

Section A : Reading

Topic : Unseen Comprehension passages : (3)

Q. No.1	150 words	5 marks
Q. No. 2	200 words	5 marks
Q. No. 3	150 words	5 marks
Q. No. 4	150 words	5 marks

4 unseen passages of total 600 words (150 + 180 + 150 + 100 words) with a variety of questions. The passages will be factual, discursive and literary in nature.

The questions are meant to test your comprehension ability and understanding. Full credit is given for the correct value point / points and you should try to give the relevant value point without adding extra matter.

Instruction :

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions by writing the option that you consider the most appropriate in your answer sheet :

Passage : 1

DANCE

Dance is an art form that generally refers to movement of the body, usually rhythmic and to music, used as a form of expression, social interaction or presented in a spiritual or performance setting.

Gymnastics, figure skating and synchronized swimming are sports that incorporate dance, while martial arts Karate are often compared to dances. Motion in ordinarily inanimate objects may also be described as dances (the leaves dance in the wind).

Every dance no matter what style, has something in common. It not only involves flexibility and body movement, but also physics. If the proper physics is not taken into consideration injuries may occur.

Choreography is the art of creating dances. The person who creates (i.e. choreographs) a dance is known as the choreographer.

Dance has certainly been an important part of ceremony, rituals, celebrations and entertainment since the birth of the earliest human civilizations. Archeology delivers trace of dance from prehistoric times such as the 9,000 years old Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka painting in India and Egyptian tomb painting depicting dancing figures from circa 3300 BC.

Once the earliest structured uses of dances may have been in the performance and in the telling of myths. Before the production of written languages dance was one of the methods of passing these stories down from generation to generation.

Questions :-

1. An art form in which people move _____ is called dance.
 - a) Spiritually
 - b) rhythmically
 - c) expressingly
 - d) humorously
2. While writing in a poetic mood, the writer may use the word dance to describe the _____ of some object.
 - a) movement
 - b) beauty
 - c) rhythm
 - d) velocity
3. To avoid being hurt one should consider the _____ of object and its movements while dancing.
 - a) flexibility
 - b) style
 - c) physics
 - d) body movement
4. Before the script of writing was produced, dance used to be a _____ from one generation to another.
 - a) mode of passing information
 - b) mode of passing stories
 - c) mode of sharing experiences
 - d) mode of narrating events.
5. A word in the passage which means the same as 'lifeless' is _____.
 - a) animate
 - b) unanimate
 - c) inanimate
 - d) motionless

Passage : 2

THE BUS UNCLE

The "Bus Uncle" is a video clip of a quarrel between two men aboard a bus in Hong Kong on 27th April 2006. The older man, who came to be nicknamed the Bus Uncle, scolded the man seated behind him, a nearby passenger used his camera phone to record the entire incident. The resulting six minute video was uploaded to the Google Video. The clip became the most viewed video in May 2006.

Passage : 3

REMINISCENCE

I set out on a difficult path
Full of confidence and hope,
Unmindful of the stones
Strewn on my path
The long and winding path
Reminded me of my journey ahead,
I could feel my strength ebbing away,
Yet I felt, with anything
I could cope.
Then emerged a saviour
From the depth of gloom,
As on an inky-black night,
Shines radiantly, the moon...
Infusing new spirit in me
Dispelling my gloom.
A little sympathy.
A little encouragement.
Refreshed my tired soul.
Expecting nothing in return,
The stranger faded away....
Memories still, gently
Reprimand me...
Not even a simple 'Thank You'
Could you say?
I extend a silent gratitude
To this epitome of kindness, so rare
Who found the time
And compassion
To show and say, "I care!"

