

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

CHAPTER WISE STUDY MATERIAL  
+  
QUESTION BANK WITH SOLUTIONS.

FOR  
**HOTEL MANAGEMENT, BBA, NIFT**  
AND  
**VARIOUS COMPETITIVE EXAMS.**

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## **English Language**

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## Comprehension

**A** Comprehension exercise consists of passages, upon which questions are set to test the students ability to understand the content of the given text and to infer information and meanings from it.

### How to Solve questions of Comprehension Passage

- Read the passage fairly quickly to get the general idea.
- Read again, a little slowly, so as to know the details.
- Study the questions thoroughly. Turn to the relevant portions of the passage, read them again, and then select the correct answer from the given choices.

### Passage : 1

There are books and books on precis-writing. Most of them contain little more than a long series of exercises which the novice is expected to attack. And the weapon given to him for this is an abstract and theoretical definition of the precis. A few of them contain suggestions that are theoretical which the inexperienced learner is expected *to put to the test*. There seems, on the whole, no suitable book on precis - writing wherein passages are actually worked out systematically, step by step. Some books do have a few solved exercises which merely offer ready-made dishes which the learner devours voraciously. But when he has to handle a passage independently, he finds himself *all at sea*. It is to mitigate his helplessness and to instil in him confidence and present a systematic approach and meticulous guide lines, that a book on the subject has become the need of the hour. It is hoped that the present volume with a set of graded exercises solved step by step, will fulfil this need and give the learners the skill and confidence to handle precis-writing with precision and ease.

1. This passage seems to be a part of  
(A) guidelines issued to candidates appearing at a competitive test.  
(B) an essay on 'How to write a precis without tears'.  
(C) a lecture on relevance of precis-writing to learners of English.  
(D) preface to a book on precis-writing.
2. Most books on precis-writing contain  
(i) a number of unsolved exercises  
(ii) a number of theoretical suggestions  
(iii) a list of useful books on precis-writing  
(iv) a vague explanation of what a precis is expected to be  
(A) (i) & (iii) (B) (i), (iii) & (iv) (C) (i), (ii) & (iv)  
(D) all the four.
3. The phrase *put to the test* means  
(A) study in detail  
(B) apply to test the exercises and verify their utility  
(C) challenge, expose and reject  
(D) modify
4. Most of the books on precis-writing are inadequate because.  
(A) they do not offer the learner any specific and systematic guidelines  
(B) contain more solved examples than unsolved passages.  
(C) are too difficult for the students to understand
5. The book aims at  
(A) adding to the confusion.  
(B) offering systematic guidelines and develop his confidence  
(C) offering a book on precis-writing at an affordable price

Answers : 1. (D), 2. (C), 3. (B), 4. (A), 5. (B).

### Analysis

A cursory reading of the passage reveals that the author speaks of precis writing and a systematic approach to it. He feels that the available material in

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the market is theoretical and pompous—the solved examples offer ready-made solutions without any kind of systematic step-by-step approach. He intends to offer a set of graded exercises solved step-by-step to serve as models.

1. From this it is evident that the passage is apart of preface to a book on precis -writing, hence the criticism of currently available books and promise of something new and different.
2. Most books on precis writing are inadequate. Hence the options have to be negative or critical. Hence (iii), can be left out.
3. Apply the method of puzzling out the meaning of the phrase. You will find that (B) is the only suitable option.
4. The obvious choice is (A); otherwise there would be no justification for a new and systematic book on the subject.
5. The response has to be something positive and complimentary which would justify this new books relevance. Hence (B) is the obvious choice.

**Passage : 2**

Newspapers are full of articles explaining how to live on such and such a sum, and these articles provoke a correspondence whose violence proves the interest they excite. Recently in a daily *organ* the battle has been raging round the question whether a woman can exist nicely on £ 85 a year. I have seen an essay “How to live on eight shillings a week.” But I have never seen an essay, “How to live on twenty-four hours a day.” Yet it has been said that time is money. That proverb understates the case. Time is a great deal more than money. If you have time you can always earn money. But though you have the wealth of a cloak-room attendant at the Carlton Hotel, you cannot buy yourself a minute of more time than I have or the cat by the fire has.

1. The theme of the passage can be stated as  
(A) time and tide wait for none  
(B) money makes the mare go  
(C) time is money  
(D) time is much more precious than material things
2. The word organ means ?  
(A) a limb  
(B) symposium  
(C) newspaper  
(D) parliament

3. From the passage one can conclude that  
(A) the Carlton Hotel is patronised by the elite in London  
(B) the cloak-room attendant at the Carlton is very popular  
(C) the cloak-room attendant at the Carlton makes lot of money  
(D) the cloak-room attendant at the Carlton has no time to rest
4. A suitable title for the passage can be  
(A) Money is Time’s Slave  
(B) Time is precious  
(C) If you have the inclination, you can have time too

Answers : 1. (D), 2. (C), 3. (C), 4. (A).

