

**GRADE : 12 READING COMPREHENSION- 2 DATE:**

**1. Read the passage given below.**

5 I saw ‘Jaws’, the popular shark movie, the summer it came out, in 1975 and became paranoid about sharks. Though I kept swimming after Jaws, it was always with the vague fear that a shark’s teeth could tug on my leg at any moment. Never mind that there’d been only two shark bites since 1900 on the Connecticut coast, where I lived.

10 So, when I got this assignment for the National Geographic magazine, I decided to accept and do what I’d never wanted to do: swim with the sharks. I had to go to a place in the Bahamas known as Tiger Beach and dive with tiger sharks, the species responsible for more recorded attacks on humans than any shark except the great white. It was to be my first dive after getting certified—which meant it would be my first dive anywhere other than a swimming pool or a quarry—and without a diver’s cage. Most people who got wind of this plan thought I was either very brave or very stupid.

15 But I just wanted to puncture an illusion. The people who know sharks intimately tend to be the least afraid of them, and no one gets closer to sharks than divers. The divers who run operations at Tiger Beach speak lovingly of the tiger sharks the way people talk about their children or their pets. In their eyes, these sharks aren’t man-eaters any more than dogs are.

20 The business of puncturing illusions is never just black and white. My fellow divers had hundreds of dives under their belt and on the two-hour boat ride to the site in the morning of our first dive, they kept saying things like, “Seriously, I really can’t believe this is your first dive.”

25 All this was okay with me until I reached the bottom and immediately had to fend off the first tiger shark, I had ever laid eyes on. However, when I watched the other divers feeding them fish and steering them gently, it became easy to see the sharks in a very benign light.

30 I think it would be unfair not to mention that though tiger sharks are apex predators. They act as a crucial balancing force in ocean ecosystems, constraining the numbers of animals like sea turtles and limit their behaviour by preventing them from overgrazing the sea grass beds. Furthermore, tiger sharks love warm water, they eat almost anything, have a huge litter and are the hardiest shark species. If the planet and its oceans continue to warm, some species will be winners and others will be losers, and tiger sharks are likely to be winners.

**Based** **on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY EIGHT questions from the nine given below.**

I. Cite a point in evidence, from the text, to suggest that the writer's post-Jaws fear was not justified.

II. State any one trait of the writer that is evident from lines 5-10 and provide a reason for your choice.

III. People thought the writer was ‘either brave or very stupid’. Why did some people think that he was ‘very stupid’?

IV. Why does the writer say that people who know sharks intimately tend to be least afraid of them?

V. Rewrite the given sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with another one, from lines 10 – 20.

Some academicians think that reward, as a form of discipline, is a simple right or wrong issue.

VI. What does the use of the phrase ‘benign light’ suggest in the context of the writer’s viewpoint about the tiger sharks?

VII. Select a suitable phrase from lines 15-25 to complete the following sentence appropriately.

I agree the team will find this experience tough, but competing will be easier next time after they get this tournament \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

VIII. Apex predators serve to keep prey numbers in check. How can we say that tiger sharks are apex predators?

IX. Analyse why having a large litter is one of the features that empowers tiger sharks to emerge winners if global warming persists.

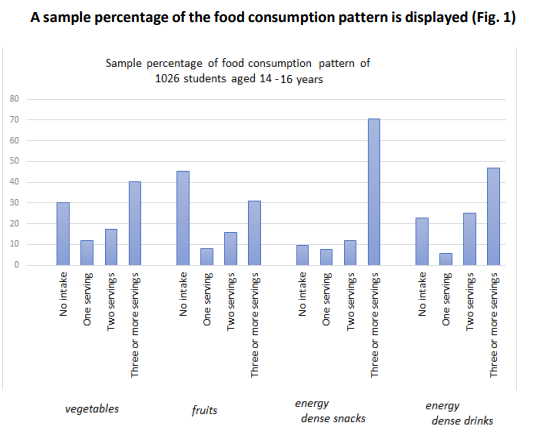
**2. Read the passage given below.**

5 Changing food preferences have brought about rapid changes in the structure of the Indian diet. The rapid proliferation of multinational fastfood companies and the influence of Western culture have replaced traditional home-cooked meals with ready-to-eat, processed foods thus increasing the risk of chronic diseases in urban Indians. Therefore, nurturing healthy eating habits among Indians from an early age would help to reduce health risks.