- When the poet began his journey, he was not aware of the _____ that he would experience in later stages.
 - joys
 - challenges
 - promises
 - expectations
- Whenever he felt that he had lost his strength, he _____ himself with the thought that he could adjust with anything.
 - pampered
 - convinced
 - appreciated
 - strengthened
- The stranger appeared from the depth of gloom and _____ the poet.
 - helped
 - saved
 - troubled
 - motivated
- As a reward for his helpful deed, the stranger expected _____.
 - something
 - a lot
 - nothing
 - many things
- A word in the passage which means the same as ‘to make a feeling disappear’.
 - emerging
 - dispelling
 - infusing
 - winding

A DARK NIGHT IT WAS

A dark, grim night it was
Filled with short sharp barks
I heard the yelping dogs
Some leaves rustled in the dark.
Slowly and softly the wind blew
I felt the night was gripping me.
The sky was of sombre grey hue
I wanted to set myself free.

I heard a song from somewhere
Perhaps a distant hill
But tightly I closed my ears
The sweet voice had a frightening feel.
I suffered till I saw the light
The first ray of the morning sun
It wiped all fears of the previous night
No more did I want to run.
The morning brought delight
Happiness and hope for me
All doubts were far from sight
The gripping fear had set me free.

Questions :

1. The rustling of leaves and yelping of dogs added to the _____ note of the dark night.
 - a) tense
 - b) depressing
 - c) joyous
 - d) frightening
2. The poet felt bound in the shackles of _____.
 - a) darkness
 - b) sadness
 - c) loneliness
 - d) sombreness
3. The _____ of sun shed away all the fears of the poet.
 - a) dawn
 - b) light
 - c) rays
 - d) brightness
4. The morning brought joy and _____ in the mind of the poet.
 - a) happiness
 - b) excitement
 - c) hope
 - d) pleasure
5. A word in the passage which means the same as 'colour'.
 - a) ray
 - b) hue
 - c) pale
 - d) grey

Passage : 5

HAPPINESS

What do you mean by happiness?

It means 'love' more and 'scoldings' less!

Did you ever think how

Happiness can be bought?

Not by money but by sharing

It can be sought.

Do you know where happiness is stored?

Not in trunks but in the heart it is stored.

How did one get it, find it or receive it?

By sharing, caring and

Loving everybody a bit.

Why did the beggar smile that day?

The kindness of the stranger

Made him gay.

Why does the sun shine everyday?

For the love of the earth

And her beauty we say.

During danger why God do we call?

Because he is the treasure of love

And cares for all.

As a conclusion:

What is happiness and love?

That which is as sweet

And soft as a dove!

Questions :

1. Happiness cannot be bought from anyone, rather it can be gained by _____ things and thoughts.
 - a) buying
 - b) sharing
 - c) stealing
 - d) robbing

- ### Passage : 6

Aneesha Aluwalia

Looking for food

Everywhere.

Nobody to help,

To listen to my yelp.

Then came by

A man with

A big tie.

A genius man and

Rich too.

He gave me a penny

Or two.

Questions :

- The poet cried helplessly as he was feeling very _____.
 - hurt
 - hungry
 - upset
 - pained
- The poet _____ the goodness of the rich man who gave him food by thanking him.
 - returned
 - repaid
 - acknowledged
 - accepted

3. The second man helped the poet by taking care of him when he _____.
 - a) needed money
 - b) needed help
 - c) he was upset
 - d) he was unwell
4. The difference between the men who helped the poet was that one had big money bank but the other had a _____.
 - a) small money bank
 - b) bigger money bank
 - c) big heart
 - d) bigger heart
5. A word in the passage which is antonym of 'cruelty' is
 - a) generosity
 - b) kindness
 - c) cared
 - d) good.

Passage : 7

RANGOLI

An ancient Indian art form, Rangoli is drawn at the entrance to usher in peace and prosperity. These are intricate patterns drawn in the courtyard or just outside the threshold of the entrance door to ward off evil spirits. Rangolis are believed to make the surroundings aesthetic and auspicious.

The name, Rangoli, is a combination of two words - rang and avalli which means a row of colours. When you mention the word, Rangoli, what come to mind are colourful geometric patterns as these are greatly favoured all over. Many Rangoli books promote these designs exclusively. The Kolam is usually line patterns in white, with a bit of spot colour provided by kumkum (vermillion) and haldi (turmeric). These are unbroken lines, as it was believed that the absence of gaps left no room for the evil spirits to enter. Today, of course, any line drawing or even freehand off as Rangoli.

