

Part A : Reading

Chapter - 1 : Unseen Passages

The students are required to do a thorough study and have understanding of the given comprehension passage which may consist of one or more than one paragraphs. The main purpose of this activity is to test the reading ability of the students and their intellectual skills. This section carries a weightage of

Types of Passages : There are two types of passages which help to test the reading skills of the students during their examination. They are :

1. Discursive Passage : A Discursive passage consists of 400-450 words to test inference, evaluation and vocabulary. Ten out of twelve questions are to be answered. It may also include opinions or feedback. The students are able to come to a conclusion through their reasoning power rather than intuition. They discuss the subject to reach a balanced and objective approach.

2. Case-based Factual Passage : A case based Factual passage contains visual input- statistical data, chart etc. and it is of 200-250 words to test analysis and interpretation. Five out of twelve questions are to be answered.

A good factual passage encourages the reader to compare or contrast the relevant information regarding facts, data, etc. A student learns to get a comprehensive view of the subject and he discusses to improve his or her mental ability. There are instructive, descriptive and reporting passages in this section.

Tips to Know :

Tips for solving comprehension passages :

- (i) Read the passage thoroughly. The reading should be quick.
- (ii) Focus on the relevant details and underline them with a pen or a pencil.
- (iii) Read the questions carefully and go back to the passage to find the answers.
- (iv) The answers are generally in a logical sequence.
- (v) To find the answer to the vocabulary-based questions like synonyms etc., replace the word with the meaning. If you find that it is the same in meaning, the answer is correct.
- (vi) To find the correct option in Multiple-Choice Questions, go through all the options. Re-read the passage and then tick the correct option.

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Part B : Writing

Chapter - 2 : Descriptive Paragraph (Diary)

Diary Entry

5 Marks

Format

Day, Date

Time

Salutation

.....Body.....

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Writer's

Name

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Chapter - 3 : Story Writing

Introduction :

A short story is different from a novel. While novel is a longer story, short story is shorter than a novel. In short story, there is only one plot, one or two main characters and a central theme. Story writing is an imaginative skill and creative art. Story writing depends on a deep thinking, creative imagination, ability of planning and expert narrative technique and effective and impressive language.

How to write a short story :

It is true that specific standards can be applied in story writing as it depends upon the imagination of the writer, but there are numerous ways to shape an impressive story. Some of these ways are as follow :

1. First and foremost, one who intends to write a story, should find out the central character and peep into her/his characteristics and qualities.
2. The writer should adopt techniques in which the reader should find himself/herself spell bound. The details should enhance the interest of the readers.
3. All the events should be kept in proper sequence to avoid any kind of confusions and complexities.
4. The writer should use a wide range of thought process.
5. The writer may use her/his personal experiences to give a realistic approach to the story.
6. The climax of the story should be apt and according to the expectation and mind set of readers. They should not be in a dilemma. They should be clear in their minds.

Tips to write a short story :

- There should be only one plot of the story.
- Story is always written in past tense.
- The theme of the story should be fabricated encircling the central character of the story.
- The end of the story should be clear and devoid of ambiguity.
- Effective language and simple sentences are the basic requirements of the story writing.
- To maintain the readers interest and curiosity, there must be turn and twist in the plot.
- The story should end with a moral.
- The word limit should be maintained.

Format :

- Context
- Introduction of characters
- Plot
- Climax



Part C : Literature (Prose)

Chapter - 1 : Packing

— By Jerome K. Jerome

Revision Notes

Summary

Jerome, the narrator, took pride in himself on his packing. When he, along with his friends, George and Harris decided to go on a holiday, he offered to do the packing. His friends were impressed with him and relaxed assuming that Jerome would do the packing.

But Jerome had intended that George and Harris would pack and he would boss over them. Seeing them sitting around, irritated him. He hated seeing people doing nothing while he was working.

He started the packing. As soon as he had finished, Harris told him he had forgotten his boots. Then he started searching for his toothbrush. A series of hilarious events followed as the bag was packed and unpacked a number of times.

Eventually, George and Harris undertook to do the rest of the packing. Soon the packing became exciting as cups were broken. Harris packed strawberry jam on top of a tomato and squashed it. George trod on the butter. George and Harris upset everything while the narrator sat and saw them packing.

