



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
SENIOR SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
CLASS XII

Worksheet no.7 Reading Comprehension

USEFUL GUIDELINES

1. First of all read the passage quickly and arrive at the general idea of the subject the passage presents. Study the questions given at the end of your passage.
2. Start your second reading of the passage. This reading should be thorough. Underline key sentences or words related to the given questions.
3. An alternate method could be to go through the questions first, which gives a rough idea about the content or subject of the passage. It becomes easier to underline the keywords while going through the passage and will help to reach to the answers faster.
4. While answering the questions, try not to give vague or general answers; be specific; sometimes students use one general description when four or five points have to be made. Avoid general answers.
5. Write in short , simple sentences unless required to do otherwise.
6. Do not repeat yourself. This is a waste of time. Avoid using slang. Do not use vague words when a precise one will do.
7. Make sure that you use your own words as far as possible. This means that you must summarise and interpret information; never copy whole 'chunks' from the passage.
8. When answering factual questions. i.e., questions that involve words like 'what', 'when', 'how' and 'why', do not include information not given in the passage. While answering the 'why' question, you may begin your answer with 'This is because.....' or a similar phrase.
9. While answering vocabulary questions, determine the part of speech of the word. Your answer should have the same part of speech.

Read the passage given below carefully: (SAMPLE)

1. For lasting and clear eyesight, eyes need care in the form of preventive measures, a continuous life-long exercise. Eyes don't just see, they do the talking. This is why of all our senses the most precious is eyesight. Eyes need care in the form of prevention, and knowing some preventive methods in eye care can make your eyes look bright and healthy and leave you with excellent eyesight.
2. How do we keep eyes bright and healthy? Eat good helpings of vegetables, fruits, omega-3 fatty acids, beta carotenes with vitamins A, C and E, enjoy good sleep and avoid direct sunlight. Therefore, good habits and good general health care does play a major role in eye care. Eyes are windows to the human body; while you look out through this window, we, the eye doctors, can look in to find conditions such as glaucoma, abnormal blood pressures, diabetes, heart diseases and other health concerns much before you notice its adverse impact, and help you take preventive measures.

3. It is never too early to begin eye checkups. Throw a torchlight from different directions and look for fixation in newborns and, if in doubt, take the baby to an eye specialist. By the time a child is four, it is imperative to have a check up every year to look for squint, signs of opacity brought in by cataracts and minus or plus powers to decide whether or not glasses are needed. Ultraviolet-protective sunglasses from childhood can help protect eyes from the harmful UV rays. Once in the teens, contact lenses can be worn in place of glasses, but never sleep with them on as they reduce the supply of air and blood to the cornea and can damage eyes. When in 20s, you can get rid of glasses with lasers, Lasik or permanent contact lenses.

4. An emerging and alarming trend is the Computer Eye Syndrome, which appears to be catching on in early adult life. We cannot escape the use of computers but, sadly, our eyes are not designed to cope with these screens. Continuous staring at the monitors reduces blinking, causes strain to the eyes and can lead to dry eyes as well. Therefore, it is always better to take a break of 10 minutes every hour and look at distant objects such as the landscapes or even television.

5. Glaucoma or raised pressure in eyes and diabetic retinopathy are silent killers of eyesight. Therefore, checking eyes once every six months is essential. If afflicted with diabetes, diet, exercise and drugs are to be remembered in that order to keep the doctor away.

6. Around the age of 40, more or less everybody requires reading glasses, a condition known as presbyopia. But now you can get rid of these glasses as well, with lasers called INTRACOR and SUPRACOR. One can develop cataract - defined as the loss of transparency in the natural lens of the eye - at any age, but it usually strikes in old age. It is treated by replacing the opaque lens with an artificial lens called the intra-ocular lens. The latest in cataract removal technique is called femto second laser assisted cataract surgery, which is blade-free, hands-free and makes the operation precise, safe and accurate. That said, eye care is, inevitably, a continuous exercise through life.

1) On the basis of your understanding of this passage, answer the following questions with the help of given options:

a) We keep our eyes bright and healthy by:

- (i) playing in the sun
- (ii) wearing spectacles
- (iii) rubbing our eyes frequently
- (iv) eating good helping of vegetables and fruit ` **(Answer)**

b) By examining the eyes, the doctors can detect health conditions like :

- (i) fractures
- (ii) sinus
- (iii) glaucoma **(Answer)**
- (iv) tonsillitis

c) Eye checkups should begin :

- (i) at the time of birth **(Answer)**
- (ii) at school
- (iii) only when a person complains
- (iv) when a person is above 50 years of age.

d) We should not wear contact lenses for long hours, as they might harm the

- (i) Retina
- (ii) Cornea (**Answer**)
- (iii) Tear Glands
- (iv) None of the above

2) Answer the following questions briefly:

- a) State any two ways in which we can keep our eyes bright and healthy.
--Eat good helpings of vegetables, fruits, omega-3 fatty acids, beta carotenes with vitamins A, C and E, enjoy good sleep and avoid direct sunlight
- b) What will prevent eyes from harmful UV Rays?
--Ultraviolet-protective sunglasses from childhood can help protect eyes from the harmful UV rays.
- c) What problem does Excessive Computer usage cause?
-- Continuous staring at the monitors reduces blinking, causes strain to the eyes and can lead to dry eyes.
- d) What is 'presbyopia'?
--Around the age of 40, almost everybody requires reading glasses, a condition known as presbyopia
- e) What are 'INTRACOR' and 'SUPRACOR'?
--They are lasersto get rid of presbyopia.
- f) What is 'Cataract'?
--It is defined as the loss of transparency in the natural lens of the eye.