10 To date, little is known about the quality and quantity of foods and beverages consumed by urban Indian adolescents. This lack of evidence is a significant barrier to the development of effective nutrition promotion and disease prevention measures.

15 Therefore, a self-administered, semi-quantitative, 59-item meal-based food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) was developed to assess the dietary intake of adolescents. A total of 1026 students (aged 14–16 years) attending private, English-speaking schools in Kolkata completed the survey.

The survey results report poor food consumption patterns and highlights the need to design healthy eating initiatives. Interestingly, while there were no gender differences in the consumption of legumes and fried snacks, the survey found more females consumed cereals, vegetables and fruits than their male counterparts.

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20 The survey results report poor food consumption patterns and highlights the need to design healthy eating initiatives. Interestingly, while there were no gender differences in the consumption of legumes and fried snacks, the survey found more females consumed cereals, vegetables and fruits than their male counterparts.

25 In conclusion, the report suggested that schools ought to incorporate food literacy concepts into their curriculum as they have the potential of increasing the fruit and vegetable intake in teenagers. Additionally, healthy school canteen policies with improved availability, accessibility, variety and affordability of healthy food choices would support the consumption of nutritious food in students.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY SIX out of the seven questions given below.

i. What does the researcher mean by ‘changing food preferences’?

ii. Why was this survey on the food consumption of adolescents undertaken?

iii. With reference to fig.1, write one conclusion about students' consumption of energy-dense drinks. FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES What do you understand by the term food frequency, as stated in lines 12-13?

iv. What can be concluded by the ‘no intake’ data of fruit consumption versus energy dense snacks, with reference to fig.1? FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES Comment on the significance of incorporating food literacy concepts into student curriculum.

v. There were no gender differences observed in the consumption of healthy foods, according to the survey. Substantiate.

vi. Why is ‘affordability’ recommended as a significant feature of a school canteen policy?

vii. Identify a word from lines 9 - 18 indicating that the questionnaire was specifically designed to be completed by a respondent without the intervention of the researcher collecting the data.

i. Not justified as stated in the text that there were only 2 shark attacks reported in 75 years i.e., from 1900 – 1975, so it was highly unlikely that he had anything to fear.

ii. Adventurous/ Courageous/ Bold/ Experimental Because he feared the tiger sharks/ was aware of the fact that they were dangerous, yet accepted, as his very first assignment, that required him to face them.

iii. Because he was risking his life and could be bitten by the sharks as other people were/ side-lined the popular notion that tiger sharks are dangerous/ did not pay due attention to the fact that he was walking into obvious danger without the required expertise

iv. Because they find the sharks to be harmless/ as docile as pets—the sharks feed on the food they offer and seem as docile as pets

v. Some academicians think that reward, as a form of discipline, is a simple black and white issue.

vi. Benign light – viewed as benevolent/ gentle/ friendly ▪ Tiger sharks did not seem to be that harmful/dangerous/ They seemed fairly docile/less dangerous than the other sharks

vii. I agree the team will find this experience tough, but competing will be easier next time after they get this tournament under their belt. (line 21)

viii. Because tiger sharks restrict the number of sea turtles (by feeding on them), and act as a balancing force in the ecosystem. If the numbers weren’t constrained, it would result in the depletion of sea-grass which supports other marine life forms.

ix. Reduces possibility of extinction or destruction due to harsh conditions, as large numbers would ensure that some definitely survive.

2.

i. Urban population’s transition from healthy home-cooked meals to ready-to-eat-processed foods

ii. understand the food consumption pattern of urban adolescents and ▪ make recommendations based on the data.

iii. Close to 47% drink three or more servings of energy dense beverages while a mere 5% said ‘no’ to more than one serving of the beverage.

Refers to the rate of intake of food and beverages (drinks) consumed over a specified period of time. It could even refer to portion size.

iv. Nearly half the respondents (45%) did not consume any servings of fruit in contrast to 95% that had some form of energy dense snack.

It is important because reading about the advantages of a healthy diet would assist an increased intake of fruits and vegetables in teenagers

v. Females had more nutritious dietary intake as they consumed more cereals, vegetables and fruits compared to their male counterparts.

vi. The consumers are school children and therefore food should be affordable

vii. Self-administered