



## READING COMPREHENSION TIPS

Comprehension means understanding or perception. The following points are to be carefully noted while attempting questions on comprehension.

- Go through the passage carefully and arrive at the general idea of the subject the passage presents.
- Read a second time to get a better understanding of the passage.
- Arrive at the meaning of difficult words by relating them to the preceding and following sentences.
- Underline relevant words and phrases of the passages which can help you deduce the answers.
- Read the questions carefully.
- Answer precisely using simple language.
- Answers should reveal your understanding of the passage.
- If you are asked to provide a suitable title or heading to the passage remember the title is hidden either in the beginning or ending of the passage.
- Title should relate to the main idea of the passage and should be brief.

### UNSEEN PASSAGES FOR COMPREHENSION (SOLVED)

#### A. 1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that (12 Marks)

1. First, a warning. The journey is tough, steep and peppered with hairpin bends. If you are not a hardened traveller, by the time you reach Tawang your head is likely to be spinning. Add to it the breeze which pierces through all your protective clothing and you could well be wondering what prompted you to make this arduous trip to such Himalayan heights.
2. To get acclimatized to high altitude, the recipe is simple and strict – take it easy on the first day, lest you find yourself out of breath and panting. Tuck yourself in a warm bed and sip some thupka (Tibetan noodle soup) and begin your adventures the following day.
3. In fact when you get up the next morning, you will scarcely believe what you see. The picture postcard beauty of the hill station in Arunachal Pradesh will simply take your breath away. The scenery is pristine and the Himalayan ranges are lush with pine, oak and rhododendron forests. There is also a rich growth of bamboo, which is the favorite food of the red panda found in this part of the Northeast.
4. Located about 10,000 feet above sea level, the Tawang monastery is the second oldest monastery in Asia, which explains the rush of tourists to this remote settlement. The magnificent monastery overlooks the valley and surrounded by mountains that seem to be towering around it like guards. The monastery's enormous yellow roof and white walls stand out like a beacon. The place is completely isolated from the world.
5. One of the biggest attractions of the monastery is the three storey dukhang (assembly hall) that has a magnificent eight-meter-high gilded image of Buddha.
6. The ancient library, leading onto the parkhang (main courtyard) has an excellent collection of old scriptures, images and thankas (traditional paintings and monastery – or gompa in local language – is over 350 years old and is an important centre of pilgrimage for Buddhists.
7. The sixth Dalai Lama was born here. Also known as the Galden Namgyan Lhatse, the monastery is a repository of Tibetan Buddhist culture.
8. Tawang does not have an airport or railway station of its own. It is connected with other town in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam by road. Reaching Tawang from Kolkata is braving a long but rewarding journey. The drive through the picturesque mountain country is spectacular and can leave you breathless as you wind around steep hill-roads and maneuver sharp hairpin bends. In parts, the road can be rather treacherous. This is definitely not a drive for the faint-hearted.



9. The journey to Tawang starts from Guwahati on a bus or a taxi to Bomdila. Past the Dirang valley with its old dzong (fort), the road climbs sharply to Sela Pass at 13,940 feet. This barren, desolate landscape is softened by a serene lake that lies below Sela Pass.
10. Twang has one main street and a warren on alleys to the houses that climb up the hillside towards the towering monastery. It also has one quaint little bazaar which sells products ranging from talismans and prayer wheels to garish sunglasses and transistors. The snack stalls are a plenty offering solja, the yak butter tea, thupka and hot memos, the delicious steamed meat dumpling with chilly sauce.