The recurrent motifs in Rangolis across the states are inspired by nature and feature leaves (peepal), frutis (coconut and mangoes) and flowers (lotus). Religious symbols like swastika and aum also figure in the designs.

While the ritual of Rangoli has faded from the modern-day home. It has been replaced by a larger-than-life form for mass consumption. Instead of powders, flower petals or grains and pulses are used to fill giant-size Rangolis at hotels and wedding venues, Moulds with punched holes for intricate and detailed design are available in the market, you just have to fill them with powder and let it filter through Rangoli stickers are quite a rage and the fact that they have some few money seems to ease in their pocket.

Passage : 8

- ## BLOGS — USES AND MISUSES

The biggest difference between a blog and a personal diary is that while the latter was a very private affair accessible not even to family members, a blog is a public account, In fact the whole world connected to the internet gets to read its contents if they come across it.

What blogger should keep in mind while blogging is that by displaying our thoughts, emotions, opinions and personal life in full public glory, we are revealing a part of our

private life. We are giving outsiders, strangers, friends, colleagues, and relatives a full view of what's happening inside us and with our lives, something we would hesitate to do in real life. Once blogging begins, it's difficult to control, and we end up sharing our personal thoughts and emotions that we would otherwise have kept to ourselves. The blog entices us, and we fall to be bait.

Blogs don't preserve our anonymity. They let us publish our pictures, professional and personal details, physical address and locations, etc. The biggest precaution to be observed therefore is to think twice before publishing anything, and ask oneself if one would like to make such matters public. The blog readers try to judge us, understand us, get information about us, and take pleasure while peeping into our private lives without realising it.

Questions :

1. Blogs are _____.
 - a) diaries
 - b) personal diaries
 - c) on line diaries
 - d) official diaries
2. Earlier the personal diaries were not available even to family members but blog can be read by _____.
 - a) family and friends
 - b) friends only
 - c) anyone who connects to the internet
 - d) relatives
3. Once we start blogging, we get swayed away and _____.
 - a) share our personal feelings
 - b) comment mindlessly
 - c) share our thoughts
 - d) compliment others.
4. While blogging the writers should be careful as the readers _____.
 - a) compliment them
 - b) judge them
 - c) annoy them
 - d) make fun of them
5. A word from the passage which means the same as 'the state of remaining unknown'.
 - a) reflections
 - b) anonymity
 - c) precaution
 - d) pleasure.

Passage : 9

How do we resist change? We tend to respond to change the same way we respond to anything we perceive as a threat : by flight or fight. Our first reaction is flight - we try to avoid change if we can. We do what futurist Faith Popcon calls ‘cocooning’ : We seal ourselves off from those around us and try to ignore what is happening. This can happen in the workplace just by being passive. We don’t volunteer for teams or committees; we don’t make suggestions, ask questions, or offer constructive criticism. But the changes ahead are inescapable. Those who “cocoon” themselves will be left behind.

Even worse is to fight, to actively resist change. Resistance tactics might include negativity, destructive criticism, and even sabotage. Take a different approach to change. Rejecting both alternatives of flight or fight, we seek a better option — one that neither avoids change nor resists it, but harnesses and guides it. Change can be the means to your goals, not a barrier to them.

Both fight and flight are reactions to perceiving change as a threat. But if we can change our perceptions, we can avoid those reactions. An old proverb goes, “Every change brings an opportunity.” In other words, we must learn to see change as a means of achieving our goals, not a barrier preventing us from reaching them.

