

ANSWERING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

SCOPE OF LESSON

- ▶ Penalties in a comprehension test

LESSON OBJECTIVES

► By the end of the lesson, the student should be able to:

answer Comprehension questions taking into consideration various penalties in a comprehension test.

PENALTIES IN A COMPREHENSION TEST

These tell us why students lose marks in a comprehension test.

1. Grammatical errors

For any grammatical/expression error committed, there is a deduction of half a mark from the score of that point raised.

Some Grammatical errors include:

Spelling errors

Wrong use of tense

Faulty Pronoun antecedent

Faulty subject verb agreement

Inappropriate use of punctuation marks, etc.

Wrong use of tense

- ▶ The tense of your answer depends on the tense of the question.
- ▶ **Eg. Question:** Why was the driver arrested?
- ▶ **Answer:** The driver violated traffic rules.
- ▶ Both the question and the answer are stated in the past tense.

Spelling errors

- ▶ Students should always go over their work to identify misspelt words and correct them to avoid any penalties or deductions.
- ▶ Do not spell words wrongly. Spelling words correctly shows one's diligence.

Faulty Pronoun antecedent

- ▶ Kofi came here yesterday and Kofi helped me to do my assignment.
- ▶ Kofi came here yesterday and **he** helped me to do my assignment.
- ▶ “Kofi” is an antecedent to the pronoun “He”

- ▶ Pronouns used in answers must always have a relationship with their antecedents.
- ▶ **Eg. Question:** What were Mrs. Abba's reasons for taking the bribe from the merchant?
- ▶ **Answer(s):** Mrs. Aba needed money to buy goods for **himself**. (Ungrammatical)
- ▶ **He** needed money to buy goods for herself. (Ungrammatical)
- ▶ Mrs. Abba wanted to take care of **his** children (Ungrammatical)

Question: Why does your mum buy vegetables from the market?

Answer: Vegetables from the market are always fresh.

They are always fresh.

It is always fresh. (Ungrammatical if “it” refers to “vegetables”)

Faulty subject verb agreement

- ▶ The subject in the sentence must always agree with the verb in terms of number, thus (singular and plural).
- ▶ **Question:** What does Kofi do when he is hot?
- ▶ **Answer:** He always **drink** milk when he is hot. (Ungrammatical)

Question: Why do many people die of road accident?

Answer: Some drivers **drives** recklessly. (Ungrammatical)

Inappropriate use of punctuation marks

- ▶ Students are always advised to use punctuation marks appropriately.
- ▶ Particular attention must be paid to the appropriate use of the apostrophe.

2. Replacing Underlined Words or Phrases with wrong synonyms

Where words or expressions are given to replace underlined words/expressions in the passage, they must fit perfectly, otherwise, award zero.

Eg. My building collapsed.

My building fainted. (Wrong synonym)- Ungrammatical

3. Giving more than an expected answer

If a candidate gives two answers to a question and one of them is wrong, award zero.

If however, both answers are correct award full marks (but not doubled)

Eg. My building collapsed.

Replace the underlined word with another word or phrase.

(1mk.)

a. Fell - 1mk.

a. Fell / caved in- 1mk.

a. Fell / **fainted** / caved in - 0mk.

4. Giving answers that are not contained in the passage

One's opinion or foreknowledge of the subject of the Comprehension Passage is not needed when answering comprehension questions.

Answers must always base on the facts presented in the passage by the writer else no mark would be scored.

5. Mindless Lifting / Whole Lifting

Students are at liberty to use words from the passage in their answers but,

they must be able to use their own words or expressions to show that they really understood the passage.

Students are not to copy word for word and present paragraphs as their sentences.

Other Things to Note

- ▶ An answer must make sense before any part of it is accepted for scoring. Therefore, endeavor to give correct answers.
- ▶ If you are asked to show comparison between two or more things in the passage, your answer must show such comparison.



▶ Examples of words that show comparison are:

▶ While

▶ Whereas

▶ And ,etc.

- ▶ showing the comparison between a tiger and a dog:
- ▶ A tiger is a wild animal **while** a dog is a domestic animal.
- ▶ A tiger is a wild animal **whereas** a dog is a domestic animal.
- ▶ A tiger is a wild animal **and** a dog is a domestic animal.
- ▶ A tiger is a wild animal. A dog is a domestic animal. (The comparison is not really shown)

Answers need not to be written always in full sentences.

Eg. **Question:** Why did Esi help Nimo?

Answer: To show that she loves Nimo.

Or

Esi helped Nimo to show her love for him.

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