

COMPREHENSION SET-3



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ANYBODY CAN SPEAK

Comprehension-Food Chain

Animals eat plants and other animals. Animals can be grouped under four categories depending on the kind of food habits. Animals that eat plants are called Herbivores. Cow, sheep Giraffe are some herbivores animals. Carnivores are animals that eat flesh of other animals. Animals like lion, tiger e.t.c. are carnivores animals. Some birds feed on decaying organic matter are called scavengers. Eagle and vulture are scavengers. Animals that eat plants and flesh of other animals both are called omnivores. Bear, crow cockroach are omnivores. Parasites are small insects or animals. Fleas, leeches and bugs are some parasites.

Answer the following questions:-

- 1.What are herbivores?
- 2.What are carnivores?
- 3.What are parasites?
4. Name some carnivores animals?
5. Name some omnivores?

Comprehension-Bears

Bears are found in Europe, Asia, Africa and America they are massively built, with short tails and thick legs. Bears are not really carnivore. They eat almost anything the chief exception in the polar bear which in its natural state lives on fish and seals. However, in captivity, they seem to enjoy meat, vegetables, fruits, milk, rice and porridge. Bears are not quite as dangerous as people imagine them it be like most animals, they will do their best to avoid human being. However bears are by no means cowardly animals. Many hunters have been killed by bears for they can be extremely dangerous and cunning. Bears have a strong sense of smell but they have very poor eye-sight. They are also dull of hearing but they are very intelligent.

Answer the following questions:-

Q.1) Where are bears found ?

Q.2) What does a bear eat in captivity ?

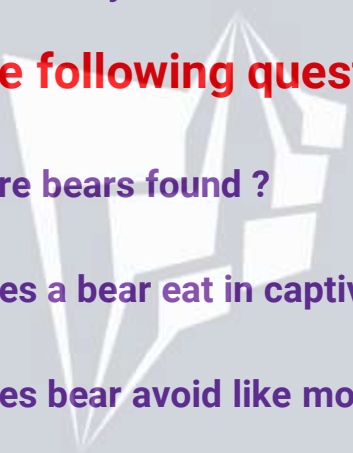
Q.3) What does bear avoid like most animal ?

Q.4) What kind of animal is bear ?

Q.5) What is the strongest sense of a bear ?

Q.6) Who have been killed by bears ?

Q.7) Explain the appearance of a bear?



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Comprehension-Solar System

The sun, eight planets, satellites and some other celestial bodies form the solar system. The sun is in the centre of the solar system. The sun is ultimate source of heat and light for the solar system. There are eight planets in our solar system. They are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Mercury is the nearest planet to the sun.

Venus is considered as “earth’s-twin” because its size and shape are very much similar to that of earth. Earth is the third nearest planet to the sun. The earth is a unique planet in the solar system because only this planet has life on it. It is also known as blue planet. Our earth has only one satellite, that is the Moon.

Answer the following questions:-

1. What is solar system?
2. How many planets are there in solar system?
3. Which planet is nearest to the sun?
4. Which planet is known as “earth’s twin”?
5. How many satellites does our earth have? Write the names of that satellite?

Comprehension

The giraffe is the tallest of all living land animals. A male can go up to 18 feet and a female upto 15 feet. Such height enables them to escape the competition for ground level grass that exists among other leaf-eaters. It also gives him a long range of vision. He takes the warning of the approaching enemy early. Giraffes eat a variety of leaves, but acacia leaves are their favourite diet. In spring when many trees are not in leaf, they spend 80 percent of the day eating. In summer, when trees are in full leaf, they need only 15 per cent. The rest of the time is spent in resting and quarrelling. A giraffe's long neck is made up like that of man and most other mammals, of only seven vertebrae. The bones are attached to one another with ball and socket joints. These make the neck flexible. It can run at 50 km per hour .Rising from a lying position is a problem for such a large animal. So it usually keeps standing even while it sleeps. To reach water with such a long neck and legs, a giraffe spreads its front legs wide apart. Then it lowers its neck to drink. This awkward position makes it easy for the lion to attack it.