Questions :

1. Any change is accepted as a _____ situation.
 - a) welcoming
 - b) threatening
 - c) amusing
 - d) awakening
2. The ‘flight’ reaction is to _____ the change.
 - a) run away from
 - b) welcome
 - c) oppose
 - d) create
3. The fight reaction is to _____ the change.
 - a) run away from
 - b) welcome
 - c) oppose
 - d) create
4. Change should be accepted positively as they bring _____ in life.
 - a) Chances
 - b) Opportunities
 - c) problems
 - d) tensions

5. The word 'barrier' in the passage means _____ .
- a) obstacle
 - b) bridge
 - c) barricade
 - d) destruction

Passage : 10

The history of literature really began long before man learned to write. Dancing was the earliest of the arts. Man danced for joy round his primitive camp fire after the defeat and slaughter of his enemy. He yelled and shouted as he danced and gradually the yells and shouts became coherent and caught the measure of the dance and thus the first war song was sung. As the idea of God developed prayers were framed. The song and prayer became traditional and were repeated from one generation to another, each generation adding something of its own.

As man slowly grew more civilised he was compelled to invent some method of writing by three urgent necessities. Then were certain things that it was dangerous to forget and which, therefore, had to be recorded. It was often necessary to communicate with persons who were some distance away and it was necessary to protect one's property by making tools cattle and so on, in some distinctive manner. So man taught himself to write and having learned to write purely for utilitarian reasons he used this new method for preserving his war songs and his prayers. Of course, among these ancient people, there were only a very few individual who learned to write, and only a few could read what was written.

Questions :

1. Before man invented writing, _____ .
 - a) literature was passed on by word of mouth
 - b) prayers were considered literature.
 - c) literature was just singing and dancing.
 - d) all of the above
2. As for the war songs and prayers each generation, _____ .
 - a) added something of its own to the stock.
 - b) blindly repeated the songs and prayers.
 - c) composed its own songs and prayers.
 - d) repeated what was handed down to it.

3. The first war song _____.
 - a) developed spontaneously
 - b) was inspired by god.
 - c) was a song traditionally handed down
 - d) was composed by leading dancers.
4. Man invented writing because he wanted to _____.
 - a) write literature
 - b) to write war song
 - c) to record and communicate
 - d) to be artistic.
5. The word 'measure' in the context of the passage means _____.
 - a) weight
 - b) rhythm
 - c) size
 - d) quantity

Passage : 11

In terms of the total energy consumed by different sectors, the largest consumer is understandably the industrial sector, which accounts for nearly half the total energy used in the country today. This is followed by the transport sector which consumes about 25%, the household sector (about 14%) and the agricultural sector. (about 9%). This last sector has shown considerable increase in energy used over the last four decades. Among the primary fuels, the relative proportion of coal has dropped from nearly 80% to 40% and that of oil has gone up from 17% to 44% over the same period.

Total energy consumption in India today is equivalent to 291 million tons of oil of which 26% comes from wood. On a per capita basis it works out to about one litre of oil per day, which is extremely low by international standards. The energy disparity between the urban and the rural population is at present as wide as between nations on a worldwide scale. There is apparently a greater need to provide energy in the rural areas and to improve the efficiency of energy use than merely to increase the national figures for energy consumption limiting its use to those who are getting the bulk share already.

With the projected rate of population growth, improving upon the per capital energy consumption is a Herculean task as our coal reserves and the capacity to import oil cannot be increased beyond a point. There is clearly no escape from the utilisation of renewable energy sources in a big way if the gap between the desired levels of energy supply and available resources has to be kept at the minimum.

Passage : 12

Read the following passage carefully and complete the following sentences :-

- Newspapers sell because of news and editorial coverage but it gets more revenue from advertisements. News costs money, while advertisements fetch money. The economics of modern newspapers is such that, it cannot run by just selling news; it has to depend on advertisements. The economics of newspaper publishing requires both subscribers who can afford to buy newspapers and business who can afford to advertise in it. The growth of the press depends on both. Therefore, in newspaper management neither aspect can be neglected.

Co-ordination among the various departments - editorial, circulation, advertising and production - is very essential for effective and better management. The head of various departments must be part of the management of a newspaper. They must be aware of the goals set, policies and future plans of the management. They cannot afford to remain cut off from the mainstream of management function. In addition, each department should keep the other department managers informed of those of its activities that will be useful to them. This is a vital aspect of newspaper management.

