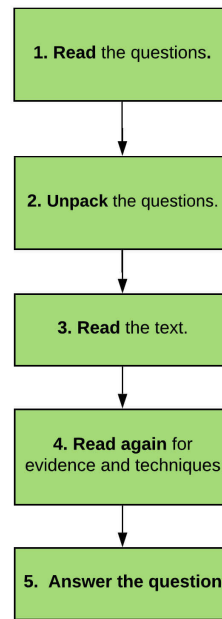




## How to Answer Comprehension Questions



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Matrix Education

## Comprehension

Direction (1-5): A vexed problem facing us is the clamour to open more colleges and to reserve more seats for backward classes. But it will be a sheer folly to expand such facilities recklessly without giving any thought to the quality of education imparted. If admissions are made far more selective, it will automatically reduced the number of entrants. This should apply particularly colleges, many of which are little more than degree factories. Only then can the authorities hope to bring down the teacher-student ratio to manageable proportion. What is more, teachers should be given refresher courses, every summer to brush up their knowledge. Besides, if college managements increase their library budget it will help both the staff and the to new students a great deal.

At the same time, however, it will be unfair to deny college education to thousands of young men and women, unless employers stop insisting on degrees even for clerical jobs. For a start, why can't the Government disqualify graduates from securing certain jobs, say class III and IV posts? Once the link between degrees and jobs is severed at least in some important departments, in will make young people think twice before joining college.

**Q.1. What can automatically help to reduce admission:**

- (A) Though entrance tests
- (B) Discouragement to open new colleges
- (C) **Selective admissions**
- (D) Abolishing reservation

**Q.2. Many of the new college are –**

- (A) Centres of advanced learning
- (B) Research institutions
- (C) **Factories producing degree holders**
- (D) Knowns for their academic excellence

**Q.3. How can teachers are –**

- (A) **By arranging refresher courses**



- (B) By providing monetary help/incentive
- (C) By providing better library facilities
- (D) By sending them abroad

**Q.4. The author is in favour of restricting college admissions –**

- (A) Only when degrees are delinked form jobs**
- (B) When alternative avenues are open for the students
- (C) When the teacher student ratio is reduced
- (D) Only when parents think twice before sending their children

**Q.5. The phrase “Vexed problem” means**

- (A) A serious problem
- (B) A debatable problem
- (C) A difficult problem
- (D) An irritating problem**

Direction (6-10): What, one wonders, is the lowest common denominator of Indian culture today? The attractive Hema Malini? The songs of Vinidh Barati? The attractive Hema Malini? The sons of Vinidh Barati? Or the mouth-watering Masala Dosa? Delectable as these may be, each yield pride of place to that false (?) symbol of a new era-the synthetic fibre. In less than twenty years the nylon sari and the terylene shirt have swept the countryside, penetrated to the farthest corners of the land and persuaded every common man, woman and child that the key to success in the present-day world lie in artificial fibers: glass nylon, crepe nylon, tery mixes, polyesters and what have you. More than the bicycles, the wristwatch or the transistor radio, synthetic clothes have come to represent the first step away form the village square. The village lass treasures the flashy nylon sari in her trousseau most delay; the village youth gets a great kick out of his cheap terrycot shirt and trousers, the nearest he can approximate to the expensive synthetic sported by his wealthy citybred contemporaries. And the Neo-rich craze for ‘phoren’ is nowhere more apparent than in the price that people will pay for smuggled, stolen, begged borrowed second hand or thrown away synthetics. Alas, even the uniformity of nylon.

**Q.6. ‘The lowest common denominator’ of the Indian culture today is –**

- (A) Hema Malini**
- (B) Songs of Vividh Barati
- (C) Masala Dosa
- (D) Synthetic fibre

**Q.7.The synthetic fibre has –**

- (A) Always been popular in India
- (B) Become popular during the last twenty years**
- (C) Never been popular the last twenty years
- (D) Been as popular as other kinds of fibre

**Q.8. The latest symbol of modernity for the rural people is –**

- (A) The bicycle
- (B) The wristwatch



- (C) The transistor
- (D) The synthetic cloth**

**Q.9. The term ‘Neo-rich’ means –**

- (A) The aristocracy
- (B) The industrialists
- (C) The newly rich people**
- (D) The common people

**Q.10. The tone of the passage is –**

- (A) Tragic
- (B) Ironic
- (C) Sombre**
- (D) Satiric

Direction (11-15): Most people who bother with the matter at all would admit that the English language is in a bad way, but it is generally assumed that we cannot by conscious action do anything about it. Our civilization is decadent and our language-so the argument runs-must inevitably share in the general collapse. It follows that any struggle against the abuse of language is a sentimental archaism, like preferring candles to electric light or hansom cabs to aeroplanes. Underneath this lies the half-conscious belief that language is natural growth and not an instrument which we shape for our own purposes.

