#GetExamReady

READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

1 Read through the entire passage and the questions before you do anything.

Do not read the questions first and then look for answers in the passage. If you familiarize yourself with the passage first, you will understand the context of the passage better.

2 Read the question and all the choices (MCQ)

Read all the choices. Usually the answer choices will focus on one or two facts or inferences from the passage. Read back the section of the passage where the answer can be found in order to be confident of the answer that you choose.

4 Familiarise with types of comprehension questions

· Factual

Questions beginning with 'Who', 'Where', 'When', 'How'.

· Inferential

Questions that require you to infer the meaning of a phrase, use your background knowledge or read in between the lines. Eg. Why do you think…?

· Associating

Eg " Seeing the many As on his result slip, Alan floated out of the school hall" What is the author suggesting with the use of the word 'floated'? The question is testing your understanding of the expression. The term 'floated' is also similar with 'drifted'. How do you relate/associate 'floated' and 'drifted' together?

Suggested answer: It suggests that John felt so happy that he drifted out of the school hall.

· Quoting/Vocabulary

Questions which require you to quote a word/phrase/sentence/ expression from the passage. You need to have a good vocabulary in order to ace this type of questions. You have to READ widely to expand your vocabulary. Use the contextual clues and take note of the suffix and prefix of the given word. Eg. Which two-word phrase from Paragraph I tells us…?

(Note: NEVER CHANGE THE FORM OF WORD FROM THE PASSAGE. COPY IT EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS IN THE PASSAGE)

3 Use 'CUB' strategy

C – Circle the 5WIH questions ie Who, What, Where, When, Why, How

U – Underline the word that tells you the tense in the question

B – Bracket the main idea or keywords in the question

Eg. What did (Sally use to cut the paper)?

5 Mark the question types.

Mark the questions based on the types of question using the initial letter of the types of questions eg F – Factual, V – Vocabulary, etc.

6 Answer the questions in order of difficulty

Answer the factual/vocabulary questions first as they are easily found within the passage. Then tackle inferential questions after re-reading the question(s) at least twice. Lastly, answer the other types of questions as they are generally more challenging.

8 Replace a word with another that is similar in meaning

When answering the question, avoid copying the whole phrase/sentence completely from the text. If you do so, it may suggest that you lack understanding of the question since the question is copied from wholesale including irrelevant bits of information from the text. Ensure that the tenses are the same as the context of the question.

7 Search for the answer in the text.

For each question, go back to the passage and scan for the relevant information. Watch for big, unusual or unique words. Highlight or put brackets on the phrase/sentence in the text that answers the question and label the question number beside the bracket.