



## Competitive Exams: Pattern of Reading Comprehension Questions

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The format is quite simple. It contains a passage usually having a length of 500 to 2000 words. Five questions are being asked on the passage. The passage is 'taken from published material. The word 'comprehension' actually means 'grasping with intellect' 'understanding'. The questions that follow the passage are of varying quality and range. Some of the questions test your ability to recognize implications and draw inferences. The questions test your ability to read a passage, comprehend its meaning, criticize its strength and weaknesses: Showing that ability by selecting the correct answer from among choices supplied. A comprehension passage contains a number of paragraphs. Every paragraph has a central idea which is expounded with ideas and illustrations and other references. The key sentence that gives the central idea of the paragraph may be at the beginning, middle or end of paragraph. This sentence enunciating the central idea, is otherwise called 'topic sentence'. The student should approach the passage with an 'open mind'. There is no place for the reader's own opinion, assumptions and prejudices. The crux of the problem is just to understand the writer's point of view. According to the difficulty of the passage, reading speed should also be fast. Step by step method is useful in solving the questions.

**Step 1:** The very first step is to read the questions quickly. This gives you some idea of what you should be looking for as you read the passage.

**Step 2:** The second step is to read the passage at your fastest rate. The questions that have been located in your subconscious after reading the questions will force you to be more conscious as you come across anything that is relevant or important.

**Step 3:** Again reread the question one at a time. You will get some idea of the location in the passage of material that answers the questions. If you have no ideas as to location in the passage of material that answers the questions, go on to the next question; Matter this step you may solve all the questions. Only one or two questions may be left after this step.

**Step 4:** Reread the question carefully that is still unanswered and try to find the reason. They may be analytical in nature which requires the analysis of a certain part of the passage. One of the most important aspects of this is the vocabulary.

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