Now it is clear that the decline of a language must ultimately have political and economic causes it is not due simply to the bad influence of this or that individual writer. But an effect can become a cause, reinforcing the original cause and producing the same effect in an intensified form, and so on indefinitely. A man may take to drink because he feels himself to be a failure, and then fail all the more completely because he drinks. It is rather the same thing that is happening to the English language. It becomes ugly and inaccurate because our thoughts are foolish, but the slovenliness of our language makes it easier for us to have foolish thoughts. The point is that the process is reversible. Modern English, especially written English, is full of bad habits which spread by imitation and which can be avoided if one is willing to take the necessary trouble. If one gets rid of these habits, one can think more clearly, and to think clearly is a necessary first step towards political regeneration: so that the fight against bad English is not frivolous and is not the exclusive concern of professional writers.

**Q.11. Many people believe that nothing can be done about the English language because**

–

- (A) Bad habits spread by imitation
- (B) We live in a decadent civilization**
- (C) There are too many bad writers
- (D) People are too lazy to change their bad habits

**Q.12. The author believes that –**

- (A) It's now too late to do anything about the problem
- (B) Language is a natural growth and cannot be shaped for our own purpose**



- (C) The decline in the language can be stopped
- (D) The process of an increasingly bad language cannot be stopped**

**Q.13. The author believes that the first stage towards the political regeneration of the language would be –**

- (A) Taking the necessary trouble to avoid bad habits
- (B) Avoiding being frivolous about it
- (C) Clear thinking**
- (D) For professional writers to help

**Q.14. The author believes that –**

- (A) English is become ugly
- (B) Bad language
- (C) Our thoughts are becoming uglier because we are making the language uglier**
- (D) Our civilization is decadent so nothing can be done to stop the decline of the language

**Q.15. What causes bad language in the end?**

- (A) The bad influence of individual writers
- (B) The imitation of bad language habits
- (C) Political and economic causes.**
- (D) An assumption that nothing can be done about

Direction(16-20): There are three main groups of oils-animal, vegetable and mineral. Great quantities of animal oil come from whales, creatures of the sea, which are the largest of the animals remaining in the world. To protect the whales from the cold of the Arctic seas, nature has provided them with a thick covering of fat, called blubber. When the whale is killed, the blubber is stripped off and boiled down. It produces a great quantity of oil which can be made into food for human consumption. A few other creatures yield oil, but none so much as the whale. The livers of the cod and halibut, two kinds of fish, yield nourishing oil. Both cod liver oil and halibut oil are given to sick children and other invalids who need certain vitamins.

Vegetable oil has been known from very old times. No household can get on without it, for it is used in cooking. Perfumes may be made from the oils of certain flowers. Soaps are made from eatable and animal products and the oils of certain flowers.

**Q.16. The main source of animal oil, is –**

- (A) fish
- (B) whale**
- (C) seaweeds
- (D) plants

**Q.17. Vegetable oil is mainly used for –**

- (A) eating
- (B) cooking**
- (C) frying
- (D) lubricating

**Q.18. The.....of fish yields nourishing oil.**

- (A) liver**
- (B) stomach
- (C) eyes
- (D) head



**Q.19. The thick protective covering of fat on a whale is called a –**

- (A) skin
- (B) cell
- (C) blubber**
- (D) fins

**Q.20. .... are made from vegetable, animal products and the oils of certain flowers.**

- (A) Perfumes
- (B) Cosmetics
- (C) Cooking medium
- (D) Soaps**

### **Secularism**

Secularism is the very soul of Indian society and the democracy. India has a tradition of co-existence, tolerance, cooperation, and mutual respect between all its social and religious groups. Islam came to India with Muslim conquerors. A large number of natives turned Muslims over the period and presently they make up the second-largest community of our nation. The contribution of Islam to Indian culture and civilization has been spectacular. It added variety, colour and richness to native heritage. Islam enriched India with architectural wonders, the most precious being ‘Tajmahal’, the symbol of aesthetic India. Christianity had preceded Islam to India. St. Thomas, the twelve disciples of Christ arrived in India to preach his message when St. Peter was in Rome. Paris came to India in the 8th century to escape from religious persecution in Iran. They brought Zoroastrianism. Jews sailed to India 2000 years ago to settle down in Mumbai, Pune, Kochi, and Delhi. Hinduism itself was a religious conglomeration of thousands of sects having distinct beliefs, rituals, customs, and practices. Three nearly different religions branched out of it, namely, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism having separate places of worship and holy books. In all, India remained a shining example of unity in diversity, nowhere else found in the world.