**1.1 Answer the following questions briefly. (9 marks)**

- (i) Why is the journey up Twang so arduous? (2)  
 (ii) What should a visitor do to acclimatize to high altitude? (1)  
 (iii) Why do people like to visit Tawang? (2)  
 (iv) Describe the Tawang monastery. (2)  
 (v) How can one reach Tawang? (2)

**1.2 Pick out words or phrases which convey the same meaning as the following. (3)**

- (i) Extremely attractive ( Para 4)  
 (ii) Holy place (Para 6) (iii) Huge, in great (Para 3)

**ANSWERS**

- 1.1. i. The breeze pierces the protective clothes. The traveler's head starts spinning.  
 ii. He must get acclimatized to high altitude. He should take it easy on the first day.  
 iii. Greatly attracted by the beauty of this hill station. The scenery is wonderful.  
 iv. It is the second oldest monastery in Asia. It is located about 10,000 feet about sea level and overlooks the valley and seems isolated from the world.  
 v. Tawang does not have any airport. It is connected with other towns in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam by road.
- 1.2. (i) Magnificent (ii) Pilgrimage (iii) Rhododendron

**UNSEEN PASSAGES FOR PRACTICE**

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

**LIGHT POLLUTION**

1. Every urbanite knows the bright lights of the city make it impossible to see the stars in a night sky. What most of us do not know is that those lights also may be making us sick. The cause is light pollution – the unearthly glow of billions of street lamps, security and porch lights, searchlights, office lights and signs – as people everywhere try to dispel the darkness of the night.
2. For the first time, light is being investigated seriously as a pollutant and a health hazard – a possible cause increased incidence of breast cancer, depression and other ailments.
3. In the most heavily urbanized regions, it no longer ever really gets dark. Satellite images reveal that in large areas of eastern North America, Western Europe, Japan and Korea, night has become a constant twilight. In a natural night sky, someone looking at the heavens should be able to see nearly 3500 stars and planets and the glow from the Milky Way, our galaxy. But in some brightly lit cities, the number of visible stars has dwindled to about a few dozen.
4. And for many wildlife species, light pollution seems to be as grave as environmental threat as bulldozed habitats and toxic-chemical dumping.



5. Lighting from office towers confuse migratory birds which fly into buildings lit up at night. Millions of birds in North America die from these crashes. Researchers have noticed since the 1980s that artificial lights along ocean beaches confuse millions of baby turtles. Observers say that the turtles instinctively crawl to the brightest thing on the horizon – normally the reflection of the moon on the sea. But where beaches are illuminated, baby turtles often crawl to the lit roads, where they are flattened by cars, or wander in circles on the beach. Once day breaks, they bake to death in the sun.
6. Sea turtles and birds are clearly in peril because of light at night, but scientists have begun to study whether human may share something of the same fate. Richard Steven, a US Epidemiologist, has developed the idea that night light can disrupt critical hormonal levels that affect human health. Stevens came to this conclusion while trying to solve the puzzle of why breast cancer risk is five times higher in industrialized societies than in non-industrialized countries.
7. Stevens turned to literature on circadian rhythms- the 24-hour biological clock that guides daily body functions – and on melatonin, a hormone most living creatures produce only in darkness. In a study published in 2001, Stevens says that there is ‘mounting evidence to suggest that disruption of the melatonin rhythm may lead to chronic fatigue, depression, reproduction anomalies and perhaps even cancer’. Melatonin is produced in the brain’s pineal gland only when the eyes signal it is dark. Those working under lighting at night could be reducing the amount of melatonin they produce.
8. Travis Longcore, Science Director at the Urban Wild lands Group (a Los Angeles conservation group), says that light pollution should be receiving the same attention as other environmental ills. Canada has set up a conservation reserve north of Toronto, the first in the world to preserve a pristine night sky. Conservationists are hoping to expand the area of preserved night sky beyond the park’s boundaries by encouraging local municipalities to curtail the use of poorly designed night lighting.
9. In the United States, the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) has been campaigning for bylaws requiring ‘night-friendly’ lights, with the bulbs recesses into the fixture so that the light does not glare out horizontally or upwards. Lamps that direct a light beam at the ground use less electricity and do not uselessly light the sky. While the health and environmental impacts of night pollution are starting to capture attention, Dave Crawford, the executive director of IDA, has other concerns too. He too worries that light may be making people sick and harming wildlife, but he says the fading of the heavens could also cause a fading of the human imagination – in many ways a greater long-term threat.
10. Writers and artists have been drawn inspiration from the night sky. Says Crawford, “It’s the glamour and wonder of the universe we live in. We’ve got to preserve that.”