**Analysis**

The passage highlights the importance of time which is more precious than money. The author is pained to note people’s preoccupation with money and the articles in newspaper on how to live within a specified sum but there seems to be little awareness about times importance.

1. The passage speaks of time being more important than money. Thus (D) is the obvious choice.
2. The mention of articles in newspaper and the word daily preceding the word ‘organ’ leads to the assumption that organ is obviously another word for a newspaper.
3. Attendants at popular hotels earn quite a bit by virtue of tips; hence the obvious choice is (C). (A) is partly true but not the exact answer B and (D) can be rejected without much ado.
4. The author is candidly of the view that time is more precious than money. The illustration of the Carlton Hotel cloak-room attendant leads to option (A), (B) only partly relates to the theme of the passage. (C) is totally irrelevant, though catchy.

**Passage : 3**

One of the commonest risks which agricultural life is exposed to in this country is famine or failure of crops because of the failure of rain, and the consequent menace of starvation. A kind of Famine Insurance System was attempted by the British Government of India from about the 80’s of the last century. But the history of that Fund is more a warning than a stimulus to reorganise on those lines a national comprehensive system of Insurance against all the

risks of Agricultural life including famine, epidemics, cattle, plague, crop pests etc. There are, however, no reliable data on which such a scheme of insurance can be based. We cannot, however, resign ourselves, merely because there are no data, to making no effort at redressing these age-old grievances of our forming population. Immediate steps must therefore be taken to collect and compile all available statistics and other information for laying a foundation of this system. And meanwhile other steps must be taken to build up some kind of a special Food Reserve and other guarantees against the risks to which agricultural life is exposed. Special research for combating agrarian pests, cattle diseases, epidemics etc., must also be undertaken if the yield from agriculture is to be substantially raised, and made as considerable as it may well be expected from the land of India, if the conditions of living for those connected with it are to bear comparison with similar conditions for workers in other industrialised nations.

1. Agricultural life in India is exposed to
 

(i) famine	(A) (i), (ii) & (iii)
(ii) starvation	(B) (i), (ii) & (iv)
(iii) debt burden	(C) (i), (iii) & (iv)
(iv) crop failure	(D) all of these.
2. The Famine Insurance System was first attempted in
 

(A) 1780	(B) 1980
(C) 1880	(D) all of these.
3. The best way to cope with the problems of the farmer is
 

(A) modernising farming
(B) Comprehensive mechanised farming
(C) Comprehensive Insurance Scheme covering all the risks that Indian agriculturists are heir to
(D) all of these.
4. The passage does not imply that
 

(A) animal husbandry system in India is grossly inadequate
(B) public health and hygiene are grossly neglected
(C) villages are overcrowded
(D) fanning is very much at the mercy of nature
(E) landlords are inhuman and exploit the farmer
5. The tone of the passage is
 

(A) sarcastic and patronising
(B) objective and sympathetic
(C) concerned and alarming
(D) ludicrous and lighter in vein

6. The living conditions of farmers in India
 

(A) are at par with those of farmers in industrialised countries
(B) are pathetic and need immediate attention
(C) are poor because lack of efforts on the part of the government
(D) are poor but nothing much can be done to improve them

Answers : 1. (B), 2. (C), 3. (C), 4. (C), 5. (C), 6. (B).

### Analysis

The passage is about the problems of Indian farmers like famine, drought and other allied problems. It also speaks of an unsuccessful attempt in the '80s of the last century to raise a fund to meet such exigencies. The solution seems to be a comprehensive insurance scheme and an attempt to come to grips with the problems of agriculture.

1. (B) is the obvious choice. Debt burden is a perennial problem and not directly related to farmers and farming.
2. The obvious choice is (C). Nineteenth century is the clue.
3. The passage does not even indirectly refer to modernising and mechanised farming though these would certainly make farming more remunerative. Hence eliminate (A) and (B). (C) is the answer.
4. The passage does not make any reference to over population or over crowding in the villages. Hence (C) is the obvious choice.
5. The passage speaks at length of the problems that are the bane of agricultural life in India as also the urgent need to find a feasible solution. The author is very much concerned and paints a picture that does cause an alarm. All this leads to choice (C).
6. (A) stands eliminated since there lot of farmers in industrialised countries could be an envy of Indian farmer, (C) stands eliminated because there was an attempt in the eighties of the last century to tackle problem, (D) is a very pessimistic view and runs counter to the suggestions made in the latter half of the passage. Thus (B) is the obvious choice.