Honouring this eternal spirit of India, our constitution makers declared our nation to be a secular state without any discrimination. Although the people of our country are deeply religious yet they don’t harbour any ill will or intolerance against other faiths. Even during the freedom struggle, the leaders who led it made secularism a basic policy to rally all the people against the British. The secular polity was fiercely strengthened by Mahatma Gandhi. Himself a deeply religious Hindu, he had great respect for all other religions and faiths.

To divide the Indians, the colonial rulers tried to destroy the file spirit of secularism by aiding and abetting communal forces. Some of our people forgot that sacred tradition and played in the hands of the British. Our country paid a terrible price for that lapse. India got divided into two nations and we lost the father of, the nation, Mahatma Gandhi to the bullets of a



degenerated fanatic who had no use for our secular legacy. It should teach us a lesson that only a secular spirit will keep India going.

**Read the above paragraph and answer the following questions.**

**1 What has been the tradition of India?**

**2 Which religions came to India from abroad?**

**3 What is the most precious gift of Islam to our country?**

**4 What has India been the shining example of?**

**5 What price India paid for its lapse in secularism?**

**Answer 1.** The tradition of India has been secular based on co-existence, tolerance, mutual respect, and cooperation between all sections of the society and communities.

**Answer 2.** Christianity, Islam, Zoroastrianism and Jewish faiths came to India from the foreign lands.

**Answer 3.** ‘Tajmahal’ is the most dazzling gift of Islam to our country besides other architectural marvels. 4. India has been the most shining example of ‘**Unity in Diversity**’ in the whole world.

**Answer 4.** As a result of the lapse in secularism, our country was partitioned into two countries. We lost the Father of the Nation to the bullets of a communal-minded youth.

## **National Service Scheme**

The Indian youth is accused of being impatient, undisciplined, disrespectful to the elders, and irresponsible towards society and authority. It was felt that to curb these tendencies the youth required to be motivated in nation-building activities and made responsive to the social concerns.

For this purpose, National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969. Its main aim was to involve the students of the colleges and +2 level on a voluntary and selective basis in programmes of social services and developmental activities. Gradually it was adopted by all the states and union territories. Today it covers more than 5000 colleges all over the country. Under this scheme, rural and slum reconstruction, repair of roads, school buildings, ponds, tanks, plantation of trees, environment protection, health and family planning and education of adults and women are undertaken. The NSS students aid local authorities in implementing various relief and rehabilitation schemes. In the times of natural calamities like famines, floods, droughts, epidemics and earthquakes volunteers helped by NSS students play a very positive and constructive role. It instills in them the spirit of social service and the sense of responsibility.

The tribal youth are given vocational training under a special scheme to enable them to become self-employed. Then, there are youth hostels set up all over the country to provide cheap accommodation to the youth to inspire them into undertaking educational tours and excursions to visit the cultural and historic sites to revisit our glorious past. 446 Nehru Yuvak Kendras strewn around the country provide vocational training to non-student rural youth and improve their personality. ‘Bharat Scouts and Guides’ and ‘All India Boy Scouts Association’ are teaching Indian youth the importance of loyalty and goodwill for others under the international scouting and guiding movement.



## Questions

- 1 What is the Indian youth accused of?
- 2 What schemes was introduced to involve students in social service and developmental activities?
- 3 What works are undertaken under this scheme?
- 4 For what purpose youth hostels with cheap accommodation are set up?

## Answers

- 1 The Indian youth are blamed for impatience, indiscipline, irreverence to seniors and disrespect to rules and authority.
- 2 National Service Scheme which in short is NSS.
- 3 Reconstruction in rural and slum areas, repair of roads, school buildings, tanks, village ponds, tree plantation, environment protection, health and family planning, adult education and rendering help during natural calamities.
- 4 Youth hostels are set up to encourage students to set out on educational tours and visit the places of historic or cultural importance.

