

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

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## DIRECTIONS:

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

## PASSAGE

It is sad that in country after country, progress should become synonymous with an assault on nature. We who are a part of nature and dependent on her for every need, speak constantly about 'exploiting' nature. When the highest mountain in the world was climbed in 1953, Jawaharlal Nehru objected to the phrase conquest of Everest' which he thought was arrogant. Is it surprising that this lack of consideration and the constant need to prove one's superiority should be projected on to our treatment of our fellowmen? I remember Edward Thompson, a British writer and a good friend of India, once telling Mr. Gandhi that wildlife was fast disappearing. Remarked Mr. Gandhi: 'It is decreasing in the jungles but it is increasing in the towns'

On the one hand the rich look askance at our continuing poverty; on the other they warn us against their own methods. We do not wish to impoverish the environment any further and yet we cannot forget the grim poverty of large numbers of people. Are not poverty and need the great polluters? For instance, unless we are in a position to provide employment and purchasing power for the daily necessities of the tribal people and those who live in and around our jungles, we cannot prevent them from combing the forest for food and livelihood, from poaching and from despoiling the vegetation.

**Q1.** At the beginning of the passage, the writer expresses her opinion that in many countries progress is synonymous with

- a) utmost cruelty to nature.
- b) a balanced treatment of nature
- c) utmost care for nature
- d) development

**Q2.** In the passage the term 'exploiting' nature suggests

- a) greed of man.
  - b) destructive urge of man
  - c) sarcasm
  - d) regretfulness
- 

**Q3.** Nehru objected to the phrase 'conquest of Everest' since

- a) Everest is unconquerable.
  - b) it depicts Everest as a victim
  - c) it sounds pompous and boastful
  - d) it carries a war-like connotation
- 

**Q4.** Gandhi's statement 'It is decreasing in the jungles but it is increasing in the towns.!''

- a) Is a satirical comparison of man's callousness to the animals.
- b) Refers to man's selfishness
- c) Refers to flora and fauna
- d) Refers to wild animals' decrease in the jungle

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**Q5.** The writer is of opinion that tribal people can be prevented from combing forest for food

- a) to provide employment and purchasing power for daily necessities.
- b) by deterring them from poaching and despoiling vegetation
- c) to increase purchasing power
- d) to provide employment

## 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

We all seek happiness but few, very-few, indeed, get it. We are unhappy partly because we desire much more than what we can hope to attain. Our countless desires are hard to be satisfied. And that is what makes us so sad in life.

The secret of happiness lies in the simplification of life. Simple living encourages high thinking. It leads to contentment. Contentment gives us inner wealth, the wealth of the mind and of the soul. A contented man devotes himself to virtues like truth, beauty, love, goodness, kindness and charity. By pursuing and inculcating these virtues, a man can feel true happiness.

I do not mean that for simplification of life, a man should become an ascetic. The happiness of a sadhu is of a negative kind. I want positive kind of happiness. For this I must live in the midst of life and faithfully carry out my responsibilities to my home and my country. But all this should be done in the spirit of selfless service. A man who wants to lead a happy life, should also make others happy. In making others happy he will taste real and lasting happiness. There is a kind of joy in serving others with virtuous motives, in sacrificing what one has for the good of others. An act of goodness is of itself an act of happiness.

The secret of perfect happiness lies in renunciation. Wealth may give us joy for a while and fame may provide us with **fleeting** excitement. But they cannot give us permanent happiness. Kings have everything to make them happy and yet they feel unhappy. It is because they do not practise renunciation.

There is a sense of joy in doing one's work honestly and efficiently. A research-worker feels joy in research and a journalist in writing. In doing one's duty sincerely, one feels peace of mind which is an important essence of happiness.

It is only by cultivating spirit of renunciation, selfsacrifice, contentment and sincere work that one can really be happy. The strings of misfortune spare none but they will not **cow** such a person.

