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C H E N N A I



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General English

READING COMPREHENSION

- CONCEPTS AND TIPS -

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# R.A.C.E

## Rapid Academy of Competitive Exams

### READING COMPREHENSION

#### CONCEPTS AND TIPS

##### Steps For Doing RC:

1. Try doing the vocabulary questions first.
  2. Read one question and then search for the answer quickly, looking for similar words in the paragraphs. But make sure you do it really quickly. Once you get the needed lines of the answer in the RC, then compare it with the options given in the question.
  3. And most important, If you are unable to locate an answer then move to the next question, but do not get stuck on any question!! Using this method you will be able to attempt the RC in a short span of time and it will help you score well too. This method seems odd, but works beautifully in the exams.
  4. Also stay away from questions like what is the authors view in this passage, or what is the author trying to say, as these questions are usually quite controversial.
  5. For Rest of the Questions only attempt those in which you are 100% sure.
  6. Don't forget that there is negative marking, so no point losing marks by guess work especially in a subject which is not your strength.
- I.** Harold a professional man who had worked in an office for many years had a fearful dream. In it, he found himself in a

land where small slug-like animals with slimy tentacles lived on people's bodies. The people tolerated the loathsome creatures because after many years they grew into elephants which then became the nation's system of transport, carrying everyone wherever he wanted to go. Harold suddenly realised that he himself was covered with these things, and he woke up screaming. In a vivid sequence of pictures this dream dramatised for Harold what he had never been able to put in to words; he saw himself as letting society feed on his body in his early years so that it would carry him when he retired. He later threw off the "security bug" and took up freelance work.

1. In his dream Harold found the loathsome creatures
  - (a) in his village
  - (b) in his own house
  - (c) in a different land
  - (d) in his office
2. Which one of the following phrases best helps to bring out the precise meaning of 'loathsome creatures'?
  - (a) Security bug and slimy tentacles
  - (b) Fearful dream and slug-like animals
  - (c) Slimy tentacles and slug-like animals
  - (d) slug-like animals and security bug
3. The statement that 'he later threw off the security bug' means that

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**III.** Soft bodied animals like caterpillars often fall a prey to voracious hunters like birds or reptiles. Despite having no means to 'actively' defend themselves, with weapons like claws or jaws, they have nevertheless, evolved other equally effective deterrents. A particular species of the caterpillar lives at an altitude over 2,500 metres in the Himalayas. It uses prominent colour to inform would be predators of its inedibility. In the event that an inexperienced or adventurous bird did eat the caterpillar, it would probably vomit it soon after, and subsequently desist from attacking similar species in future. Though this would do the unfortunate victim no good, the species benefits. A rare example of the martyr among animals.

1. The expression "others equally effective deterrents" mean
  - (a) preventive weapons which have equal effect of others
  - (b) mechanism which scares everyone equally well
  - (c) preventive equipment which is as effective as something that has been already mentioned in the passage
  - (d) deterrents that are as powerful as those the caterpillars have
2. Experienced birds do not attack the Himalayan caterpillars because they are

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| (a) repulsive | (b) very aggressive |
| (c) inedible  | (d) disease         |
3. The Himalayan caterpillar uses prominent colours to
    - (a) warn the predator
    - (b) attack the predator
    - (c) reveal itself
    - (d) defend itself
  4. Caterpillars cannot defend themselves because
    - (a) are passive animals
    - (b) are lazy
    - (c) cannot acquire weapons
    - (d) have no claws or jaws
  5. In the context of this passage, a martyr is one who dies
    - (a) without putting up resistance
    - (b) without any gain to oneself
    - (c) while defending ones homeland
    - (d) to save other
- IV.** The strength of the electronics industry in Japan is the Japanese ability to organize production and marketing rather than their achievements in original research. The British are generally recognized as a far more inventive collection of individuals, but never seem able to exploit what they invent. There are many examples, from the TSR Z hovercraft, high speed train and Sinclair scooter to the Triumph, BSA and Norton Motorcycle which all prove this sad rule. The Japanese were able to exploit their strengths in marketing and development

# R.A.C.E

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many years ago, and their success was at first either not understood in the West or was dismissed as something which could have been produced only at their low price. They were sold because they were cheap copies of other people's ideas churned out of a workhouse which was dedicated to hard grind above all else.

1. It is evident from the passage that the strength of a country's industry depends upon

- (a) original research
- (b) international cooperation
- (c) dedicated workforce
- (d) electronic development

2. The sad rule mentioned in this passage refers to

- (a) the inability of the Japanese to be inventive like the British
- (b) the inability of the British to be industrious like the Japanese
- (c) the lack of variety in Japanese inventions
- (d) the poorer marketing ability of British

3. The TSR Z hovercraft, high speed train, Sinclair scooter etc. are the symbols of

- (a) Japanese success      (b) British failure
- (c) British success
- (d) Japanese failure

4. According to the passage, prosperity in industry depends upon

- (a) productivity      (b) inventiveness

(c) marketing ability

(d) official patronage

5. The main theme of this passage is

- (a) electronic industry in Japan
- (b) industrial comparison between Japan and Britain
- (c) the role of marketing efficiency in industrial prosperity
- (d) the importance of original research in industry

**V.** Today perhaps your only association with the word 'polio' is the Sabin Oral Vaccine that protects children from the disease. Fifty five years ago this was not so. The dreaded disease, which mainly affects the brain and spinal cord, causing stiffening and weakening of muscles, crippling and paralysis - which is Why I am in a wheelchair today. If somebody had predicted, when I was born, that this would happen to me, no one would have believed it. I was seventh child in a family of four pairs of brothers and sisters, with huge 23 year gap between the first and last. I was so fair and brown haired that I looked more like a foreigner than a Dawood Bohri. I was also considered to be the healthiest of the brood.

1. In his childhood, the narrator was

- (a) a weakling      (b) very healthy
- (c) tall and slim      (d) short and stout

2. In this passage, the word 'brood' refers to

# R.A.C.E

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- (a) polio victims    (b) foreign children  
(c) children in the family  
(d) Indian Children
3. The narrator was the seventh child in a family of  
(a) 8 children    (b) 16 children  
(c) 23 children    (d) 4 children
4. In this passage, the narrator is a patient of  
(a) heart disease    (b) polio  
(c) paralysis    (d) nervous weakness
5. In his childhood, the narrator looked "more like a foreigner than a Dawood Bohri" This was because he was  
(a) a foreign child    (b) a very healthy boy  
(c) tall and smart    (d) fair and brown haired

### **Answer key:**

- I.** 1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (a)  
**II.** 1. (a) 2. (d) 3. (c) 4. (d) 5. (b)  
**III.** 1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (d) 5. (d)  
**IV.** 1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (b) 4. (c) 5. (c)  
**V.** 1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (d)