## Women's Rights

Even 60 years after independence the woman of India are still exploited and abused inspite of constitutional guarantees and new laws. The man considers himself superior to the woman and her master. The orthodox system of the family is set in his favour exclusively. Within the confines of domestic walls, man feels free to act like a merciless male chauvinist. The birth of a female child is considered a curse in most parts of our country. Without any thought the female foetus is murdered. At practical level law fails to protect a woman's human rights. The situation is worse in rural areas. There the woman slave for men considering it their fate and a duty ordered by God Almighty. The rural women have no idea about their legal rights and privileges.

It is not the illiterate women's fate only. Even an educated woman of urban areas who are gainfully employed does not use their rights for fear of antagonizing her husband. They meekly give in to the mate arrogance to avoid domestic discord and physical abuse. The males of the family decide how to spend the earnings of the working female. From very childhood, the girls are mentally conditioned to let the males do the thinking for her and accept their decisions.

Thus, the male dominance continues to hold away at the cost of the rights and the privileges of women. This factor has created gross imbalance in the Indian families. Nowadays the families do not mind sisters, daughters and wives seeking gainful employment as long as they don't exercise their right to spend their earnings as they like. A working woman brings home tidy salary to add to the family income but she cannot hope of any help from her husband in doing domestic chores. She has to toil alone like a slave. For husbands doing household work is below their dignity and as far as the women are concerned it is their natural duty. The doubly burdened women when protesting or complaining the men ignore them or react violently which results in the growing tensions in relationships. The resultant quarrels and maladjustments in the family badly affect the children psychologically.



### Questions

- 1 Have the new laws and rights guaranteed by the constitution ended the exploitation and abuse of women in India?
- 2 What does a man consider himself compared to a woman?
- 3 Are the situations of women good in rural areas?
- 4 What factors has created a gross imbalance in the Indian families?

### Answer

- 1 The women are still exploited and abused despite rights and privileges granted by law to the women.
- 2 Man considers himself superior to a woman and her lord and master.
- 3 In rural areas, the situation of woman rights is far worse than the urban areas.
- 4 The male domination in the family and gross violation of woman's rights are creating imbalances in families in India.

### Sachin Tendulkar

Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar is India's and probably world's most admired and celebrated cricketer. He has an enabled fan following as large as that of rock stars or great movie stars. He truly is the wonder boy of India.

Born on April 24, 1973, Sachin Tendulkar burst on the international cricket scene with his debut in a series in Pakistan, when he was merely a boy of 16 years. Before being selected for the national scene he had displayed his talent in domestic cricket at state and junior levels. In the very debut series, he made people take note of him.

Then, followed his long cricketing career, in which he crossed one milestone after another and piled up runs, half-centuries and centuries to become the highest centurion and the most run-getter. In his private life he remained cool, calm and dignified. No vulgar show of success and flamboyance he indulged in. His serene nature and temperament on the pitch amazed other stalwarts of past, contemporaries and sports analysts.

For the sports lovers, he became a semi-god, for youth an icon and for sponsors a virtual money-spinner. The success never went to his head. He continued to be soft-spoken, affable Sachin, a familiar face to all Indians. He is a team man and the interests of the team and the country remained uppermost in his mind. For a long time, he was the scourge of the bowlers of the world.

In the later years of their cricketing life, Sachin several times was waylaid by injuries. But every time he came back in style after treatment and rehabilitation to the delight of his fans. He has won so many national and international awards that to enumerate them will take a lot of space. He captained the Indian team for some time but it affected his batting. So, he was allowed to continue on as a batsman. He also bowls with good effect when the situation demands. Sachin is a star in both versions of the game —Tests and ODIs, who serves the





team as batsman and bowler. In the gloomy scene of sports in India, Sachin shines as a brilliant star to provide a huge consolation.

**Fill in the blanks**

After reading the above paragraph complete the following sentences. It is another way of testing how well you have understood the passage.

- 1 Sachin is the most admired and adulated cricketer of .....
- 2 He burst on the international cricket scene when he was.....
- 3 Before coming on the international stage, he had shown..... at various domestic levels.
- 4 In his long cricketing career, Sachin crossed .....and accumulated..... highest century-maker.
- 5 Cool, calm and dignified, he remained in.....
- 6 He became a..... for the sponsors.
- 7 When the situation demands he..... with good effect.
- 8 Sachin shines.....in the..... to give us .....

**Answers**

- 1. Fillers—1. India and the world
- 2. 16-year-old teenager
- 3. his talent
- 4. a milestone after milestone—runs, half-centuries and centuries to become the
- 5. his private life
- 6. a virtual money-spinner
- 7. alai bowls
- 8. as a brilliant star — scene of sports in India —some consolation.