The dog Montmorency added to the confusion. He sat down on things that were to be packed. His aim was to get somebody to stumble over him and curse him. He pretended that the lemons were rats and attacked them.

Finally, the packing was done. Harris said that he hoped nothing was broken. Then they decided to sleep. George asked when he should wake them. They started to argue over the time. Finally, they decided to wake up at 6.30 a.m.

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Chapter - 2 : Reach for the Top

— By Santosh Yadav, Maria Sharapova

Revision Notes

Summary

I. SANTOSH YADAV

Santosh Yadav is the only woman in the world who has climbed Mount Everest twice. Santosh was born in Joniya, a village in Haryana, as the sixth child to her parents. She is the only sister to five brothers.

Her parents were the rich landowners. They could have sent her to Delhi for studying, but she was educated in the village school. When she was sixteen, she refused to marry and warned her parents that she would never marry if she did not get proper education. She got admission in a school in Delhi, but her parents refused to pay the fees. She told them she would take up a part time job, eventually they relented. Santosh passed High School and joined Maharani College in Jaipur.

Her room in Kasturba Hostel faced the Aravalli Hills. From there, she used to see the villagers going up the hill and disappearing. She decided to see by herself as to why the climbers disappeared. When she went there, she met only a few climbers who encouraged her to take climbing. Then there was no looking back. Santosh saved money and enrolled herself in the Uttarkashi Nehru Institute of Mountaineering. She went on an expedition every year. She had an iron will, physical endurance, and mental toughness. Eventually, her efforts started bearing fruits.

In 1988, she joined the Aravalli mountaineers and in 1992, she became the youngest woman to climb Mt. Everest.

Within twelve months, Santosh became the member of the Indo-Nepalese Women's Expedition and set a record of being the only woman to have climbed Mt. Everest twice.

She was honoured with Padamashri, one of the nation's top honours.

It was a proud moment for her to unfurl the Indian tricolour on top of the world. She acted as an environmentalist also and brought down 500 kilograms of rubbish from the Himalayas.

II. MARIA SHARAPOVA

Maria Sharapova is a Siberian teenager who became the world's number one tennis player on 22 August, 2005. She was 10 years old when she was sent to America to train with her father, while her

mother was forced to stay behind. She helped her father while he struggled to support her. This made her determined and mentally tough.

She bagged the ladies' single crown at Wimbledon in 2004. Her journey from Siberia to the top of women's tennis has touched many hearts. She says that she works hard and her sacrifices have been worth it.

She says that she is proud to be a Russian. Even though the US is a big part of her life, she will play the Olympics for Russia if they want her to.

Her hobbies are fashion, singing and dancing. She loves reading novels of Arthur Conan Doyle.

Sharapova cannot be put in a category. She has the talent, a desire to succeed, and readiness to sacrifice. She finds money a motivation but more than that is her desire to be number one.

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Chapter - 3 : The Bond of Love

— By Kenneth Anderson

Revision Notes

Summary

'*The Bond of Love*' is a story of love and friendship between a pet bear cub and the author's wife. He got the cub for her by accident. Two years ago while driving through the sugarcane fields near Mysore, they came across some people driving away wild pigs from their field. Some were shot dead and others escaped. Suddenly, a sloth-bear came out of the field. One of the author's companions shot the bear on the spot. As they approached the fallen animal, they saw a baby cub riding on his mother's back. The little cub circled around the dead mother producing a pitiable sound, then ran away into the fields.

The author was able to catch hold of the cub. The little bear struggled to free himself, but they put him in a gunny-bag. They brought him to Bengaluru. The author presented the little creature to his wife. She was delighted and named him Bruno and later changed the name to *Baba*, a Hindustani word which signifies 'a small boy'.

The author's wife looked after the cub like her own child. They had two Alsatian dogs. The cub became friendly with them and he played with them and even slept in their beds.

One day, by accident he ate some poison that the author had left in the library to kill rats. He suffered from a stroke of paralysis. But he dragged himself slowly to the author's wife. He was vomiting and breathing heavily and growing weak rapidly.

