

119. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Language surveys have been conducted by all nations.
- (b) There is hardly any language to be (c) All the languages are either complete languages or dialects of other major languages.
- (d) No new language needs to be discovered since all languages are known to the world.

120. “The people may be known, but the identity of their language may not be,” means

- (a) People are recognised as different ethnic groups but not necessarily their language.
- (b) People are recognised as different ethnic groups and their language is recognised.
- (c) People are not recognised as different ethnic groups, and so are their languages.
- (d) Because the people are not from different ethnic groups and their language is recognised.

121. Which one of the following words from the passage means ‘come to be known’?

- (a) transpire
- (b) lingua franca
- (c) straight
- (d) variant

Answers with Explanations

PASSAGE 1 (2010 - I)

1.(c) Examples that inspire

Explanation: The passage says that “inspiring examples ... held before the child ... are the true groundwork of character,” so it’s these examples that build character.

2.(d) the home

Explanation: It states, “the true background of early education is the home.”

3.(b) a man who has struggled against adversity

Explanation: The author contrasts expensive-school products with “the poor man who has struggled against adversity” who earns the highest honour.

4.(b) in the belief that his dull son will be transformed into a genius

Explanation: A well-to-do man sends his son abroad “in the belief that some wonderful process will ... transform a dull fellow into a genius.”

5.(a) they fail to make a mark in life

Explanation: “Fail to make good” here means failing to succeed or “make a mark” in life.

PASSAGE 2 (2010 - I)

6. (c) various organs of the body function less efficiently

Explanation: The decline in heart power, blood flow, lung capacity, etc., makes old age depressing.

7. (b) increases calcium content in bones

Explanation: Exercise stresses bones so calcium content rises, improving fracture resistance.

8. (b) breathe out

Explanation: “Exhale” means to breathe out.

9. (a) Exercise delays natural decay of old age

Explanation: The passage notes that many age-related declines “can be delayed by exercise.”

10. (d) the person's ability to exhale sufficient air lessens

Explanation: The text links age with reduced exhalation capacity, coinciding with chest-wall stiffening.

PASSAGE 3

11. (c) a bridge supported by floating flat-bottomed boats

Explanation: A pontoon bridge is made by linking boats or floats.

12. (d) there was a steep elevation

Explanation: Soldiers push against the spokes to help the carts up the steep bank.

13. (c) it was a steep uphill journey

Explanation: The carts “staggered up the steep bank.”

14. (a) the writer wants to compare between the bridge and the motionless old man

Explanation: The still old man is juxtaposed with all the busy crossing traffic to heighten the contrast.

PASSAGE 4

15. (d) When there is vegetation found in the desert

Explanation: Sprouting vegetation in a desert is called “a good sign.”

16. (b) it will cause huge floods which will destroy coastal regions

Explanation: Melting polar fields could submerge coastal cities under rising seas.

17. (d) of rising temperatures

Explanation: Cracks in ice caps are attributed to warming (“probably due to global warming”).

18. (c) To make us aware of the dangers of global warming

Explanation: The author warns about ice-melt and rising seas as threats from global warming.

PASSAGE 5

19. (d) go out in the evening

Explanation: The narrator says it’s his habit “not to keep indoors after sunset.”

20. (c) liked to read

Explanation: He picked up the book intending to read if not for the cold.

21. (c) he was feeling very cold

Explanation: The increasing cold made him “nearly incapable of turning the pages.”

22. (b) it was a cold evening

Explanation: Few people were out because “it was a very cold evening.”

PASSAGE 6

23. (a) 2 and 4

Explanation: The passage implies “men are made great by self-effort” (2) and that Gandhi “transformed nameless ... people into ... heroes” (4).

24. (c) fearlessness

Explanation: Gandhi’s “elixir of growth” that he “fed” people was fearlessness.

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25. (c) compassion

Explanation: He had "a deep, touching faith in the peasants, miners, labourers ..." showing compassion.

26. (b) courageous

Explanation: "Leonine" (lion-like) implies courage.

PASSAGE 7

27. (d) sheep in and the dingo out

Explanation: The fence keeps dingoes (predators) out to protect sheep.

28. (a) kangaroo

Explanation: The kangaroo is Australia's natural symbol.

29. (b) the absence of native predator

Explanation: Without dingoes, marsupials multiply unchecked.

30. (c) the dingo cannot get at the kangaroo

Explanation: The fence prevents the dingo from controlling kangaroo numbers.

PASSAGE 8

31. (b) Many nocturnal animals do not have good eyesight

Explanation: It says not all nocturnal animals have good eyesight; many rely on other senses.

32. (b) touch

Explanation: Whiskers are sensitive "sense organs" for touch.

PASSAGE 9

33. (b) vital for the elephant's survival

Explanation: Needing about thirty gallons daily shows water's vital importance.

34. (b) to ward off the heat

Explanation: Spraying water over ears cools the elephant.