**U.N.O.**

In the year of 1945, United Nations Organization came into being as the successor of the League of Nations. It began with fifty nations as its members but now it has 185 member nations accounting for almost all the countries of the entire earth except Switzerland. The nations are the members of the UN General Assembly, the world body's chief deliberate organ. All the other wings are answerable to it through annual and special periodical reports submitted for its consideration. The General Assembly, discusses the reports and gives its approvals, elects the General Secretary and the judges of the International court of Justice, admits new members to the Assembly, and also elects the non-permanent members of various councils. There are the Economic and Social Council, The Trusteeship council besides the International Court, General Assembly and the Security Council. The General Secretary is the Chief Administrative Office of the world body who heads the UN Secretariat. He presides over the General Assembly meetings and those of other organs of U.N.

In addition to the above main organs, the UNO has several other specialized agencies like ILO (International Labour Organization), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), UNCTAD (United Nations Council for Trade And Development), WHO (World Health Organization), etc. These agencies help the parent body in working out agreements on various- related matters to them and in achieving different objectives and goals. WHO, for example, plans steps to achieve the highest possible level of good health of the entire human population of the earth.

**Fill in the blanks**

- 1 In 1945, The League of Nations was..... by the United Nations Organization.**
- 2 With fifty nations..... it started.**
- 3 The world body's chief deliberate organ is.....**



- 4 The General Secretary and the judges of the International Court of Justice.....  
by the General Assembly.  
5 ILO, UNCTAD, WHO, UNESCO, etc. are the..... of the UNO

Fillers-1. succeeded 2. as its members 3. the General Assembly 4. are elected 5.  
specialized agencies

### Questions

Answer the following questions related to the above passage:

- 1 How many members the General Assembly now has?
- 2 Which country is not the member of the UNO?
- 3 Through what the other organs of the General Assembly are answerable to it?
- 4 Through what office does the General Secretary function?
- 5 What does UNESCO stand for?

### Correct Answers

- 1 The General Assembly has now 193 members.
- 2 Switzerland.
- 3 The other organs are answerable to the General Assembly through annual and special reports.
- 4 The General Secretary functions through U.N. Secretariat.
- 5 United Nations Economic Scientific and Cultural Organisation.



## **The Toy Train**

Ever since I saw a programme on ‘Heritage Toy Train of Darjeeling’ I was seized with a wish to enjoy a ride on it. I saved money for the trip. One day I was on the train to Jalpaiguri from Delhi.

From Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling it is 82 kms on the toy train. The very sight of the Toy Train excited me and my eyes sparkled. Finally, I was in the dream toy. The experience indeed was off unforgettable as the train chugged through lush green and thick Terai forests. The scenes all around me were just out a fairy tale book. There were fascinating hills, waterfalls and woolly clouds almost touching the ground. The mist-filled valleys and hills lent a dreamy touch to the journey. The tall trees of oak, pine and fir stood majestically adding beauty to the scene. At most of the places the train ran alongside the motor road. The huge terraced tea plantations all along the track presented a thrilling picture that wetted the eyes. It was a really journey through a dreamland. The entire train journey took six hours but the time flew as fast as it does in a dream, years and days compressed into a few seconds-minutes.

The Toy Train passed through by tiny villages or clusters of houses or buildings on both sides. The coaches ran so close to the shops that one could pick up goods from them or talk to the shopkeepers in low voices. The school children ran along the toy coaches and giggled at the passengers. The train slowly climbed up the mountains. The people got on or off the running train with ridiculous ease and safety. All along with the track innocent and happy faces of mountain people smiled at the passengers the women folk wore colorful woolen garments which made them look like mountain fairies. To ascend the mountain heights the Toy Train ran on a zig-zag track. I felt sorry when someone told me that the next was the terminal station of Darjeeling. How I wished more of the toy Train!

**1 Between which stations, the Toy Train runs?**



- 2 What trees are commonly seen along the Toy Train track?**
- 3 What plant is grown on the terraced plantations of Darjeeling?**
- 4 How much time the one-way journey of Toy Train takes from one end to the other?**
- 5 What do school children do when they see the Toy Train?**

### **Answers**

- 1 The Toy Train runs between Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling.
- 2 One can see oak, pine and fir trees from the Toy Train alongside the track.
- 3 Tea.
- 4 It takes six hours to reach Darjeeling from Jalpaiguri, the two terminals of the Toy Train.
- 5 The school children run alongside Toy Train coal-fa-arid giggle merrily at the passengers.