Questions :

1. The growth of a newspaper depends on _____ .
2. Of the two aspects of newspaper, news is _____ .
3. _____ is the most essential aspect of effective management.
4. The heads of various departments should be _____ .
5. The word 'goal' in the passage means _____ .

Passage : 13

Read the following passage carefully and complete the following sentences :-

When we are suddenly confronted with any terrible danger, the change of nature we undergo is equally great. In some cases fear paralyses us. Like animals we stand still, powerless to move a step in fright or to lift a hand in defence of our lives, and sometimes we are seized with panic, and again, act more like the inferior animals than rational beings. On the other hand, frequently in cases of sudden extreme peril, which cannot be escaped by flight, and must be instantly faced, even the most timid men at once as if by miracle, become possessed of the necessary courage, sharp quick apprehension, and swift decision. This is a miracle very common in nature. Man and the inferior animals alike, when confronted with almost certain death 'gather resolution from despair' but there can really be no trace of so debilitating a feeling in the person fighting, or prepared to fight for dear life. At such time the mind is clearer than it has ever been; the nerves are steel, there is nothing felt but a wonderful strength and daring. Looking back at certain perilous moments in my own life, I remember them with a kind of joy, not that there was any joyful excitement then; but because they brought me a new experience - a new nature, as it were and lifted me for a time above himself.

Questions :

1. When we face any danger, our reaction to this danger is _____ .
2. In our reaction to the danger, the person becomes _____ and _____ .

3. In the other response to danger, people become _____ and _____.
4. One becomes more energetic than usual when _____.
5. A word in the passage which means the same as “deal with a difficult situation”.

Passage : 14

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

It is not luck but labour that makes men. Luck says an American writer, is ever waiting for something to turn up, labour with keen eyes and strong will always turns up something. Luck lies in bed and wishes the postman would bring him news of a legacy; labour turns out at six and with busy pen and ringing hammer lays the foundation of competence. Luck whines, labour watches. Luck relies on chance, labour on character. Luck slips downwards to self-indulgence; labour strides upwards and aspires to independence. The conviction, therefore, is extending that diligence is the mother of good luck; in other words, that a man's success in life will be proportionate to his efforts, to his industry, to his attention to small things.

Questions :

1. Which two things have been mentioned in the passage for success?
2. What is the opinion of the writer about the luck ?
3. How do you know that labour is necessary for success?
4. Hard work is superior to?
5. A word in the passage which means the same as ‘a strong opinion’.

Passage : 15

SAND AND STONE

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one on the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand : “TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME ON THE FACE”.

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one, who had been slapped, got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After the friend recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone :

TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE”.

The friend who has slapped and saved his best friend asked him, “After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?” The other friend, replied : “When someone hurts us, we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it.”

Questions :

1. Why did one friend slap to the other friend in the face?
2. What was the reaction of the friend who had been slapped?
3. What did the friend do when his friend was drowning?
4. What do you understand by the passage?
5. ‘Near’ in the passage means _____ .

Passage : 16

DADS BLESSINGS

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer’s showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted. As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation, his father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box. Curious, but somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with the young man’s name embossed in gold. Angry, he raised his voice to his father and said “With all your money, you give me a Bible?” and stormed out of the house, leaving the Bible.

Many years passed and the Young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realized his father was very old, and thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day. Before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to his son. He needed to come home immediately and take care of things.

When he arrived at his father's house, sudden sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important papers and saw the still new Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. And as he did, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words PAID IN FULL.

How many times do we miss Spirit's blessings and answers to our prayers because they do not arrive exactly as we have expected?

Questions :

1. What did the youngman want from his father?
2. Why did his father call the youngman in his private study?
3. What was the reaction of the youngman to see the present?
4. After many years, what did the youngman realize?
5. The word in the passage which means 'raised design'.

Reading Comprehension

17. The Joys of Age

No more responsibilities for me,
I can sit in the shade,
Reliving the good old times
Little bad memories fade

I can enjoy my, children's children
Without a parent's pain,
And though I spend hours with them,
The pleasure does not wane.