On the basis of your reading of the above passage fill in the blanks with suitable words:

1. A giraffe is the(a) of all land animals. The height of a..... (b) giraffe can go upto 18 feet. The (c)of a female giraffe can be upto 15 feet. With this height it doesn't have to(d) with other animals for leaves. This enables it to see its (e) from a long distance. It, however, creates problem in reaching (f)in tanks.
2. Find words from the above passage that mean opposite to the following:
(a) dead (b) detached (c) stiff (d) hind.

Comprehension

A volcano is a burning mountain with a great hole running deep into the earth. Out of it come smoke, gases and stones. The mouth of the opening is called the crater of the volcano. Volcanoes are not always burning. Sometimes a volcano will remain quiet for centuries. And then it will suddenly become active. This is called volcanic eruption. When the eruption takes place, great clouds of ashes, dust, gas and steam rise from the crater. Loud noises come from the crater. After sometime, white hot molten rock, called lava begins to flow down the mountain sides. This may go on for days or weeks. Then the volcano will 'go to sleep' again for many years. Most volcanoes are found near the seas.

Questions

1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage complete the following:
 - (a) A volcano is a burning mountain which .
 - (b) When a volcano becomes active, .
 - (c) Lava refers to .
 - (d) A crater is the mouth of the .
 - (e) Most volcanoes are found .
2. Find words from the above passage that mean opposite to:
 - (a) closing (b) dormant (c) far

Comprehension

A myth has been built around the pelican, one of the oldest surviving birds. It is a commonly held belief that the mother feeds her chicks on her own blood. So people have regarded the pelican as most affectionate and dutiful bird. The large bill of the bird makes it very easy to recognise it. It has a short tail, short legs, long wings and a large bag under its bill. Because of its webbed toes, the pelican finds walking on the land difficult. However, it is a delight to watch these birds in flight. The pelican has figured among the largest of birds. It has a wingspan of up to 2.75 metres, and weighs between 4.5 and 11 kg. It lives in places with a moderate climate. It migrates to India, Africa and Iran in winter because its wings do not give sufficient protection against the cold. The brown pelican is the smallest of the pelicans. It dives its head long into water from quite a height to get at its prey. The other six species of pelicans have a white plumage. Pelicans are very sociable birds. They travel, rest, nest and even fish together. The young pelicans take wing when they are about two months old. The nests of pelicans are far from the source of any food. Therefore, the adults have to fly great distances to get food.

Questions:

1. Below you can find a summary of the above passage. Fill in each blank with one word/phrase to complete it.
Pelican is one of the oldest (a)birds. It is believed that its young ones are fed by the mother's (b) Perhaps due to this, pelican is regarded as the (c)and dutiful bird. It has long (d)..... , webbed feet and a very short tail. Pelican finds it difficult to walk on land because of its (e)..... . It lives in places where the climate is (j)..... . In all, there are (g)species of pelicans.

2. Find words from the above passage that mean the same as
(a) enough (b) friendly

Comprehension

The system of education in our country is defective. It is not keeping pace with the passage of time. It follows the pattern which was valid five decades ago. The aim of education is to prepare students for the tough battle of life. The basic needs of life are a sound mind in a sound body, and skill to make a living. It widens the sphere of knowledge and builds our character. In short, education should turn out a strong team of responsible citizens. Education has to be related to life and also the needs of the nation. Not gold but only men of character make a nation great and strong. It is unfortunate that our policy-makers give little importance to moral education and noble values. They set up schools and colleges only to turn out an army of graduates, good for nothing. We need men with brain, we need good scientists and technicians, we need tough soldiers for the army. Education for all sounds sweet. But mere slogans and schemes on paper won't take us far. Our leaders don't have the will to serve the nation. Also schemes fail at the ground level.