### Passage : 4

In every factory that assembles complicated articles by mass-production methods, there is a conveyer belt. As its name shows, this is a moving

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belt that conveys or carries the articles to the workers. Each worker stands at a bench, and as the belt moves past him he takes from it the article that is being made. He performs one operation, and only one. He therefore becomes very skilled at doing this, and does it quickly. When he has done his job, he puts the article back on the belt and picks up another, which he treats in exactly the same way. This is an extremely efficient method of manufacture; for the worker need not go and fetch his materials, and no one has to bring them to him. Thus, no time is lost. Even stupid workers can be taught to do just one operation. The result is that a complicated article is assembled speedily and economically. Most of the articles of every day use are mass produced. The buttons on your coat, your shoe laces, pens, pencils and exercise books are all good and cheap because they are mass produced.

1. The conveyer belt is
  - (A) a trolley that carries workers from one section to another
  - (B) a bench that contains tools carried from one section to another
  - (C) a mechanism that conveys unfinished products from one bench to another
2. Each worker performs only one operation because
  - (A) others should also get a chance
  - (B) he is trained to perform only one operation at which he becomes skilled
  - (C) this results in speed and efficiency
3. The conveyer belt method of production is extremely efficient because
  - (A) the belt moves at great speed
  - (B) the unfinished product is brought direct to the bench where the worker stands
  - (C) even stupid workers can do the job quickly and efficiently
4. Mass-production methods cannot be applied to
  - (i) manufacture of cigarettes
  - (ii) preparing the manuscript of a novel
  - (iii) production of newspapers
  - (iv) painting pictures by M. F. Hussain
  - (A) (i) & (iv), (B) (i) & (ii),
  - (C) (ii) & (iv)
5. Mass-production methods are more suited to manufacturing complicated articles because
  - (A) even stupid workers can be trained to perform one operation efficiently and speedily

- (B) these methods are time saving and cheap
- (C) a large number of workers are involved in doing small and single operations resulting in speed and efficiency

6. One of the following articles is not mass produced
  - (A) newspaper
  - (B) buttons
  - (C) bouquet of fresh flowers
  - (D) coffee powder

**Answer:** 1. (C), 2. (B), 3. (B), 4. (C), 5. (C), 6. (C).

**Analysis**

The passage is about mass production methods and the importance of the 'conveyor belt' which is time-saving and labour-saving, hence quite economical. The workers learn through sustained exposure and need not have any special skills or training. The passage also contains a few examples of consumer items of everyday use manufactured in factories employing mass production methods.

1. The workers stand at a bench so
  - (A) stands eliminated. For the same reason (B) too is ruled out (C) is the appropriate choice.
2. The passage directly states that a worker is trained to perform a single operation of an unfinished product. Thus (B) is the right answer.
3. The passage states that the unfinished product is brought to the bench where the worker is posted. Thus (B) is the obvious choice.
4. Mass production methods can be employed only to articles that consist of various parts or need a number of operations for completion performed by different workers. The manuscript of a novel and paintings by an individual are thus beyond mass production methods. Hence (C) is the obvious choice.
5. (A) is ruled out straight away. Between (B) & (C) the latter is more specific and elaborate (C) is the appropriate choice.
6. Fresh flowers are not manufactured and a bouquet is handmade. Hence (C) is the right choice.

**Exercise-1**

**(COMPREHENSION)**

**Direction:** Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

The money changers in Iraq have two set *modus operandi* to make profits through their fraudulent transactions. They either state a fair price of silver to

the unwary customer and cheat him in weight or they weigh the bullion scrupulously and lower the price. However, they have another trick up their sleeve when they deal with the Tartars. They not only weigh the silver scrupulously but also allow a little extra. Also, they pay them above the current market price. Apparently, they seem to be at the receiving end in the transaction. But they more than make it up while calculating the amount due to the unsuspecting client. The Tartars who can neither calculate nor count leave it to the money changer to work out the sum due to them. The unscrupulous money changer does work it out but to his advantage. The unsuspecting Tartar is, in fact, quite content with the deal since he has been allowed extra weight and a higher than the prevailing market price. He is, temperamentally, incapable of detecting a fraud and is satisfied that he has had the best of the bargain.