I can go to bed what time I please
Talk to strangers without unease,
Give bad advice those younger than me
And generally have a real old time's spree.

Longston Hughes

1. The Speaker has no more responsibilities now as _____.
 - a) he has retired from job
 - b) his children carry on his business
 - c) he has become old
 - d) his children look after him.
2. He spends his time now _____.
 - a) sitting in the Sun
 - b) reliving bad memories
 - c) lying down in the shade
 - d) remembering good old times
3. Now his constant pleasure is _____.
 - a) to spend time with his grand children
 - b) to enjoy the company of young children
 - c) to be free from a parent's pain
 - d) to talk to the passers by
4. While talking to strangers the, the speaker _____.
 - a) feels hesitant
 - b) feels worried
 - c) feels no worry unhappiness
 - d) exercises self-control
5. The word 'fade' here means _____.
 - a) to become paler
 - b) to disappear gradually
 - c) to become less bright
 - d) to become weaken

18. The Fallen Leaves

Why should I be the first to fall
of all the leaves on this old tree?
Though sadly soon I know that all
will lose their hold and follow me
While my birth brothers bravely blow
Why should I be the first to go?
Why should I be the last to cling?
of all the leaves on this bleak bough?

Have I not died since the time of spring

And I am worn and withered now.

I would escape the winter gale

And sleep soft silvered by a snail.

—*Robert Servile*

Choose correct option to answer each question.

1. What or who does 'I' in this poem refer to?
 - a) A tree
 - b) A leaf that has fallen
 - c) A dry leaf that is going to fall.
 - d) A dead leaf lying on the ground.
2. What season do you think has been pointed in the first stanza?
 - a) Winter
 - b) Summer
 - c) Spring
 - d) Autumn
3. Who have been called the birth brothers?
 - a) Brothers born in the same family
 - b) Leaves of the tree grown at the same time
 - c) Leaves of the tree that are now dry and dead
 - d) All the trees in the forest
4. What does the leaf in the second stanza want to do?
 - a) It wants to keep clinging to the bleak bough
 - b) It wants to see itself worn and withered
 - c) It wants to flutter in the fire of spring
 - d) It wants to fall down to escape the winter gale.
5. What does the word 'gale' mean here
 - a) Joy
 - b) trouble
 - c) storm
 - d) snow

19. Indian Weavers

Weavers, weaving at break of day.

Why do you weave a garment so gay?

Blue as the wing of a bluebird wild,

We weave the robes of a newborn child.

Weavers weaving at fall of right,
Why do you weave a garment so bright?
Like the plumes of a peacock, purple and green.
We weave the marriage - veils of a queen.

Weavers weaving solemn and still.
What do you weave in the moonlight chill?
White as a feather and white as a cloud,
We weave a deadman's funeral shroud.

– *Sarojini Naidu.*

1. What do the weavers do in the early morning?
 - a) a colourful clothe for a child
 - b) a navy blue garment for themselves
 - c) a blue colour garment for new born child
 - d) a blue colour dress for weaver's child.
2. The wedding dress matches the colour _____
 - a) plumes of peacock, _____ in evening
 - b) Purple and green _____ midnight
 - c) Plumes of peacock _____ late evening
 - d) Purple and green _____ fall of night
3. In the chilly moonlight the weavers weave _____
 - a) Colourless garment for a deadman
 - b) White garment meant for the relatives of a deadman.
 - c) White garment meant to cover a deadman
 - d) Garment of any colour for the deadman's funeral.
4. Which of the following is correct
 - a) Purple and green like peacock
 - b) White like feather and clouds
 - c) blue like wing of bluebird

Answer: All the above.

5. Which is the opposite of 'gay'?
- a) Blue coloured
 - b) Happy
 - c) green & blue
 - d) Cheerless

20.