### **Common Education for Genders**

In India, co-education has not been a long tradition. It only began in the pre-independence period when education movements started as a part of the freedom effort: It was realised that co-education was a part of the modern education which reduced gender biases. The girls and boys needed to be allowed to interact to generate healthy respect for each other instead of suspicions and the ignorance's. In backward and rural areas there still are separate schools for boys and girls. Nowadays co-education is common in big towns and cities, especially in colleges and training institutions. The trend is catching up because of many advantages it offers.

In the west, Switzerland was the first country to introduce co-education. Then, it spread fast to other western countries. There now co-education is prevalent in all institutions and at all levels.

This system of education is very economic besides being healthy. It dispenses with separate school buildings, classes and teaching staff for boys and girls saving a lot of money. A developing country like India, always short of funds, requires maximum value of budget to afford universal and compulsory education.

A better understanding between boys and girls is created through co-education leading to easy relationships. It is essential because they are to live together as husbands and wives in the later period of life. So, they must get the opportunity to mix up and know each other at the school stage itself. They must understand each other better and grow healthy behaviour. That will help them make better adjustments later as life partners. The girls will not look at boys as dangerous creatures and boys will learn to treat girls in civilized manner. It is sure to bring down sex crimes and violent behaviours. The different sexes must live in harmony to have a healthy society.



The indiscipline is also likely to lessen as it is observed that boys behave decently in the presence of girls. Similarly, girls are also at their finest in the company of boys in groups. A healthy competition gets generated. They study hard and excel in other fields of activities to showcase their talents and capabilities. A desirable companionship refinement and good manners result. The researches reveal that the boys of co-education institutions are disciplined, well-behaved and orderly. They don't suffer from any mental blocks related to opposite sex.

## Questions

- 1 **When did co-education start in India?**
- 2 **Why should boys and girls study -together and interact?**
- 3 **How is co-education is economic?**
- 4 **Which country introduced co-education first in the world?**
- 5 **How boys are found to behave in the presence of girls?**

## Fill in the blanks

- 6 Separate schools for boys and girl still exist in.....
- 7 .....in the company of boys.

## Answers

- 1 Co-education started in India during the independence struggle as a part of the modern-education feature.
- 2 It generates healthy respect for each other between boys and girls instead of suspicions.
- 3 Expenses on education is reduced by co-education as boys and girls share the same facilities and staff.
- 4 Switzerland was the first country to introduce co-education.
- 5 The boys are found to behave decently in presence of girls.
- 6 Separate schools for boys and girls still exist in rural and backward areas.
- 7 The girls are at their finest in the company of boys.



## **Radio Revolution**

India's remote areas, rural areas and far-flung hamlets remains connected to the rest of the country through their radio sets or transistors. They remain in touch with news and information. The people do not feel isolated. Where there is no TV, telephone or mobile services, the radio is the only hope.

The people listen to current affairs, discussions, educative talks, news, songs, dramas, lectures, weather forecast, addresses to the nation by the president or prime minister, devotional music, etc. on their radio sets. It helps them keep abreast of the times by ears. The people in remote areas spend most of their spare time glued to the radio sets. Some even carry their transistors in fields, on bullock carts, or while cycling away.

Today the radio sets are very cheap and transistors are so handy that they have caught the fancy of everyone men, women and children. This friendly chatted gadget has proved bonanza to millions, both manufacturers and users. Broadcasts over radio have benefitted students, teachers, panchayat people, farmers, fishermen and soldier's stations in forward posts. Most of the developing countries including India are using radio broadcasts for long-distance education and weather warnings. The radio has enabled the farmers to grow three or four crops a year by listening to Kisan broadcast. They have better crops and cattle since various problems related to them are discussed in broadcasts providing useful tips on remedial measures.

The rural folk through broadcast learn about improved seeds, manures, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation systems and implements for water and energy conservation. Largely accurate advance weather forecast have proved a boon to the people engaged in agriculture.

City people, who are prisoners of multiplexes, cable TV and internet cannot even imagine how the humble radio set is revolution sing the countryside.



**Questions**

- 1 How do people in remote areas keep themselves informed of the latest news?
- 2 Which radio network broadcast programmes for the farmers?
- 3 Which sections of people benefit most from the radio broadcasts?
- 4 Through broadcast what do farmers learn about?
- 5 What the developing countries are using broadcasts for?