He was taken to a veterinary surgeon. 10 c.c. of anti-dote was given to him. His condition remained unchanged. Another 10 c.c. was injected. Finally, Bruno got up and enjoyed a good meal. In another incident, he drank a gallon of old engine oil, but it had no ill-effects on him.

As time passed by Baba grew in size. He was very fond of the dogs but most of all loved the author's wife. However, because of the tenants' children he had to be tied up most of the time.

The author, his son and friends advised her to hand over Baba to the zoo at Mysore. He had become very big and could not be kept at home. At last, she consented. A letter was written to the curator of the zoo and Baba was packed off.

But he missed them all greatly and refused to eat food. The author stopped his wife from visiting Mysore for three months, but she was adamant. At last, he took her.

Friends thought Baba would not recognize her but the moment he saw her he cried with happiness. She ran up to him and patted him through the bars. She gave him tea, cakes and ice-cream. At last the 'closing time' came and they had to leave.

The author's wife wept bitterly. Bruno also cried. She pleaded with the curator to send Baba back. At first he refused saying that now he was the government's property but finally agreed. He even lent them a cage to transport Bruno.

At home, an island was made for him. It was twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide. It was surrounded by a moat six feet wide and seven feet deep. A wooden box was kept for Bruno to sleep in at night. Straw was kept inside to keep him warm. In a few days, Bruno was released in the island. He was delighted. The author's wife spent hours sitting there with Bruno on her lap. The story shows the baby bear's qualities of love, affection and loyalty.

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Chapter - 4 : If I Were You

— By Douglas James

Revision Notes

Summary

This is the story of an intruder. He entered the house of a playwright. He, however, did not know that the owner of the house was a playwright. He only knew him as Gerrard. He had thought that he was a mystery man, lived in the wilds of Essex, did not meet people and gave his orders over the phone.

The intruder was a criminal and was being chased by the police. He thought he resembled Gerrard, so he had planned to kill Gerrard and live in that cottage by himself.

Gerrard was preparing to leave his house for a dress rehearsal. He had packed his bag with props for the drama.

The intruder threatened to kill Gerrard and told him that he intended to live in his house as Gerrard since he looked like him. He even learnt to imitate Gerrard's voice.

The intruder was about to shoot Gerrard. Then Gerrard warned him to be careful and not to kill him. He told the intruder that he too was a criminal and a murderer, so the police would anyway hang him, if not as himself then as Gerrard.

Hearing this, the intruder began to think. This was an opportunity for Gerrard to act. He asked the intruder to run with him in his car to reach a safer place as the police were about to come there soon. He opened a door which was, in fact, a cupboard. The intruder looked in to see what it was.

Just then, Gerrard gave him a push. The revolver fell as the intruder stepped into the cupboard. Gerrard shut the door and picked up the revolver. Then he telephoned to call the police to arrest the intruder.

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Part C : Literature (Poem)

Chapter - 1 : No Men Are Foreign

— James Kirkup

Revision Notes

Summary

It is a beautiful poem written by James Kirkup to spread the message of peace and harmony by telling us that all men are same and there is no difference between them. Therefore, we should not hate and fight with one another.

The poem tells us that all the divisions which are based on nation, caste, creed, colour or religion have no base because all the human beings are equal before God and humanity. Since we are all same, we must shun violence of all kinds and unite to make our lives better.

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Chapter - 2 : On Killing A Tree

— Gieve Patel

Revision Notes

Summary

This is a very touching poem about how trees are cut down. It gives a touching description of how a tree is uprooted and killed. The poet wants to tell us that just by backing and chopping it wouldn't be killed.

On killing a tree is a poem about the cruel indiscrimination of man about the destruction of trees. Here, the poet has presented tree as an enemy of man and man as a professional killer. When the poem begins, there is an ironical description of the crime committed by the tree. The tree has consumed earth's crust for years and years. It has absorbed sunlight, air and water like a thief and in this process, it has grown like a giant. This is the reason why a tree must be killed. But it is not an easy task. It cannot be done through only a simple jab and knife because it will grow again. So, the tree should be tied with a rope and pulled out entirely. In this way, its bleeding roots will be exposed. After that, it should be browned, hardened and withered to destroy or kill it completely.