Andreas Engel, an educational guidance counsellor and Deputy Chairman of Germany's Federal Conference for Child Guidance counselling, believes that the school children need quiet at home to study as the normal noise level in a class-room is 60 to 80 decibels which is too loud for concentrated learning. Engel adds it was generally a good idea for school children to have a place of their own to study shielded from distractions including noise. A lot of noise can be particularly distracting to small children.

The home need not be absolutely quiet, however – they try studying with music in the background, pointing out that many children have the feelings that they do their home work better to music. There is no objective proof of this however.

Engel says it is advisable that school children not start on their homework immediately after getting home. It is better to have little time to rest or play first. He also recommends making homework a habit done regularly at the same time of day, if possible. The child and his/her parents should decide together on the time.

- 1. Who is Andreas Engel _____
- 2. Andreas Engel believes that _____
- 3. What could be a good idea for school children _____
- 4. The children should start homework _____
- 5. Find in the passage similar meaning of the now-protected

21.

Urban legend has it that the closer a student is to the blackboard, the more studious he gets. But the advent of technology has ensured that distance has no impact on learning. Records from our part of the world suggest that the first instance of distance learning can be found in the Mahabharata, example is Eklavya who learnt the nuances of archery

keeping a safe distance from Guru Dronacharya, thus became the world's first distance learning programme student.

India has also popularised distance learning through audio/video—it takes grainy footage aired in the news channel for us to learn of a corruption scandal. Internet based learning has also revolutionized the distance learning approach, for this is a great way to learn about things you never knew. Soon getting a coveted degree from a prestigious university – without ever having to set foot on campus – became a rage and students were willing to give an arm and a leg for it.

1. The urban legend has been _____
2. The advent of technology has _____
3. How did Eklavya learn the nuances of archery.
4. University degree _____
5. Find the word in the passage similar in meaning of the word – most desired.

22.

History is studded with superstition. Ancient people believed that lightning and thunder were messages from God. Setbacks were blamed on star signs or evil influences. The Victory of France's Joan of Arc over the English Army was denounced as the work of a witch. In the early 17th century Resputin held influence in the court of the Russian Czar because he seemed to have supernatural powers. Superstition has been and still is, part of daily life, knowing no barrier of race or class.

Samuel Johnson, the renowned English lexicographer, had the strange practice of never entering or leaving a building except with his right foot foremost. He believed that if he stepped in or out with his left foot he would bring down evil upon the occupiers. He touched every wooden post he passed, and never stepped on the cracks between paving stones.

1. What do you think could be the main idea of the passage _____
2. Samuel Johnson's practice of always putting right foot foremost was aimed at _____
3. Why was the victory of France over England denounced?
4. What did Resputin seem to have?
5. The word 'shortcoming' is similar in meaning to the word used in the passage is _____

23.

Surrounded by deep blue sea, the tiny hillock consisting of only 80 acres of land, known as Ross Island was the paradise from which the commissioner ruled the 293 big and small islands.

Now the only permanent residents of the deserted Ross Island were some deer, and peacocks. They stamped over many a buried head, of convicts and their executioners, of those who gave order and those who obeyed them, some good and some evil.

Silent trees spread their branches shoots and into the crumbling skeletons of once majestic mansions in a desperate bid to stop them from totally disappearing. A million leaves murmured against the violent gusts of wind trying to dislodge the fragments of the structures from their intricate embrace. Wave after wave pounded the islet from all sides. There was no other sound. Strangely, I never heard any chirping of birds.

1. The commissioner ruled from _____
2. On the Ross Island deer and peacocks were _____
3. To stop the mansions from totally disappearing, the trees _____
4. There was no sound in the island because _____
5. The noun form of 'trying' is _____

SOLUTION OF READING SECTION

(Solutions given for passage, 1, 2 & 3)

Passage - 1

1. b) rhythmically
2. a) movement
3. c) physics
4. b) mode of passing stories
5. c) inanimate

Passage - 2

1. c) quarrel
2. b) the older one
3. c) mobile
4. b) became a sensation
5. b) Vigorous

Passage - 3

1. b) challenges
2. d) strengthened
3. b) saved
4. c) nothing
5. c) dispelling