1. The money-changers cheat their customers by underweighing or
  - (A) underpricing
  - (B) overpricing
  - (C) charging for the services
2. The money changers are happiest when dealing with the Tartars because
  - (A) The Tartars always give them some extra silver free
  - (B) The Tartars cannot calculate the amount due to them
  - (C) The Tartars do not demand immediate payment
3. The Tartars feel quite satisfied with the transaction because
  - (i) they have been allowed extra weight
  - (ii) they have been offered generous treatment and courtesies
  - (iii) they have been allowed a price higher than the prevailing price
  - (iv) the money-changer makes mistakes in calculating the amount and pays them extra,
    - (A) (i) & (ii)
    - (B) (ii) & (iii)
    - (C) (i) & (iii)
    - (D) (ii) & (iv)
4. The phrase 'modus operandi' means?
  - (A) types of customers
  - (B) method of working
  - (C) types of weighing scales
  - (D) types of ready-made charts for calculating the amount due to a client

5. The word 'unscrupulous' means
  - (A) careful
  - (B) honest
  - (C) dishonest
  - (D) reliable

### Exercise-2

#### (COMPREHENSION)

**Direction :** Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow the passage.

English education brought a widening of the Indian horizon, an admiration for English Literature and Institutions, a revolt against some customs and aspects of Indian life, and a growing demand for political reform. The new professional classes took the lead in political agitation, which consisted chiefly in sending representations to Government. English-educated people in the professions and the services formed, in effect a new class, which was to grow all over India, a class influenced by Western thought and ways and rather cut off from the mass of the population. In 1852 the British Indian Association was started in Calcutta. This was one of the fore runners of the Indian National Congress, and yet a whole generation was to pass before the congress was started in 1885. This gap represents the period of the Revolt of 1857-58, its suppression and its consequences. The great difference between the State of Bengal and that of Northern and Central India in the middle of the nineteenth century is brought out by the fact that while in Bengal the new intelligentsia, chiefly Hindu, had been influenced by English thought and literature and looked to England for political constitutional reform, the other areas were seething with the spirit of revolt.

1. This passage appears to be a part of
  - (A) a history of freedom movement in India
  - (B) the introduction of English education in India
  - (C) the role of the Bengali intelligentsia in a demand for political reforms
  - (D) a treatise on the impact of English Education in India
2. According to the author English Education in India was responsible for
  - (i) a revolt against customs
  - (ii) growing demand for political reform
  - (iii) an awareness for political agitation
  - (iv) preference for Western dress
  - (A) (i), (ii) & (iii)
  - (B) (i), (iii) & (iv)
  - (C) (i), (ii) & (iv)
  - (D) all of these.

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3. The Indian National Congress was formed in  
(A) 1852 (B) 1858  
(C) 1885 (D) None of these
4. The new class comprising English-educated people in professions and services was  
(A) seething with the spirit of revolt  
(B) more British than the British themselves  
(C) influenced by Western thought and Culture  
(D) busy sending representations to the Government
5. The great difference between the State of Bengal and Northern and Central India in the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century was  
(i) English education was quite popular in Bengal  
(ii) The new intelligentsia in Bengal sought political and constitutional reform  
(iii) Bengal produced ardent revolutionaries  
(iv) People in Northern and Central India were seething with the spirit of revolt  
(A) (i) & (ii) (B) (i), (ii) & (iii)  
(C) (i), (ii) & (iv) (D) (ii), (iii) & (iv)
6. English education in India was, in a way, responsible for the Indian Freedom Movement because  
(A) Indians could send representations to the Govt. in English  
(B) It led to the rejection of certain customs and aspects of Indian life  
(C) It created a new intelligentsia influenced by Western thought and Culture
7. Political agitation in the beginning consisted in  
(A) holding public meetings  
(B) talking about reforms in the clubs  
(C) sending representations to the government  
(D) rejecting some Indian customs and traditions
8. Hindus took more readily to English education is suggested by the fact that  
(A) the new intelligentsia was predominantly Hindu  
(B) Hindus were in a majority  
(C) the British Indian Association was started in Kolkata  
(D) the Hindus loved English Literature.  
(E) None of these

**Exercise-3**

**(COMPREHENSION)**

**Direction :** Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow the passage, based on the options to each question.

The great advantage of the electric train over the steam train, I think, is that it does not smell. When you are in a train drawn by a steam locomotive, you always have the unpleasant odour of burning coal around you. If you open the window to look out at the view and to get some fresh air, your are covered with little bits of coal-ash which gets into your hair and eyes and soon forces you to shut the window again and withdraw into the 'impure atmosphere of your compartment. In a tunnel, your misery reaches a peak, for there the smoke is forced into a small area, from which it escapes into the train itself through any small cracks it may find. In a long tunnel, the smell grows worse and worse, while your eyes smart and the electric light in the carriage grows dim, hidden behind the wreathing smoke.