Questions:

1. On the basis of the reading of the above passage, complete the following sentences:
 - (a) Our education system is wrong because
 - (b) The aim of education is to
 - (c) Our nation needs
 - (d) Men of strong character alone make
 - (e) All our experiments fail to improve the quality of education because
2. Find words from the above passage that mean the opposite to
 - (a) soft/delicate (b) sickly/weak (c) near

Comprehension

Using car phones while driving can be far more dangerous than driving under the influence of liquor. Latest research says drivers using these mobile phones as a means of faster day-to-day communications may be heading for an accident. The study has shattered the common belief that drinking is the chief cause of the majority of road mishaps. Talking on mobile phones increases the risk to one's life compared to driving after being drunk. The findings of the study are based on the survey of several cases of road accidents. In fact, a study of the records of drivers involved in 699 such mistakes showed that the risk of accident for those who talk on phone while driving was at least four times higher compared to those driving in a state of drunkenness. The only advantage for those driving with cellular phone was that they could summon immediate help through these phones. The study which is relevant for the entire world is relevant for India as well. Here too these phones are being used increasingly for communication and business transactions.

Questions:

1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage complete the following sentences.
 - (a) Using car phones while driving is very dangerous because
 - (b) Accidents on the road can be caused because of
 - (c) Latest research has made it clear that
 - (d) With the help of a mobile phone one can
 - (e) Cell phones are being used increasingly in India for .
2. Find a word from the above passage that means the same as
 - (a) risky (b) accidents (c) call

Comprehension

Conversation is a fine art. It is the art of exchanging thought. It is an art which anybody can cultivate or master. Not everybody can paint or play music, but almost everyone can talk. Thus it affords the greatest pleasure to the greatest number. "To talk", says R.L. Sleverson, "is our chief business in the world. And talk is by far the most accessible of pleasures. It costs nothing in money, it is all profit. It completes our education, makes friends and can be enjoyed at any age. Conversation is indeed the most teachable of all the arts. All you need to do is to find a subject that interests you and your listeners. Hobbies are, for example, numberless hobbies to talk about. But the important thing is that you must talk about the other fellow's hobby rather than your own. Therein lies the secret of your popularity. There is nothing that pleases people so much as your interest in their interest. It is just as important to know what subjects to avoid and what subjects to select for good conversation. If you don't want to be set down as a bore, avoid certain unpleasant topics. Avoid talking about yourself unless you are asked to do so. Sickness or death bores everybody. The only one who willingly listens to such talk is the doctor, but he gets sad for it. You must also know not only what to say but also how to say it.

1. **Answer the following questions briefly:**

- (a) How does the author define and explain the art of conversation?
- (b) How is talking easier to learn than other fine arts?
- (c) What are the subjects one can easily talk about?
- (d) Which topics usually bore the listener?
- (e) What should be avoided unless you are asked to do so?

2. Find out words from the above passage similar in meaning to the following

- (a) acquire or develop (b) within reach (c) make happy.

Comprehension

Do you know that around 270 eucalyptus trees or 460 bamboo plants are saved when we produce one tonne of hand made paper? It is eco-friendly hand-made paper that also checks pollution of water, land and air. Large quantities of polluting chemicals are used by paper mills. Hand-made paper is the best form of recycled paper. It has a fine surface for writing. It is also strong enough for making drawings. Paper manufacturing is a very old tradition. It was invented in China nearly two thousand years back. Indians used the leaves of palm trees for writing. Papyrus is a kind of paper made from a reed of the same name. It grew on the banks of the River Nile, and was used in Egypt. The hand-made paper industry flourished in India during the Mughal period. But it died with the setting up of paper mills in the 18th and 19th centuries. Mahatma Gandhi revived it during the freedom movement. Today it is a fast growing industry.

1. **Answer the following questions briefly:**

- (a) Why is hand-made paper becoming more and more popular?
- (b) Mention two features of hand-made paper.
- (c) What did Indians use for writing when there was no paper?
- (d) What is papyrus?
- (e) Why did the hand-made paper industry die in India in the 18th and 19th centuries?

2. **Find words from the above passage that mean the same as:**

- (a) control (b) prospered (c) bring back to life

Comprehension-Books

Our ancestors had great difficulty in getting books. Now, our difficulty is what to read. There are books and books but our hours of reading are very few. Therefore, choice becomes essential. We should be very careful about what we read. There are books which poison our lives by suggesting evils. We should keep them at arm's length. We should read only those books which have stood the test of time. Such books are our great classics like the Ramayana and the Gita. They contain the wisdom of our sages and saints. They have appealed mankind from generation to generation. Reading of such books has ennobling influence on our mind and character. It gives us spiritual enjoyment. These books give us instruction with entertainment. They represent our ancient culture. They set before us high ideals to follow. They are our best friends, best guides and the best treasure.