35. (c) dig holes in the river bed to reach the water

Explanation: During droughts they "scoop out holes ... until they reach water."

36. (b) the oldest adult drinks first

Explanation: They drink "in order of seniority, calves last."

PASSAGE 10

37. (c) whose colours shone brightly in the sunlight

Explanation: The bird was "tiny ... of a blue and a red that sparkled when brushed by the sun."

38. (b) placing it in the company of the other birds while they sang.

39. (c) to gently persuade

Explanation: "Coaxing" means gently persuading.

PASSAGE 11 (2012 - I)

40. (b) exchanging goods and services

Explanation: The majority satisfy needs "by exchanging goods and services."

41. (b) goods are produced in surplus

Explanation: Exchange requires a surplus beyond one's own consumption.

42. (d) living in communities

Explanation: Specialization and exchange began when men "started living in communities."

43. (d) we cannot produce everything we need ourselves

Explanation: Because "very few people ... can make for themselves all their ... needs," exchange is necessary.

PASSAGE 12

44. (c) may be other planets like the Earth in this universe

Explanation: The author allows that similar planets could exist where life could adapt.

45. (c) the planetary system exists

Explanation: The hypothesis rests on the commonality of planetary systems.

46. (a) if there is life on the planet, it would be like ours

Explanation: "If life had gained a foothold ... it is possible that life closely paralleling our own ... could have developed."

PASSAGE 13

47. (d) grandmother of the author who used to teach at his/her school

Explanation: The farewell is for "her" (the grandmother) who evidently taught at that school.

48. (a) sad

Explanation: The ceremony was "touching" and made people cry.

49. (a) he/she was the only child who loved his/her grandmother

Explanation: The narrator felt "jealous" on seeing others share the right to love her.

PASSAGE 14

50. (d) human life is very complex

Explanation: "Our existence here is so complex that we must expect much sorrow"

I Comprehension Skills I

51. (b) is sincere in discharging his duties

Explanation: "No man was ever discontented ... who did his duty in it."

52. (d) are sensitive and emotional

Explanation: To "feel" implies sensitivity—so life seems a tragedy to the emotional.

53. (c) are happy and spread happiness

Explanation: Such persons "brighten the whole room," reflecting their cheerfulness.

54. (a) Look at the bright side of things

Explanation: The closing advice is to "always try ... to look at the bright side."

PASSAGE 15

55. (c) Correlation between the climate and the character of the inhabitants of a region

Explanation: The author argues that India's climate and monsoon shaped its people's character.

56. (a) Indian

Explanation: Indians did *not* face hard winters, unlike Greeks, Romans, and Chinese.

57. (c) Indian people have been rewarded more generously by nature in proportion to their efforts

Explanation: "Blessed by a bounteous nature" means nature gave more than it demanded.

58. (a) Fatalism

Explanation: The tendency to "accept ... fortune and misfortune alike" is fatalism..

PASSAGE 16

59. (c) is generally of a remarkable character and ability

Explanation: Leaders in free countries "are usually of outstanding character and ability."

60. (c) Germany was in despair

Explanation: The passage notes Hitler's rise was aided by his country's despair.

61. (a) despair sometimes leads to dictatorship

Explanation: It suggests that a nation driven to despair may accept a dictator.

PASSAGE 17

62. (a) can be trained to do different kinds of work

Explanation: The dog "can be trained for many duties" from sentry to rescue work.

63. (a) their brave deeds

Explanation: Dogs receive medals "for bravery in action."

64. (c) the dog has certain qualities that make it man's trustworthy companion

Explanation: The passage emphasizes qualities—intelligence, fidelity—that make dogs faithful.

65. (b) a pedigree dog

Explanation: "Aristocratic bloodhound" refers to a purebred, high-status dog.

PASSAGE 18

66. (c) know the name of the station

Explanation: He "roused" himself "in order to hear the name of the station."

67. (b) one of the wheels was broken

Explanation: The engine lay derailed because "one wheel [was] broken."

68. (c) it could make no effort to stand upright

Explanation: The engine's death agony is likened to a fallen horse "incapable of ... struggle on to its legs again."

PASSAGE 19

69. (c) A high peak covered with snow

→ The mention of "cutting steps", "ice-axe", and "snowy summit" indicates snow-covered mountainous terrain.

70. (b) he had to cut the steps out of snow before climbing up which was necessarily a slow process

→ "Cutting steps continuously for two hours" clearly suggests carving steps into snow or ice, which is slow and tiring.

71. (a) that after the long exertion he was feeling so weak that any further climbing meant a hard struggle with the forces of nature

→ The phrase "grim struggle" shows exhaustion and physical hardship due to exertion.

PASSAGE 20

72. (d) restricted individual freedom to ensure freedom for all

→ The main idea is about limiting individual liberty to ensure social order and mutual liberty.

73. (c) protecting the liberty of all to use the road

→ The policeman symbolizes liberty by ensuring safety and order on the road for everyone.

