


# READING COMPREHENSION

(ANSWERING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS)

- 
- ▶ Pre Writing /Answering activities
  - ▶ Locating key information from a comprehension passage
  - ▶ Writing out final answers

# **COMPREHENSION PASSAGE**

**Read the passage very carefully more than ones (at least three times) and make sure you understand the passage.**

**The first reading brings you into close contact with the underlying message/theme of the passage.**

**Read the passage the second time and while reading it, take note of the author's attitude to the underlying message of the passage.**

**After the second reading of the passage, read the questions in order to know the main points emphasized in the passage.**

**Then, read the passage for the third time. While reading, note the relevant points that answer the question on the passage.**



# **COMPREHENSION PASSAGE**

## **WASSCE 2017 (QUESTION 6)**

## **QUESTIONS:**

- a) How did the class betray their monitor?**
- b) State two forms of punishment the monitor received.**
- c) What coincidence is there in the narration?**
- d) In what two ways did the monitor show remorse?**
- e) What was the reaction of the monitor to his mates after the incident?**

**f) “*When she came to class the following Monday .....*”**

- i) What grammatical name is given to this expression as it is used in the passage?**
- ii) What is its function?**

**g) “... I had been stabbed in the back ...”**

- i) What figure of speech is used in this expression?**
- ii) What does it mean?**



h).For each of the following words, find another word or phrase which means the same and which can replace it as it is used in the passage:

- i) mandated
- ii) assumed;
- iii) betrayal;
- iv) sarcastically;
- v) heinous;
- vi) tearfully.

**Five decades ago, my classmates lured me into a trap that taught me the lesson of a lifetime. As the class monitor, I was informed that the class had decided not to do the homework given to us by the Geography teacher. The decision was based on three grounds. First, she had not taught us anything substantial since her arrival in the school. Second, we must let her know that in this all male-institution, a female should not push us around. Also, she seemed forever inaudible when teaching us.**

So, my mates mandated me to convey the decision to her. Thus sent, I confronted her with our decision. All she said was, 'Noted, I assumed we had won the day. Alas! How wrong I was. When she came to class the following Monday, she demanded the homework. As I stood up to restate our stand, behold, all my mates took out their notebooks and submitted them. I was the odd one in the class of thirty-five boys! This act of betrayal left me speechless. Any protest now was out of the question.

The teacher led me to the overgrown part of the football field, measured out a large portion, and ordered me to clear it before returning to either the class or dormitory. I realized I have been stabbed in the back as I heard my mates laugh sarcastically in the classroom. I bent down with my sharpened cutlass, determined to finish the work within the day and regain my freedom in good time. How wrong I was!

My father had chosen that day of all days to pay a visit. He rarely did so, as the school in Tamale was far from Accra, his base. Not finding me in class, he asked after my whereabouts. My mates described to him my heinous crime and directed him to my punishment post. When he arrived, he took the cutlass from me, cut a cane and gave me the flogging of my life. He then went to the bursar's office, paid the balance of my fees, and returned to Accra with all the provisions he had bought for me.

I finished the task just before the last school hour, went to the lady teacher, prostrated myself, and tearfully apologised to her. But for the rest of the week, and indeed many more days, I stayed aloof from my mates.

**a. How did the class betray their monitor?**

## Paragraph 2

So, my mates mandated me to convey the decision to her. Thus sent, I confronted her with our decision. All she said was, 'Noted, I assumed we had won the day. Alas! How wrong I was. When she came to class the following Monday, she demanded the homework. **As I stood up to restate our stand, behold, all my mates took out their notebooks and submitted them. I was the odd one in the class of thirty-five boys! This act of betrayal left me speechless.** Any protest now was out of the question.

**a. How did the class betray their monitor?**

**They did their homework after all.**

**OR**

**They did the homework which they had decided not to do.**



**b) State two forms of punishment the monitor received.**

### Paragraph 3:

The teacher led me to the overgrown part of the football field, measured out a large portion, and ordered me to clear it before returning to either the class or dormitory. I realized I have been stabbed in the back as I heard my mates laugh sarcastically in the classroom. I bent down with my sharpened cutlass, determined to finish the work within the day and regain my freedom in good time. How wrong I was!