Unseen Passage with questions:

Q1. We should be selective because

Q2. We should avoid those books which

Q3. The books which have stood the test of time are called....

Q4. What is /are special quality/qualities of classics?

Q5. An expression in the passage which means 'good effect' is

(a) Spiritual enjoyment (b) Ennobling influence (c) high ideals (d) Very careful.

Comprehension-Garbage

Garbage is a great environment hazard. It comes from various sources—used paper, tiffin packing's, plastic bags, ice-cream wrappers, bottle caps, fallen leaves from trees and many more. Garbage makes the premises ugly, unkempt and breeds diseases.

A lot of trash that is thrown away contain material that can be recycled and reused such as paper, metals and glass which can be sent to the nearest recycling centre or disposed of to the junk dealer. It also contains organic matter such as leaves which can enrich soil fertility. A compost pit can be made at a convenient location where the refuse can be placed with layers of soil and an occasional sprinkling of water. This would help decomposition to make valuable fertilizer. This would also prevent pollution that is usually caused by burning such organic waste

Unseen Passage with questions:

Q1: Garbage originates from

Q2: Garbage can create havoc to the mankind by

Q3: What happens to the disposed material at the recycling centre?

Q4: Fallen leaves from trees are useful because they

Q5: Which of these is correct with reference to a composite pit?

Comprehension-Patriotism

Patriotism is an old concept, as old perhaps as the earliest of humans civilizations. But all through the history of mankind, it has been narrowly understood. Today people have begun to realise that patriotism is an essential part of human instinct.

Patriotism has its negative sides particularly when it exceeds its proper bounds. People who think their own country to be the best and are blind to its weaknesses are not patriots at all.

We are the members of a large human family and so cannot neglect our duties and responsibilities towards it. Our love for the country should be conditioned by respect for the whole community. Narrow prejudice can do nothing except to bring misfortune. In trying to overlook others' interest in the modern world, we harm our own.

Unseen Passage with questions:

Q1: Today what is the belief of people regarding patriotism?

Q2: Which type of the people can be categorised as patriots?

Q3: Narrow prejudices always bring

Q4: Patriotism is an evil when it is

Q5: The word in the passage means opposite to positive

Comprehension-Monsoon

What causes the monsoon? The monsoon, which is essentially the seasonal reversal in wind direction, causes most of the rainfall received in India and some other parts of the world. The primary cause of monsoons is the difference between annual temperature trends over land and sea. The apparent position of the Sun with reference to the Earth oscillates from the Tropic of Cancer to the Tropic of Capricorn. Thus the low pressure region created by solar heating also changes latitude. The northeast and southeast trade winds converge in this low pressure zone, which is also known as the Inter tropical Convergence Zone or ITCZ. This low pressure region sees continuous rise of moist wind from the sea surface to the upper layers of the atmosphere, where the cooling means the air can no longer hold so much moisture resulting in precipitation. The rainy seasons of East Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, Australia and the southern part of North America coincide with the shift of ITCZ towards these regions.

Unseen Passage with questions :

Q1: Monsoon is

Q2: What is the full form of ITCZ?

Q3: The major cause of monsoon is the

Q4: Low Pressure region is created by

Q5: It rains when

Comprehension-Dry fruits

Dry fruits are useful in various diseases of the brain, muscles and tissues. Particularly almond has got unique properties to remove brain weakness and strengthen it.

Almond preserves the vitality of the brain, strengthens the muscles, destroys diseases originating from nervous and bilious disorders.

Walnut is another dry fruit that possesses wonderful qualities of curing brain weakness. According to Dr. Johnson, almonds, figs, grapes, dates, apples* and oranges are rich-in phosphoric element and should normally be used by brain workers. Phosphorus nourishes the vital tissues of the body. It keeps the mind full of enthusiasm for more work.

Unseen Passage with questions:

Q1: Dry fruits are useful because they

Q2: Which one is not a property of almond?

Q3: Phosphoric element is profusely found in

Q4: Brain workers should take fruits rich in phosphoric elements because

Q5: The word unique means the same as