**Answers**

- 1 The people in the remote areas hear news on their radio or transistor sets.
- 2 All India Radio broadcast programmes of the interests of the farmers.
- 3 Students, fishermen, farmers and soldiers benefit most from the broadcast.
- 4 The broadcast inform farmers about weather forecast, manures, improved seeds, fertilizers, useful agricultural implements, crops, pesticides and solutions too crop and cattle or sheep-related problems.
- 5 Developing countries like India are using radio broadcasts for long-distance education.

**Fill in the blanks**

- 1 The radio broadcasts do not let the people of villages feel.....
- 2 The people of remote areas spend most of their spare time in remaining glued.....
- 3 Urbanities know little about the.....role radio broadcast are playing in.....and.....areas in transforming them.

**Fillers – 1. Isolated 2. To their radio sets 3. Revolutionary-rural-remote.**





## **Cinema Craze**

India is cinema crazy and Indians are ever star struck zombies. Films are our staple diet and 'Bollywood' is a magic word. When young people get together they only talk about films, latest releases, the roles and styles of their actors and film songs. India is naturally the largest producer of films. The most of them are Hindi, Tamil and Telugu movies. In spite of the large output our films lack in quality and content.

They are almost all formula films or clever or clumsy imitations of foreign films. They are made to make fast money with box-office hits only replete with songs, item numbers, sex and glory violence. The realities of life are totally absent and are devoid of art orientation. Very little aesthetic appeal is there and in no way convincing. Cheap movies prove commercial success and good artistic films don't find distributors and spectators. The people like to watch idiotic flicks that don't challenge their intellect. The art movies are too taxing on their minds. The adolescent teenagers imitate the fashions, styles and mannerisms of their favourite actors. The immature youth are misled by cheap movie romance and silly adventures.

In fact, many a crime is inspired by ideas provided by crime thrillers. Besides crimes the movies contribute to the increasing lawlessness, indiscipline and unrest among youth. The Bollywood products show criminalization, sex and violence blatantly. The young folk are too immature to make a distinction between movie stunts and genuine adventures. Many raw youth mistake the movie stunts for real and try to copy them resulting in tragic mishaps.

Then, there is nexus between the film industry and the underworld. It is a known fact that the mafia invests its black money earned through smuggling, drug trafficking, extortion, blackmail, contract killing, arms running, prostitution, gambling rackets and protection in financing movie production. And unwittingly film actors become a part of mafia operations which exposes them to blackmails and threats. It is a matter of real concern.



**Questions**

- 1 What ‘Heading’ do you suggest for this paragraph?
- 2 What negative attitudes the cheap films inspire youth into?
- 3 What do generally youth talk about when together?
- 4 With what has Bollywood been alleged to have nexus?
- 5 In which languages are the Indian film made the most?

**Answers**

- 1 ‘THE INDIAN FILMS’
- 2 The cheap movies inspire youth into negative acts of crime, indiscipline and irresponsibility.
- 3 The youth in company always talk of movies, latest flicks, the performances and styles of actors.
- 4 Bollywood is accused of /having nexus with the underworld.
- 5 Most of the Indian movies are made in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

**Fill in the blanks**

- 1 .....is the magic word for Indians.
- 2 Most of the films produced in India are copies of .....
- 3 Indian movies blatantly show .....
- 4 Teenagers imitate the ..... of their favourite actors.

**Fillers-1. Bollywood, 2. Hollywood movies 3. crime, sex and violence. 4. fashions, styles and mannerisms.**



## **Electricity**

Electricity is the life force of modern world. The use of electricity in daily life at all levels is too expensive to be enumerated. Electric., power has transformed human life into an amazing experience of convenience, luxury, comfort and incredible ease. A great power became the slave of a human finger's push. Push to a button brings the light on and the same act sets hundreds of thousands of gadgets in action. It simply is a miracle, very real and more bountiful Than ginnie of the Alladin's wonder lamp. The electricity revolutionized our houses, drawing rooms and kitchen with useful implements.

The array of entertainment aids powered by electricity really created a fancy world around us. The coming into the existence of a power like electricity that obeyed the command of the human finger's touch inspired the inventions and innovations of a mind boggling range of electric implements. Infect, all the manmade machines or gadgets wholly or partly run on electricity.

It created wonders of entertainment like cinema, radio, TV, VCD, DVD and other audio-video systems. The electricity helped man go to space, land on moon and harness natural powers and resources. The mining, construction, irrigation, transport, printing and other industrial activities are dependent on electric power. Even the computers won't work any wonders without the electricity. Today, the progress of a society or a nation or economy is so dependent on electric power that all the power generating resources and options are being exploited or explored. Oil, coal, water, air, sun light, tidal waves and atomic phenomena are being used for power generation. The research on hydrogen as fuel and controlled fusion process are going on at feverish pitch.