With an electric locomotive, on the other hand, you can enjoy the view and the fresh air without inconvenience. I really think that part of the extra joy one gets out of travelling through the Alps or the Tyrol by train is due to the fact that the trains there are electrically operated, so that the traveller who has become used to having his air dirtied by smoke, and considers such a state of affairs as normal, believes that there is something extra-special-indeed, almost magical about the Tyrolese air. Of course, mountain air is, inevitably, purer and fresher than the air of the plains, but the smoke of a steam train would not allow this state of affairs to last long.

1. Why does one get an unpleasant smell in the steam train?  
(A) because no fresh air can enter the train  
(B) because coal gives out unpleasant smell when it burns  
(C) because the steam trains are very old and foul-smelling
2. What forces you to close the windows of a steam train?  
(A) it is very noisy outside  
(B) there is no fresh air outside  
(C) little bits of coal-ash get into the viewer's eyes and hair

3. Why does one feel miserable when the steam train passes through a long tunnel ?  
 (A) one cannot see things  
 (B) the train gets very noisy  
 (C) the atmosphere inside the train becomes smoke-filled and eyes begin to pain
4. What advantages does one have when one travels by an electric locomotive ?  
 (A) one can have a full view of things outside and breathe fresh air  
 (B) one can travel to the mountains  
 (C) one can travel to any part of the world
5. Alps and Tyrol are names of.  
 (A) cities in the plains  
 (B) mountains  
 (C) tunnels
6. odour (line 3) refers to.  
 (A) smoke (B) smell  
 (C) ash
7. The author seems to suggest that  
 (A) steam engines should be banned  
 (B) all trains should be pulled by electric engines  
 (C) passengers should be issued air filters during journey

#### Exercise-4

#### (COMPREHENSION)

**Direction :** Read the following passage and pick-out the most suitable options that answer the questions that are given at the end of the passage.

What does the screen offer to the story-teller which the novel and the play do not offer ? As a medium, has it any unique advantages ?

It has, in the first place, an arbitrary power over the attention of its audience which no other story-telling medium can exert. It can completely exclude the irrelevant and decide absolutely what is to be seen and heard.

It has an unlimited range of emphasis : an emphasis which can be intolerably crude but which can also be infinitely *subtle*. It can call attention at any moment to any object, indicate a contrast, or build up an association of ideas. Its power to suggest, rather than to state, is limited, of course, by the degree of suggestibility in the public, but that is a limitation which applies to every medium. At present the common denominator of suggestibility may be low, because the art is still in its infancy and has to create

its own public as it develops. But the unexplored regions in this field are vast and fascinating.

The screen is more natural and lifelike than the stage and it has a greater freedom of movement in time and space. It is more dramatic than the novel. It can suggest, in a few seconds, things which the novelist must take many pages to describe. It has the apparatus for saying what cannot be said *in words*. What the novelist is forced to make explicit the film can merely 'imply.

It can, for instance, show how the same person, the same scene, can appear quite differently to different people. It can show the world as seen by two lovers, dining together in a popular restaurant—a noble hall, vast, commodious and beautifully decorated, faultless service, exquisite music and themselves, superbly handsome in one another's eyes, the centre of the scene. The picture carries us from their minds to the mind of a jaundiced old gentleman sitting at the next table. The camera becomes his eye instead of theirs. And simply by dint of ingenious photography, by a change in angles, shots and lighting, by emphasis on other details, the same scene appears quite differently. A shabby, awkward boy and his fat sweetheart are munching a bad dinner in a tawdry, overcrowded room, where the waiters have dirty hands and the band plays out of tune.

It can show how the same scene appears quite differently to one person on different occasions : it can carry us from the mind of childhood to the mind of middle age and show how the vast lake, the mysterious forest and the lofty mountain can shrink in later years to a small duckpond, a copse and a hillock.

1. Cinema is the most powerful story-telling medium because  
 (A) it has mass appeal  
 (B) it is cheaper than buying a novel  
 (C) it has a powerful hold on the attention of the audience
2. Films have a greater impact on the viewer than plays since  
 (i) screen is more natural and life like  
 (ii) affords the director greater freedom of movement in time and space  
 (iii) it is not dependent on the whims and fancies of temperamental artists  
 (A) (iii) (i) and (ii) (B) (i) & (iii)  
 (C) (ii) & (iii) (D) all of these.



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