

READING COMPREHENSION BASED GENERAL ENGLISH PRACTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PDF WITH EXPLANATION

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DIRECTIONS:

Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions given below them. Certain words are given in bold to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

PASSAGE

In the second week of August 1998, just a few days after the incidents of bombing the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam, a high-powered, brainstorming session was held near Washington D.C., to discuss various aspects of terrorism. The meeting was attended by ten of America's leading experts in various fields such as germ and chemical **warfare**, public health, disease control and also by the doctors and the law-enforcing officers. Being asked to describe the horror of possible bio-attack, one of the experts narrated the following **gloomy** scenario.

A culprit in a crowded business centre or in a busy shopping mall of a town empties a test tube containing some fluid, which in turn creates an unseen cloud of germ of a dreaded disease like anthrax capable of inflicting a horrible death within 5 days on any one who inhales it. At first 500, or so victims feel that they have mild influenza which may **recede** after a day or two. Then the symptoms return again and their lungs start filling with fluid. They rush to local hospitals for treatment, but the panic-stricken people may find that the medicare services run quickly out of drugs due to excessive demand. But no one would be able to realise that a terrorist attack has occurred. One cannot deny the possibility that the germ involved would be of contagious variety capable of causing an epidemic. The meeting concluded that **such attacks**, apart from causing immediate human tragedy, would have dire long-term effects on the political and social fabric of a country by way of ending people's trust on the competence of the government.

The experts also said that the bombs used in Kenya and Tanzania were of the old-fashion variety and involved quantities of high explosives, but new terrorism will prove to be more deadly and probably more **elusive** than hijacking an aeroplane or a gelignite of previous decades. According to Bruce Hoffman, an American specialist on political violence, old terrorism generally had a specific manifesto - to overthrow a colonial power or the capitalist system and so on. These terrorists were not shy about planting a bomb or hijacking an aircraft and they set some limit to their brutality. Killing so many innocent people might turn their natural supporters off. Political terrorists want a lot of people watching but not a lot of people dead. "Old terrorism sought to change the world while the new sort is often practised by those who believe that the world has gone beyond redemption", he added. Hoffman says, "New terrorism has no long-term agenda but is ruthless in its short-term intentions. It is often just a **cacophonous** cry of protest or an outburst of religious **intolerance** or a protest against

the West in general and the US in particular. Its **perpetrators** may be religious fanatics or diehard opponent of a government and see no reason to show restraint. They are simply intent on **inflicting** the maximum amount of pain on the victim."

Q1. In the context of the passage, the culprit's act of emptying a test tube containing some fluid can be classified as

- a) a natural calamity
- b) panic created by an imaginary event
- c) an epidemic of a dreaded disease
- d) a terrorist attack
- e) None of these

Q2. In what way would the new terrorism be different from that of the earlier years?

- A. More dangerous and less baffling
- B. More hazardous for victims
- C. Less complicated for terrorists

- a) A and B only
- b) All the three
- c) B and C only
- d) A and C only
- e) None of these

Q3. What was the immediate provocation for the meeting held in August 1998?

- a) a culprit's heinous act of spreading germs
- b) people's lack of trust in the government
- c) the horrors of possible bio-attacks
- d) the insistence of America's leading
- e) None of these

Q4. What could be the probable consequences of bio attacks, as mentioned in the passage?

- A. several deaths
- B. political turmoil
- C. social unrest

- a) C only
- b) A and B only
- c) B only
- d) A only
- e) All the three

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Q5. The author's purpose of writing the above passage seems to explain

- a) the deadly strategies adopted by modern terrorists
- b) reasons for killing innocent people
- c) the socio-political turmoil in African countries
- d) the methods of containing terrorism
- e) the salient features of terrorism of yesteryear

Q6. According to the author of the passage, the root cause of terrorism is

- A. religious fanaticism
- B. socio-political changes in countries
- C. the enormous population growth

- a) C only
- b) A and B only
- c) B only
- d) A only

e) All the three

Q7. The phrase “such attacks”, as mentioned in the last sentence of the second paragraph, refers to

- a) attack aimed at damaging the reputation of the government
 - b) bio-attack manoeuvred by unscrupulous elements
 - c) bio-attack on political people in the government
 - d) the onslaught of an epidemic as a natural calamity
 - e) None of these
-

Q8. The sole objective of the old terrorism, according to Hoffman, was to

- a) make people realise the incompetence of the government
 - b) give a setback to socio-political order
 - c) remove colonial power or capitalist system
 - d) plant bombs to kill innocent people
 - e) None of these
-

Q9. Which of the following statements is true about new terrorism?