**Q6.** What does a contented man do?

- a) He encounters the strings of misfortunes
- b) He gives up bad habits effortlessly
- c) He faces boldly the adversities of life
- d) He pursues and assimilated the basic virtues of life
- e) None of these

**Q7.** Which of the following is the **correct** chain of things, as mentioned in the passage, leading to happiness?

- a) High thinking, simple living, inner wealth, contentment
  - b) Inner wealth, simple living, contentment, high thinking
  - c) Simple living, high thinking, inner wealth, contentment
  - d) Contentment, high thinking, simple living, inner wealth
  - e) Simple living, high thinking, contentment, inner wealth
- 

**Q8.** According to the passage, the essence of happiness lies in \_\_\_\_\_

- a) avoiding all unfortunate events
  - b) adopting a simple life style
  - c) matching one's abilities with the work undertaken
  - d) worldly desires
  - e) following the dictates of nature Dictate = an order or a rule that you must obey
- 

**Q9.** We are unhappy partly because \_\_\_\_\_

- a) We have countless, unfulfilled desires
  - b) Our lives have become extremely complicated
  - c) We have lost moral and spiritual values
  - d) We have no inner strength
  - e) We carry several stresses and strains
- 

**Q10.** Which of the following statements is **NOT TRUE** in the context of the passage?

- a) Multiplicity of desires make us unhappy.
- b) Making others happy makes one happy.
- c) Renunciation is the result of perfect happiness.

- d) One feels peace of mind in doing one's duty sincerely
  - e) An act of goodness is an act of happiness
- 

**Q11.** Which of the following is **OPPOSITE** in meaning to the word '**fleeting**' as used in the passage?

- a) fast
  - b) momentary
  - c) passing
  - d) permanent
  - e) pleasing
- 

**Q12.** A man who wants to live a permanent happy life should \_\_\_\_\_

- a) pursue wealth and fame
- b) inculcate the virtues of life
- c) master the art of renunciation
- d) make others happy
- e) keep a tight control on his desires

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**Q13.** Which of the following is **SIMILAR** in meaning as the word '**cow**' as used in the passage?

- a) discard
- b) provoke
- c) conquer
- d) spare
- e) mould

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**Q14.** Which of the following statements is **TRUE** in the context of the passage?

- a) Peace of mind is tangent to happiness
  - b) Simple life is like a life of an ascetic
  - c) Doing one's work sincerely hardly makes one happy
  - d) Human beings seldom seek happiness
  - e) A happy man is also not spared by the misfortunes
- 

**Q15.** What according to the passage, is a positive kind of happiness?

- a) Leading a simple life of an ascetic
  - b) Carrying out all worldly activities in the spirit of selfless service
  - c) Love for life and a country
  - d) Keeping ones motives and feelings under control
  - e) None of these
- 

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**Answers to the above questions :**

**Q1. Answer: (c)**

**Q2. Answer: (c)**

**Q3. Answer: (c)**

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PRONOUN

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ADJECTIVES

ADVERBS

PREPOSITION

**Q4. Answer: (b)**

**Q5. Answer: (a)**

**Q6. Answer: (d)**

A contented man devotes himself to virtues like truth, beauty, love goodness, kindness and charity.

**Q7. Answer: (e)**

Go through the second para.

**Q8. Answer: (b)**

**Q9. Answer: (a)**

Our countless desires which are hard to be satisfied make us sad in life.

**Q10. Answer: (c)**

Perfect happiness is the result of renunciation.

**Q11. Answer: (b)**

'Fleeting' means 'passing quickly, lasting only a short time'. 'Momentary' means 'lasting for a very short time'.

**Q12. Answer: (c)**

It is only by cultivating the spirit of renunciation, self-sacrifice, contentment and sincere work that one can really be happy.

**Q13. Answer: (e)**

Cow when used as a verb means make somebody do as one wants by frightening him; intimidate somebody. Mould (Verb) means to guide or control the development of somebody/ something; shape or influence.

**Q14. Answer: (c)**

**Q15. Answer: (b)**

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