The oil and coal are non-renewable resources. Hydel power has limitations as no new rivers can be created. Solar energy is yet costly to harness. The wind energy too has limitations. The



tidal wave processes are yet at an experimental stages. And so are hydrogen and fusion ideas. Conventional atomic energy clearly is the best pollution-free option but it entails the tricky problem of atomic waste disposal.

## Questions

- 1 To what wondrous world the electricity has transformed the human life?
- 2 What part of the human body controls the power of electricity?
- 3 What happens when the electricity is cut off in the modern-day city?
- 4 Why hydel power has limitations?
- 5 What are the good points and the bad about nuclear power generation?

## Answers

- 1 The human life has become a wondrous experience of luxury, convenience, ease and comforts.
- 2 The tip of a human finger controls electric power by pressing switches.
- 3 The life comes to a standstill if power goes off in a modern city.
- 4 The hydel power has limitations because no new rivers can be created by human endeavor. And only some places with suitable topographic setting allow dams on the existing rivers.
- 5 The plus point of the nuclear power generation is it is totally pollution-free. But the nuclear waste disposal is very tricky and hazardous.

### **Read the following passage and answer the questions below:**

May in Ayemenem is a hot, brooding month. The days are long and humid. The river shrinks and black crows gorge on bright mangoes in still, dust-green trees. Red bananas ripen. Jackfruits burst. Dissolute bluebottles hum vacuously in the fruity air.

Then they stun themselves against clear windowpanes and die, fatly baffled in the sun. The nights are clear but suffused with sloth and sullen expectations.

But by early June the southwest monsoon breaks and there are three months of wind and water with short spells of sharp, glittering sunshine that thrilled children snatch to play with.

The countryside turns an immodest green. Boundaries blur as tapioca fences take root and bloom. Brick walls turn mossgreen. Pepper vines snake up electric poles. Wild creepers burst through laterite banks and spilt across the flooded roads. Boats ply in the bazaars. And small fish appear in the puddles that fill the PWD potholes on the highways. It was raining when Rahel came back to Ayemenem.

Slanting silver ropes slammed into loose earth, ploughing it up like gunfire. The old house on the hill wore its steep, gabled roof pulled over its ears like a low hat. The walls, streaked with moss, had grown soft and bulged a little with dampness that seeped up from the ground. The wild, overgrown garden was full of the whisper and scurry of small lives.

In the undergrowth, a rat snake rubbed itself against a glistening stone. Hopeful yellow bullfrogs cruised the scummy pond for mates. A drenched mongoose flashed across the leaf-strewn driveway. The house itself looked empty. The doors and windows were locked. The front verandah bare. Unfurnished.

But the sky blue Plymouth with chrome tail fins was still parked outside, and inside, Baby Kochamma was still alive. She was Rahel's baby grandaunt, her grandfather's younger sister.



Her name was really Navomi, Navomi Ipe, but everybody called her Baby. She became Baby Kochamma when she was old enough to be an aunt. Rahel hadn't come to see her, though. Neither niece nor baby grandaunt laboured under any illusions on that account. Rahel had come to see her brother, Estha. They were two-egg twins. "Dizygotic" doctors called them. Born from separate but simultaneously fertilized eggs. Estha Esthappen-was the older by 18 minutes. [Source: Arundhati Ray's The God of Small Things]

## Questions

A. State whether the following sentences are True or False. Write T for True and 'F' for False. [You need not write the sentences. Write only the numbers.] In Ayemenem the monsoon starts in early June and continues for five months.

1. In Ayemenem the nights are clear but suffused with sloth and sullen expectation during May.
2. Rahel and Estha were dizygotic twins.
3. The sky was clear when Rahel came back to Ayemenem.

B. Answer each of the following questions in about 30 words

1. What did a rat snake do in the undergrowth? Which animal is the snake's enemy?
2. What was Baby's real name? How was she related to Rahel?
3. Why had Rahel come to Ayemenem? Name the car mentioned in the passage.

## Answers

A. 1. F 2. T 3. T 4. F

B. 1. In the undergrowth, a rat snake rubbed itself against a glistening stone. The Mongoose is the snake's enemy.

2. Baby's real name was Navomi Ipe, but everybody called her Baby. She was Rahel's baby grandaunt, her grandfather's younger sister.

3. Rahel had come to see her brother., Estha. The car mentioned in the passage is a sky-blue Plymouth with chrome tailfins.