### 1.1. Answer the following questions (9 marks)

1. How is light a pollutant? What harm does it cause? (2)
2. What startling revelation does this passage provide about death of turtles? (1)
3. How does lighting affect our daily body functions? (2)
4. What measures have been taken in Canada to reduce light pollution? (2)
5. What are the suggestions given by the IDA to counter light pollution? (2)
6. Pick out words or phrases which convey the same meaning as the following: (3 marks)
  - (i) Threat or danger (Para 6)
  - (ii) Unusual, irregularity ( Para 7)
  - (iii) To limit ( para 8)



2. **Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

1. A scholar is refused admission to a good school primarily because of his weak interactive skills. It is indeed pathetic that though English is spoken fluently and used every day; yet none is satisfied with their abilities. A learner feels he cannot express himself the way he wants to. And he fails miserably to connect with his own hidden
2. The Education system, in its endeavors to make Curriculum relevant and life-oriented has, as a matter of fact, fallen short of its standards. It is oblivious of the fact that the most applied and practical subject- English: is devoid of practical afflatus. English is at cross roads. Both aspects of Education: the cultural that empowers a learner to grow and the productive aspect that makes him do things, is relegated to the background curriculum thus stands lopsided. It fails to provide full range of services and cannot tap teachers' expertise. No proper moves and strategies have been formulated to make it unique. English courses are mushrooming and alluring advertisements clip are often spotted.
3. With the onset of the new millennium, demands of the Educational System to sensitize itself to changing societal needs has also increased manifold. The new race of human beings has to be served New Curriculum that caters to the Unity Of Thought, Action & Deed and help evolve an integrated human personality. A Comprehensive Curriculum alone can enhance their understanding of four basic skills.
4. Acquiring the skill of English is no Catwalk. And English is no Science where results are verified; but it means Construction; ingenuity at work. The Architecture that it builds can never be complete if it is divorced from learning by doing.
5. There are a number of Projects like Phonetics, News-reading, Indian literature, Poetry- composition, Interview skills, biography- launch, etc. which can help a pupil to experiment till he finds a medium that helps free flow of thoughts, to think critically and creatively and emerge as literary competent. As long as there is proper feeding, English will live in their hearts and reign in their minds. Sooner or later, they will be blessed with a marathon for actionable learning that shall make a multidimensional impact on them. "Within the enclosure (pupils) lies the potential for a new beginning And within this exciting beginning lies an astonishing future for him."
6. English cannot be conferred so easily and so soon. We need to take control of English. There is a grave need to designate English, without the slightest hesitation, a practical status if at all, we want a remarkable future. The lack of efforts in learning English and the general feeling of not being interested in learning the English language that are plaguing the system should be urgently addressed. Should not we all battle against this abuse?

1.1. **On the basis of your reading the passage answer the questions given below. 9marks**

1. What are the interactive situations? (1)
2. What is the 'matter' of grave concern? (2)
3. Explain unity of thought, action and deed? (2)
4. How can English help evolve an integrated personality? (2)
5. How can you find an astonishing future? (2)

1.2. **Pick out one word from the passage that means the same as: (3)**

- (a). Nascent (para1)      (b). Pragmatic (para2)      (c). Depths (para 6)



## NOTE MAKING

### Tips to prepare Notes and Summary:

- Prepare notes using phrases only and never use complete sentences.
- The topic sentence of each paragraph is the main point and the ideas affiliated to it are the sub-points – one or more depending on the concepts in the paragraph. Sub points should be limited to five.
- Each sub-point may or may not have supplementary ideas which become subsub points.
- Proper indentation is essential.
- Provide an appropriate title for the notes and the summary.
- Include a minimum of 4 to 6 distinctly different, recognizable short forms of the Longer Words (abbreviations) in the notes.
- Underline all short forms. Provide the key for the short forms at the end of the notes titled 'Key to Abbreviations'.
- Cover all the important points in the passage while preparing the notes.
- Identify and club similar ideas scattered in different paragraphs/areas of the Passage before subtitling paragraph wise to make note short and precise. Do proper indentation. You may use symbols & figures also for abbreviation.
- Include all the important points in the notes meaningfully to prepare the summary in about 80
- Write the summary in complete sentences in a paragraph with a suitable title.