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Chapter - 3 : The Snake Trying

— W.W.E. Ross

Revision Notes

Summary

It is a poem about how a snake is made a victim of man's cruelties. The poet describes the slithering and gliding movement beautifully and requests people not to hurt it.

In this poem, the poet wants to convey the ideas that all the snakes are not poisonous nor do they do any harm to human beings. They are friendly to the environment. So, it is nothing but foolishness to kill a snake as soon as we see it. It may be possible that some of them are poisonous yet they are not harmful at all unless they see any danger from us. A snake never bites without cause. It bites only in self protection otherwise it does not harm at all to any creature. But it is a matter of sadness that as soon as a man sees a snake, he always tries to kill it.

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Part C : Supplementary Reader : Moments

Chapter - 1 : Weathering the Storm in Ersama

— Harsh Mander

Revision Notes

Summary

Prashant went to his friend's house in Ersama on 27 October, 1999. It was seven years after his mother's death. In the evening, there came a super storm. Heavy and continuous rain filled the darkness. Trees were uprooted. The water entered his friend's house. The speed of the wind was 350 km per hour.

Everything was destroyed. Prashant and his friend's family had taken refuge on the roof. Prashant was greatly shocked to see a huge sheet of water all over. Houses were broken. Dead animals and

human bodies floated everywhere. Two coconut trees had fallen on the house of Prashant's friend. Its tender coconuts kept them alive for several days.

For the next two days Prashant sat huddled on the roof-top with his friend's family. They were nearly frozen by the cold wind. He thought of his family and decided to go. He was worried about his family. He got a strong stick and started on his eighteen-kilometer journey to his village. The flood water was swollen.

Prashant waded through the water. On the way he found two friends of his uncle. They had to push away dead bodies of human beings and animals to move ahead. There were hardly any houses left in the villages they passed. Prashant kept thinking that no one in his family would have survived.

Finally, he reached his village Kalikuda. The remnants of roof was the only thing left of his house. He went to the Red Cross shelter and saw his maternal grandmother and his whole family there.

Prashant decided to assess the damage and the danger awaiting the survivors. He organised a group of youths of his village. They made a fire and cooked rice taken from the local merchant and decided to clean up the place of filth, urine and floating dead bodies.

On the fifth day, a military helicopter dropped food. But it didn't return. They deputed children to lie there; finally they got food through air dropping.

Prashant became a saviour. He made a shelter for orphaned children and asked the women and children to join the food-for-work programme. It was started by a Non Government Organisation (NGO). He engaged other volunteers to help widows to start their lives and to settle the orphans.

Six months passed since the storm, now finally Prashant had time to think of himself. The widows and orphaned children thought of him only in their hours of distress.

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Chapter - 2 : The Last Leaf

— O. Henry

Revision Notes

Summary

Sue and Johnsy were two young artists. They lived together in a small flat situated on the third storey of an old house. Johnsy fell seriously ill with pneumonia in November. Sue was worried and sent for the doctor. He told Sue that Johnsy had lost the will to live. Medicines would not help her.

Sue tried her best to make Johnsy take interest in things around her. She talked about clothes, fashion and brought her drawing board into Johnsy's room and started painting. She also whistled while painting.

Johnsy looked at an ivy creeper outside on the wall shedding its leaves. She started counting backwards from twelve. Sue asked what it was all about. Johnsy said that she would die with the falling of the last leaf. Sue told her that was all nonsense. But it had no effect on Johnsy.

Behrman, an old painter, lived on the ground floor. He had a dream that he would one day paint a masterpiece. Sue told Behrman about Johnsy's strange fancy. Both he and Sue went to Johnsy's room while she was sleeping. They saw the ivy creeper had only one leaf left on it. It was raining and seemed that the last leaf would fall anytime.

Johnsy awoke from her sleep and saw the last leaf. It was green and healthy. Johnsy looked at it every hour but it didn't fall even in the stormy evening. This revived Johnsy's will to live.

Johnsy admitted that she was a wicked girl. The last leaf had shown her that. It was a sin to want to die. She asked for a mirror and had lots of hot soup.

