

QUESTIONS & SOLUTIONS

COMPREHENSION

Passage - 1

The railroad was not the first institution to impose regularity on society, or to draw attention to the importance of precise timekeeping. For as long as merchants have set out their wares at daybreak and communal festivities have been celebrated, people have been in rough agreement with their neighbours as to the time of day. The value of this tradition is today more apparent than ever. Were it not for public acceptance of a single yardstick of time, social life would be unbearably chaotic: the massive daily transfers of goods, services, and information would proceed in fits and starts; the very fabric of modern society would begin to unravel.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. In modern society more time for cooperation with neighbours ensures smooth social and economic activities.
- B. The traditions of society are timeless because they help maintain social order.
- C. An accepted way of measuring time is essential for the smooth functioning of society.
- D. Time has become the most important for modern societies to function.

Solution: c)

The central idea of the passage is that time keeping has helped avoid anarchy and chaos in modern societies whether it is the running of railroads or the daily transfer of services.

If you are confused between options (c) and (d), then you may be stuck into over-arching generalization about the whole passage. Time has not been mentioned as the “most” important factor, its mentioned as essential. Read the passage carefully.

Refer to the Comprehension lessons (in Detailed Comprehension Strategy) to understand the lesson.

2. "The value of this tradition is today more apparent than ever " in the passage implies that

- A. the practice of starting the business day at dawn is more relevant for economic activities today
- B. friendly relations between neighbours has been realized as essential for smooth social functioning
- C. the railroad's reliance on time schedules looks more logical now

D. people's agreement on the measurement of time looks more relevant and logical today

Solution: d)

There can be a confusion between (c) and (d). C is more about a specific example of the "tradition". But, the keyword is "implies". So, you will have to look at the passage and that particular line in a little general sense. Hence, D.

3. Gold depreciated at a rate of $X\%$ per year between 2000 and 2005. If 1 kg of gold cost S dollars in 2001 and T dollars in 2003, how much did it cost in 2002 in terms of S and T ?

- a) $T\sqrt{VT/S}$
- b) $T\sqrt{VS}$
- c) $T\{S/VT\}$
- d) $T\sqrt{ST}$

Solution: d)

Assume the price of gold to be 'G' in the year 2000.

If rate of depreciation is $X\%$ every year, then price in 2001 would be $G(1 - X/100) = S$.

If the same depreciation continues till 2003, $T = G(1 - X/100)^3$

In 2002 cost would be $G(1-x/100)^2$, which is nothing but the square root of ST . So, correct answer would be D.

4. A car owner sold two cars: the first car at a 10% profit and the second car at a 10% loss, which gave him an overall profit margin of 5% from these two sales. If the owner's total profit was Rs. 1000, what was the sale price of each car?

- a) Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 1,000
- b) Rs. 9,000 and Rs. 5,000
- c) Rs. 11,000 and Rs. 9,000
- d) Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 5,000

Solution:

Lets say price of car 1 be A and that of car 2 be B. Total price = A+B

Selling Car A at 10% profit = Rs. 1.1A; selling car B at a loss of 10% = 0.9B.

As per the 5% profit margin gained by the owner; we can form the first equation as:

$$1.1A + 0.9B = 5\% \text{ profit over } (A+B) \Rightarrow 1.1A + 0.9B = 1.05A + 1.05B \Rightarrow .05A = 0.15B \Rightarrow A = 3B$$

You need not solve the question any further. Only option D suits this choice.

5. Rosivu, a type of wild mushroom, grows beneath host trees such as the Bindsu, which provide it with necessary protection. The underground filaments of Rosivu, which extract the sugars, in turn provide nutrients and water for their hosts. Because of this mutually beneficial relationship, harvesting the Rosivu growing beneath a Douglas fir seriously endangers the tree.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most doubt on the conclusion drawn above?

- a) The number of wild mushrooms harvested has increased in recent years.
- b) Chanterelles grow not only beneath Douglas firs but also beneath other host trees.
- c) Many types of wild mushrooms are found only in forests and cannot easily be grown elsewhere.
- d) The harvesting of wild mushrooms stimulates future growth of those mushrooms.

Solution: d)

The conclusion is that the host tree Bindsu depends on Rosivu for nutrients and water. So, if it is taken away, tree might die. But if the taking away or harvesting of Rosivu further results in more Rosivus, then these trees will not lack nutrients and water. So, the conclusion will be proved doubtful this way.