74. (c) try to strike a sensible balance between our individual liberty and our social liberty

→ The author stresses a balance: "judicious mixture" of both liberties.

75. (b) educating or not educating his child is also a matter of social liberty

→ The passage says society will not permit total absence of education, implying it's a social concern.

76. (c) Importance of Liberty

→ The core theme revolves around liberty—individual vs. social.

PASSAGE 21

I Comprehension Skills I

77. (a) 1 only

→ Only statement 1 is directly supported. The bat flew low "like a dive-bomber". Statements 3 & 4 are speculations.

78. (b) to eat the moths round the lamps

→ The passage says its objective was to "snap up the moths".

79. (d) unable to give the correct explanation for its behaviour

→ The author wonders if the bat is crazy or if its radar is faulty, showing uncertainty.

80. (c) the bat has peculiar qualities

→ Its strange flying pattern and low entry make it interesting.

81. (c) My Nocturnal Visitor

→ Best describes the unique bat who visits the author at night.

PASSAGE 22

82. (c) was rather angry

→ "Clouded with a gathering frown" signals irritation with the Quick Man.

83. (b) people were unconvinced

→ The trick was spoiled because the audience believed the Quick Man's explanation.

84. (c) had things in the large sleeves of his coat

→ The Quick Man repeatedly says, "he had it up his sleeve."

85. (a) foolish

→ The tone of the passage ridicules the Quick Man's simplistic, dismissive comments.

86. (c) one gentleman from the audience

→ The conjuror asks for "some gentleman" to lend a hat.

PASSAGE 23

87. (c) the weather had been unpleasant

→ Magda says, "I haven't been out much... I don't like this weather."

88. (b) her sister was coming over

→ Magda says she's staying until her sister settles down.

89. (a) expecting with pleasure

→ "Looking forward to" means anticipating something positively.

90. (d) pursue her studies

→ Magda confirms: "Yes, that's right" when asked if her sister is coming to study.

91. (c) neighbours

→ Casual friendly conversation and weather talk implies neighbourly relationship.

PASSAGE 24

92. (c) has always been one nation along with differences

→ The passage says: "we were one nation... we had differences."

93. (b) Because they could observe the underlying unity of the country as made by nature

→ The sages established pilgrimage sites to promote unity across regions.

94. (a) critical

→ The author sarcastically compares the railway's effect to an opium habit, suggesting harm.

95. (d) The purity of heart is superior to observance of any ritual

→ "Those whose hearts were aglow with righteousness had the Ganges in their own homes."

96. (A) Dialogic Style

→ The passage establishes dialogue.

PASSAGE 25

97. (c) For pleasure, enhanced capability and holistic growth

→ The passage mentions delight, ornament, and ability as purposes of study.

98. (a) Because it reflects idleness

→ "To spend too much time in studies is sloth."

99. (d) By experience

→ "Studies... are perfected by experience."

100. (b) Cunning

→ "Crafty men condemn studies..."

101. (c) evaluate and understand

→ One should read "to weigh and consider."

PASSAGE 26

102. (d) 1, 2 and 3

→ All three points are mentioned as demotivating prudent use.

103. (c) When the resource use has little impact

→ People exploit resources when they perceive vastness or minimal personal impact.

104. (b) erratically

→ People's self-interest does not align predictably with sustainability.

105. (c) believe in conservation and reproduction of resources

→ The rooted locals best fulfil conditions for sustainable use.

106. (a) exhaust

→ 'Deplete' means to use up or exhaust.

PASSAGE 27

I Comprehension Skills I

107. (a) Water

→ Water is abiotic, all others (humans, protozoa, bush) are biotic.

108. (b) 2 only

109. (c) Algae

→ Algae is a living organism, thus biotic.

110. (b) Biotic community found in water

→ Aquatic = water-based; community refers to living organisms.

111. (c) Both similarities and differences

→ Species are defined by similarity to each other and difference from others.

PASSAGE 28

112. (a) 1 only

→ The "unwelcome form of globalisation" clearly refers to disease.

113 (d) the indiscriminate use of antibiotics

114. (d) 1, 2 and 3

→ Medical misuse, overuse of antibiotics, and emergence of resistant strains are all causes.

115. (a) Humans are coming in to contact with unfamiliar viruses

→ "Humans into close contact with rodents... harbor viruses previously unknown."

116. (b) The scientific study of the spread and control of diseases

→ Epidemiology deals with how diseases spread and how they are controlled

PASSAGE 29

117. (d) People who speak the language do not claim their language.

→ This is not mentioned in the passage.

118. (a) By establishing contact over a period of time with speakers of the language.

→ Long contact helps researchers realize it's a distinct language.

119. (b) There is hardly any language to be surveyed.
→ This is incorrect as many areas are yet to be surveyed.

120. (a) People are recognised as different ethnic groups but not necessarily their language.

→ Their language may remain unrecognised despite their known identity.

121. (a) transpire

→ "Transpire" in the context means "to come to be known."