## Paragraph 4:

My father had chosen that day of all days to pay a visit. He rarely did so, as the school in Tamale was far from Accra, his base. Not finding me in class, he asked after my whereabouts. My mates described to him my heinous crime and directed him to my punishment post.

When he arrived, he took the cutlass from me, cut a cane and gave me the flogging of my life. He then went to the bursar's office, paid the balance of my fees, and returned to Accra with all the provisions he had bought for me.

**b) State two forms of punishment the monitor received.**

**i) He was made to weed a portion of the football field.**

**ii) He Was flogged by his father.**

**iii) His father took back the provisions he had brought for him.**

**(Any two of the above)**

**c. What coincidence is there in the narration?**

## Paragraph 4:

**My father had chosen that day of all days to pay a visit. He rarely did so, as the school in Tamale was far from Accra, his base. Not finding me in class, he asked after my whereabouts. My mates described to him my heinous crime and directed him to my punishment post. When he arrived, he took the cutlass from me, cut a cane and gave me the flogging of my life. He then went to the bursar's office, paid the balance of my fees, and returned to Accra with all the provisions he had bought for me.**

**c. What coincidence is there in the narration?**

**The monitor's father visited him that day.**

**d. In what two ways did the monitor show remorse?**



## Paragraph 5:

I finished the task just before the last school hour, went to the lady teacher, prostrated myself, and tearfully apologised to her. But for the rest of the week, and indeed many more days, I stayed aloof from my mates.

**d. In what two ways did the monitor show remorse?**

**i) He prostrated himself before his teacher.**

**ii) He was tearful.**

**iii) He apologised.**

**(Any two of the above)**

**e) What was the reaction of the monitor to his mates after the incident?**

## Paragraph 5:

I finished the task just before the last school hour, went to the lady teacher, prostrated myself, and tearfully apologised to her. **But for the rest of the week, and indeed many more days, I stayed aloof from my mates.**

**e. What was the reaction of the monitor to his mates after the incident?**

He avoided his mates.

OR He remained aloof.

OR He ignored his mates.

OR He stayed away from them (or his mates).

f) ***“When she came to class the following Monday .....*”**

i) **What grammatical name is given to this expression as it is used in the passage?**

ii) **What is its function?**

## Paragraph 2:

So, my mates mandated me to convey the decision to her. Thus sent, I confronted her with our decision. All she said was, 'Noted, I assumed we had won the day. Alas! How wrong I was. **When she came to class the following Monday, she demanded the homework.** As I stood up to restate our stand, behold, all my mates took out their notebooks and submitted them. I was the odd one in the class of thirty-five boys! This act of betrayal left me speechless. Any protest now was out of the question.

f) *“When she came to class the following Monday .....*”

i) What grammatical name is given to this expression as it is used in the passage?

ii) What is its function?

i) It is an adverbial clause (of time).

ii) It modifies or it qualifies (the verb) 'demanded'.



**g) “... I had been stabbed in the back ...”**

**i) What figure of speech is used in this expression?**

**ii) What does it mean?**

### Paragraph 3:

The teacher led me to the overgrown part of the football field, measured out a large portion, and ordered me to clear it before returning to either the class or dormitory. **I realized I have been stabbed in the back as I heard my mates laugh sarcastically in the classroom.** I bent down with my sharpened cutlass, determined to finish the work within the day and regain my freedom in good time. How wrong I was!

**g) “... I had been stabbed in the back ...”**

**i) What figure of speech is used in this expression?**

**ii) What does it mean?**

**i) metaphor**

**ii) It means the monitor had been deceived OR He had been betrayed.**

i) mandated - authorized, directed, asked, instructed, ordered, sent, tasked.

ii) assumed - thought, presumed, supposed, believed, imagined, guessed.

iii) betrayal - disloyalty, deceit, treachery, duplicity, perfidy, deception.

iv) sarcastically- mockingly, wryly, scornfully, derisively.

v) heinous - monstrous, atrocious, odious, terrible, detestable, grievous.

vi) tearfully- sadly, ruefully, mournfully, sorrowfully, weepingly .

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