- a) It can differentiate between the innocent people and the guilty.
 - b) It is free from any political ideology.
 - c) It has far-sighted goals to achieve.
 - d) Its immediate objectives are quite tragic.
 - e) It advocates people in changing the sociopolitical order
-

Q10. Choose the word which is most **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage

gloomy

- a) bright

- b) tragic
 - c) disgusting
 - d) discouraging
 - e) versatile
-

Q11. Choose the word which is most **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage

cacophonous

- a) sonorous
 - b) harsh
 - c) melodious
 - d) loud
 - e) distant
-

Q12. Choose the word which is most **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage

intolerance

- a) adaptability
 - b) acceptance
 - c) permissiveness
 - d) forbearance
 - e) faithfulness
-

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Q13. Choose the word which is most nearly **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

perpetrators

- a) sympathisers
 - b) leaders
 - c) followers
 - d) opponents
 - e) manoeuvrers
-

Q14. Choose the word which is most nearly **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

elusive

- a) destructive
 - b) baffling
 - c) fatal
 - d) harmful
 - e) obstructing
-

Q15. Choose the word which is most nearly **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

inflicting

- a) alleviating
 - b) reflecting
 - c) imposing
 - d) elevating
 - e) soothing
-

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Answers to the above questions :

Q1. Answer: (d)

Ascertain the hidden meaning of the sentence: “but no one would be able to realise that a terrorist attack has occurred”. So, undoubtedly the culprit’s act can be classified as a terrorist attack.

Q2. Answer: (c)

“New terrorism has no long-term agenda but its ruthless in its short-term intentions”.

This statement from the passage supports (C). While, in the light of the passage, (A) also seems suitable.

Q3. Answer: (e)

The immediate provocation for the meeting held in August 1998 has not been given among the options. It was the incidents of bombing the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar-esSalaam.

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Q4. Answer: (e)

Bio-attack will result in several deaths which will lead to political turmoil creating social unrest.

Q5. Answer: (a)

Q6. Answer: (d)

'Religious intolerance', as cited in the last paragraph, stands behind terrorism.

Q7. Answer: (b)

Q8. Answer: (b)

Q9. Answer: (d)

Q10. Answer: (a)

The meaning of the word 'gloomy' as mentioned in the passage is 'nearly dark'; 'not well lit'. Hence the word 'gloomy' and 'bright' are antonymous.

Q11. Answer: (c)

The meaning of the word 'cacophony' as mentioned in the passage is 'a mixture of loud unpleasant sounds'. Hence the words 'cacophonous' and 'melodious' are antonymous.

Q12. Answer: (d)

The meaning of the word 'intolerant' is 'not willing to accept ideas, opinions behaviour etc. different from one's own. Out of the given words, 'forbearance' means patience, restraint,

tolerance etc. Hence the words 'intolerance' and 'forbearance' are antonyms.

Q13. Answer: (c)

The meaning of the word 'perpetrator' as mentioned in the passage is 'a person who commits a crime and does something considered wrong'. Hence the words 'perpetrators' and 'followers' are nearly similar in meaning.

Q14. Answer: (b)

The meaning of the word 'elusive' is 'tending to escape or disappear'; 'difficult to find or capture'. Out of the given choices, 'baffle' means 'to be too difficult or strange for somebody to understand, solve or explain'. Hence the words 'elusive' and 'baffling' are nearly similar in meaning.

Q15. Answer: (c)

The meaning of the word 'inflict' is 'to make somebody accept something that is unpleasant or not welcome'. Hence the words 'inflicting' and 'imposing' are synonymous.

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