3) Find words from the passage which mean the same as:

- a) Negative and unpleasant (Para 2) **ADVERSE**
- b) Grievously affected especially by disease (Para 5) **AFFLICTED**

TASK:

1. This year marks a great milestone in the human saga, similar in magnitude to the agricultural era and industrial revolution. For the first time in history, a majority of human beings will be living in vast urban areas, according to the United Nations-many in mega cities and suburban extension with populations of 10 million people and more. We have become Home Urbans.

2. Millions of people huddled together and stacked on top of each other in gigantic urban centres is a new phenomenon. Recall that 200 years ago, the average person on earth might have met 200 to 300 people in a lifetime. Today, a resident of New York City can live and work amongst 2, 20,000 people within a 10 minute radius of his home or office in midtown Manhattan. Only one city in all of history-ancient Rome-boasted a population of more than a million inhabitants before the 19th century. London became the first modern city with a population of over one million people in 1820. Today, 414 cities boast populations of a million or more people and there's no end in sight to the urbanisation process because our species is growing at an alarming rate. Around 3,76,000 people are born every day on earth. The human population is expected to increase to nine billion by 2042, most living in dense urban areas.

3. No one is really sure whether this profound turning point on human living arrangements ought to be celebrated, lamented, or merely acknowledged for the record. That's because our burgeoning population and urban way of life has been purchased at the expense of the demise of the earth's vast ecosystems and habitats. Cultural historian Elias Canetti once remarked that each of us is a king in a field of corpses, if we were to stop for a moment and reflect on the number of creatures and earth's resources and materials we have expropriated and consumed in our lifetime.

4. Large populations living in mega cities consume massive amount of the earth's energy. To put this in perspective, the Sears Tower alone, one of the tallest skyscrapers in the world, uses more electricity in a single day than a town of 35000 inhabitants. Even more amazing, our species now consume nearly 40 per cent of the net primary production on earth-net amount of solar energy converted to plant organic matter through photosynthesis-even though we only make up one half of 1 per cent of the animal biomass of the planet.

5. It's no accident that as we celebrate the urbanization of the world, we are quickly approaching another historic watershed, the disappearance of the wild. Rising population, growing consumption of food, water and building materials, expanding road and transport, and urban sprawl continue to encroach on the remaining wild, pushing it to extinction. Our scientists tell us that within the lifetime of today's children, the wild will disappear from the face of the earth after millions of years of existence, The Trans-Amazon Highway is hastening the obliteration of the last great wild habitat. Other remaining wild regions from Borneo to the Congo Basin are fast diminishing with each passing day. It's no wonder that according to Harvard Biologist EQ Wilson, we are experiencing the greatest wave of mass extinction of animal species in 65 million years. By 2100, two-thirds of the earth's remaining species are likely to become extinct.

6. Where does this leave us? Try to imagine 1,000 cities of nearly one million or more inhabitants in 35 years from now. It boggles the mind and is unsustainable for the earth. Perhaps the commemoration of the urbanization of the human race in 2007 might be an opportunity to rethink the way we live on this planet. Certainly there is much to applaud about urban life: its rich cultural diversity and social inter course and dense commercial activity come readily to mind. But the question is one of magnitude and scale. We need to ponder how best to lower our population and develop sustainable urban environments that use energy and resources more efficiently, are less polluting, as well as better designed.

7. In short, in the great era of urbanization we have increasingly shut off the human race from the rest of the natural world in the belief that we could conquer, colonize and utilize the rich largesse of the planet to ensure our complete autonomy and without dire consequences to us and future generations. In the next phase of human history, we will need to find a way to reintegrate ourselves back into the rest of the living earth if we are to preserve our own species and conserve the planet for our fellow creatures.

1) On the basis of your understanding of this passage, answer the following questions with the help of the given options:

- a) The city that boasted population of more than a million inhabitants before the 19th century was ;
- (i) London
 - (ii) Ancient Rome
 - (iii) Manhattan
 - (iv) New York

- b) The commemoration of the urbanization of the human race in 2007 might be an opportunity to
- i) rethink the way we live on this planet.
 - ii) be satisfied with what we have done to the eco system
 - iii) to continue aggressive urbanization
 - iv) take pride in the mass extinction of animal species in 65 million years.
- c) Two-thirds of the earth's remaining species are likely to become extinct by the year;
- i) 2101
 - ii) 2100
 - iii) 2042
 - iv) 2110
- d) Scientists believe that within the lifetime of today's children, _____ on the face of the Earth.
- i) villages will disappear
 - ii) the wild will disappear
 - iii) urban areas will disappear
 - iv) arable lands will disappear

2) Answer the following questions briefly:

- a) What is the significance of the present year in human history?
- b) How is life different today from the life in the past?
- c) Why should we lament at the growth of population and not celebrate the progress?
- d) What was London's achievement in the urbanization process?
- e) How is the urbanization harmful for the natural resources?
- f) What is the warning given by our scientists for future?

3) Find words from the passage which mean the same as:

- a. To begin to grow or develop rapidly. (para 3)
- b. An action or a ceremony that makes people remember and show respect for an important event in the past. (para 6)