Next morning Sue told Johnsy about Behrman. He had been ill for only two days. The guard found him on his bed. His clothes and shoes were wet. He had been shivering in the stormy night. He had painted that last leaf on the wall that night. He caught pneumonia and died. The last leaf was his masterpiece. He painted it the night the last leaf fell.

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Chapter - 3 : A House is Not A Home

— Zan Gaudioso

Revision Notes

Summary

The author says that his first year in school was not pleasant. It was twice as big as his old school. His old friends had gone to different high schools. So, he felt very lonely.

One Sunday afternoon, the author was sitting at home doing his homework by the fireplace. He had his cat nearby. His mother stoked the fire. Suddenly, he noticed smoke from the ceiling. They came in the front yard but the fire had surrounded the place and was spreading. His mother ran back into the house and the author ran to the neighbours to call the fire department.

The author's mother ran out of the house with important documents then ran back again to get pictures and letters of her husband. He ran after her but the fireman caught him. The author told the fireman that his mother was inside. The fireman seated him wrapped in a blanket in the car. Soon, another fireman brought the author's mother. He put her in the truck with an oxygen mask over her mouth. She had inhaled a lot of smoke.

After five hours, the fire was finally put out. The house was completely burned down.

It struck the author that he had not seen the cat. He started crying. The firemen did not let him go inside. The author and his mother went to the author's grandparents for the night.

The next day the author went to school in his old dress, no shoes and no books as his backpack had also gone. He felt sad, he wanted to die but he walked to school.

He crossed his house on his way to school. Everything was destroyed. Only the photo albums, documents, etc., were saved. His heart ached for the cat. His mother took him away from there. They would have to find a place to live and buy clothes for school also.

Soon, the rubble was being cleared up. The author kept thinking about the cat. He kept thinking how the cat would climb on him and fall asleep in his pocket.

Soon, everyone came to know about the author's plight. People collected around him to take him to the gymnasium. The author was surprised to see the table inside had a collection of things. These were : notebooks, clothes, jeans, tops, sweater, shirts. He grew emotional. He felt great relief as people came to see him. They were those who had not visited him earlier. He made friends that day.

A month later, the author was at his house. It was being rebuilt. His two friends from school were with him. The fire was responsible for all the wonderful people around him. His life was getting back to normal.

Soon, a woman came to him. She had a cat with her. The author took the cat from her. The cat had run away from the fire and the woman had found it. She telephoned as the author's telephone number was written on its collar. The feeling of loss had vanished and the author felt a sense of gratitude for his life and friends.

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Chapter - 4 : The Beggar

— Anton Chekhov

Revision Notes

Summary

Advocate Sergei was detained by a beggar one day. The beggar was crying for pity and told him he had been a school teacher but had lost his position.

The beggar was in rags. He had dull, sunken cheeks and red spots on either cheek. He wore one high shoe and one low shoe.

Sergei recognised the beggar and told him he had met him in Sadovaya Street. Then he had called himself a student. Sergei warned that he would inform the police.

The beggar admitted the truth and asked for work. Sergei asked him to chop wood. The beggar agreed, though unwillingly. The beggar was taken by Sergei's servant Olga to the shed where he had to chop the wood.

Olga gave the beggar the axe. Sergei seeing a drunken and a spoiled man at work in the cold, felt sorry for him and went away.

The beggar would cut wood on the first of every month. He would also shovel snow, beat the dust out of the rugs and mattresses and put the wood-shed in order. When Sergei moved into another house, the beggar packed and carried the furniture.

Lushkoff, the beggar was now offered other work. Sergei asked him to go to his friends. They gave him some copying work as he could write. Sergei was happy he had put the man on the right track.

Two years went by. One evening standing at a ticket window of a theatre Sergei saw the man again. Lushkoff told him that he was a notary and was paid thirty-five roubles a month. He thanked Sergei for what he had done for him. He said that if he had not helped him he would still have been telling lies.

He asked Sergei to thank Olga, the cook. Lushkoff told Sergei that Olga would rebuke, call him names then she would sit opposite him and weep. Then she would chop the wood for him. Due to Olga's actions, he had a change of heart. He was set right by Olga and would never forget her.

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