### Split up of Marks

Note making (5)	Summary (3)
Title : 1 content: 3	Content: 2
Key to Abbreviation: 1	Expression: 1

### Passage for Note Making (Solved)

- 1 *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :*

Research has shown that the human- mind can process words at the rate of about 500 per minute, whereas a speaker speaks at the rate of about 150-words a minute. The difference between the two at 350 is quite large.

So a speaker must make every effort to retain the attention of the audience and the listener should also be careful not to let his mind wander. Good communication calls for good listening skills. A good speaker must necessarily be a good listener.

Listening starts with hearing but goes beyond. Hearing, in other words is necessary, but is not a sufficient-condition for listening. Listening involves hearing with attention. Listening is a process that calls for concentration. While listening, one should also be observant. In other words, listening has to do with the ears,

well as with the eyes and the mind. Listening is to be understood as the total process that involves hearing with attention, being observant and making interpretations. Good communication is essentially an interactive process. It calls for participation and involvement. It is quite often a dialogue rather than a



monologue. It is necessary to be interested and also show or make it abundantly clear that one is interested in knowing what the other person has to say.

Good listening is an art that can be cultivated. It relates to skills that can be developed. A good listener knows the art of getting much more than what the speaker is trying to convey. He knows how to prompt, persuade but not to cut off or interrupt what the other person has to say. At times the speaker may or may not be coherent, articulate and well-organised in his thoughts and expressions. He may have it in his mind and yet he may fail to marshal the right words while communicating his thought. Nevertheless a good listener puts him at ease, helps him articulate and facilitates him to get across the message that he wants to convey. For listening to be effective, it is also necessary that barriers to listening are removed. Such barriers can be both physical and psychological. Physical barriers generally relate to hindrances to proper hearing whereas psychological barriers are more fundamental and relate to the interpretation and evaluation of the speaker and the message.

**A.2.1** On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes in points only, using abbreviations wherever necessary. Supply a suitable title.

**A.2.2** Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.

**A.2.1** Effective listening makes effective communicator

- (1) Listening involves :
  - (i) Hearing with attention
  - (ii) Concentration
  - (iii) Observation
  - (iv) Interpretation
- (2) Good comm. :
  - (i) Is Interactive process
  - (ii) Calls for participation
  - (iii) Needs involvement
  - (iv) Is a Dialog
- (3) Good listening is :
  - (i) An art to cultivate
  - (ii) A Skill to develop
  - (iii) An Art of understanding more than said
  - (iv) An Art of prompting and persuading speaker
- (4) Regardless speaker's dilemma, good listener helps him
  - (i) to put himself at ease
  - (ii) to articulate
  - (iii) to get across message
  - (iv) to Marshal right words
- (5) Barriers to listening
  - (i) Physical- related to hindrance to proper listening.
  - (ii) Psychological- related to interpretation & evaluation of speaker & message

comm.	→	Communication	Good	→	Good
Spkr	→	Speaker	msg	→	message
wrds	→	words	rltd	→	related
wid	→	with	undstng	→	understanding

### GOOD COMMUNICATION CALLS FOR GOOD LISTENING SKILLS

Listening is an interactive process starts with hearing but involves attention, concentration, involvement and interpretation. One should be interested and show off the same. It is an art which can be cultivated and developed. A good listener knows getting more than said, helps speaker to articulate, put him at ease and facilitates him to get across the message. Listening can be effective if physical barriers (hindrance to hearing) and psychological barriers (interpretation and evaluation of message) are removed.



2. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow: (8)

1. The small village of Somnathpur contains an extraordinary temple, built around 1268 A.D. by the Hoyasalas of Karnataka – one of the most prolific temple-builders. Belur and Helebid are among their better-known works. While these suffered during the invasions of the 14th century, the Somnathpur temple stands more or less intact in near-original condition.
  2. This small temple captivates with the beauty and vitality of its detailed sculpture, covering almost every inch of the walls, pillars and even ceilings. It has three shikharas and stands on a star-shaped, raised platform with 24 edges. The outer walls have a profusion of detailed carvings: the entire surface run over by carved plaques of stone. There were vertical panels covered by exquisite figures of gods and goddesses with many incarnations being depicted. There were nymphs too, some carrying an ear of maize a symbol of plenty and prosperity. The elaborate ornamentation, very characteristic of Hoyasala sculptures, was a remarkable feature. On closer look- and it is worth it – the series of friezes on the outer walls revealed intricately carved caparisoned (covered decorative cloth) elephants, charging horsemen, stylized flowers, warriors, musicians, crocodiles, and swans.
  3. The temple was actually commissioned by Soma Dandanayaka or Somnath (he named the village after himself), the minister of the Hoyasala king, Narasimha, the Third. The temple was built to house three versions of Krishna.
  4. The inner center of the temple was the kalyana mandapa. Leading from here were three corridors each ending in a shrine, one for each kind of Krishna – Venugopala, Janardana and Prasanna Keshava, though only two remain in their original form. In the darkness of the sanctum sanctorum, I tried to discern the different images. The temple's sculptural perfection is amazing and it includes the doors of the temple and the three elegantly carved towers.
- 2.1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. Give the passage a suitable title. 5

### Temple of Somnathpur

1. Temple: the beauty and vitality
  - 1.1. Detailed sculpture – covering walls, pillars, ceilings
    - a. Series of friezes on outer walls
    - b. intricately carved elephants
    - c. charging horsemen
    - d. stylized flowers
    - e. warriors, musicians, crocodile and swans
  - 1.2. three shikharas – stands \*shaped, raised platform – 24 edges
  - 1.3. the outer walls – detailed carvings
  - 1.4. the entire surface – carved plaques of stone
  - 1.5. vertical panels covered by exq. fig.
2. Representation of Hinduism
  - 2.1. incarnations
  - 2.2. many deities
3. Temple in the History
  - 3.1. comsnd. Soma Dandanayaka or Somnath
  - 3.2. the inner center of the temple – kalyana mandapa
  - 3.3. three corridors ending in a shrine



**Key to Abbreviations**

1. \* star
2. exq exquisite
3. fig figures
4. comsnd. commissioned

**2.2. Write a summary of the note prepared in not more than 80 words. (3 marks)**
**Temple of Somnathpur**

The temple of Somnathpur is extraordinary due to the sculptures on the walls, pillars, and even the ceiling which is covered by exquisite figures of gods and goddesses. It is a representation of Hinduism with its many incarnations and deities. The temple commissioned by Somnath has a 'kalyana mandapa' with three corridors ending in a shrine.

**Passages for Practice**
**(i) Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow: (8)**

1. The practice of soil conservation involves methods to reduce soil erosion, prevent depletion of soil nutrients, and restore nutrients, already lost by erosion and excessive crop harvesting. Most methods used to control soil erosion involve, keeping the soil covered with vegetation.
2. In conventional farming, the land is ploughed several times and smoothed to make a planting surface – a practice that makes it vulnerable to soil erosion. To reduce erosion, an increasing number of farmers in many countries are using conservation – tillage farming, also known as minimum – tillage, or no- till farming, depending on the degree to which the soil is disturbed. Farmers using these methods disturb the soil as little as possible in planting crops.
3. For the minimum-tillage method, special tillers break up and loosen the subsurface soil without turning over the topsoil. In no-till farming special planting machines inject seeds, fertilizers and weed-killers into slits made in the unploughed soil.
4. In addition to reducing soil erosion, conservation – tillage and no-till farming reduce Fuel and tillage costs and water loss from soil. They can also increase the number of crops that can be grown during a season.
5. Soil erosion can also be reduced by 30-50 percent on gently sloping land by means of contour farming – ploughing and planting crops in rows across, rather than up and down, the sloped contours of the land. Each row planted horizontally along the slope of the land acts as a small dam to help hold and slow the runoff of water.
6. Terracing can be used on steeper slopes. Each terrace retains some of the water running down the vegetated slope. Terracing provides water for crops at all levels and decreases soil erosion by reducing the amount and speed of water runoff. In areas of high rainfall, diversions ditches must be built behind each terrace to permit adequate drainage.
7. In strip cropping, a series of rows of one crop, such as corn or soybeans, is planted in a wide strip. Then the next strip is planted with a soil-conserving cover crop, such as grass or grass-legume mixture, which completely covers the soil and thus reduces erosion. Temple of Somnathpur The temple of Somnathpur is extraordinary due to the sculptures on the walls, pillars, and even the ceiling which is covered by exquisite figures of gods and goddesses. It is a representation of Hinduism with its many incarnations and deities. The temple commissioned by Somnath has a 'kalyana mandapa' with three



corridors ending in a shrine. These alternating rows of cover trap soil that erodes from the other rows, catch and reduce water runoff, and help prevent the spread of plant diseases and pests from one strip to another.

8. Windbreaks can reduce erosion caused by exposure of cultivated lands to high winds or shelter beats. These are long rows of trees planted to partially block the wind. Windbreaks also provide habitats for birds, pest eating and pollinating insects and other animals.
2. a). On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. Give the passage a suitable title. (5 marks)
2. b).. Write a summary of the notes prepared in not more than 80 words. (3 marks)

**Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow: (8 marks)**

1. The tests of life are its plus factors. Overcoming illness and suffering is a plus factor for it moulds character. Steel is iron plus fire, soil is rock plus heat. So let's include the plus factor in our lives.
  2. Sometimes the plus factor is more readily seen by the simple-hearted. Myers tells the story of a mother who brought into her home - as a companion to her own son - a little boy who happened to have a hunchback. She had warned her son to be careful not to refer to his disability, and to go right on playing with him as if he were like any other boy.
  3. The boys were playing and after a few minutes she overheard her son say to his companion: "Do you know what you have got on your back?" The little boy was embarrassed, but before he could reply, his playmate continued: "It is the box in which your wings are and some day God is going to cut it open and then you will fly away and be an angel".
  4. Often it takes a third eye or a change in focus, to see the plus factor. Walking along the corridors of a hospital recently where patients were struggling with fear of pain and tests, I was perturbed. What gave me fresh perspective were the sayings put up everywhere, intended to uplift. One saying made me conscious of the beauty of the universe in the midst of pain, suffering and struggle. The other saying assured me that God was with me when I was in deep water and that no troubles would overwhelm me.
  5. The import of those sayings also made me aware of the nether springs that flow into people's lives when they touch rock bottom or lonely or even deserted. The nether springs make recovery possible, and they bring peace and patience in the midst of pain and distress.
  6. The forces of death and destruction are not so much physical as they are psychic and psychological. When malice, hate and hard-heartedness prevail, they get channeled as forces of destruction. Where openness, peace and good-heartedness prevail, the forces of life gush forth to regenerate hope and joy. The life force is triumphant when love overcomes fear. Both fear and love are deep mysteries, build character. It helps us to accept and to overcome suffering. It creates lasting bonds and its reach is infinite.
  7. It is true that there is no shortage of destructive elements - forces and people who seek to destroy others and in the process, destroy themselves - but at the same time there are signs of love and life everywhere that are constantly enabling us to overcome setbacks. So let's not look only at gloom and doom - let's seek out positivity and happiness. For it is when you seek that you will find what is waiting to be discovered.
- 2.1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. Give the passage a suitable title.
- 2.2. Write a summary of the notes prepared in not more than 80 words (3 marks)