

English Comprehension Question Paper

Unseen Passage - 1:

Mike and Morris lived in the same village. While Morris owned the largest jewelry shop in the village, Mike was a poor farmer. Both had large families with many sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren. One fine day, Mike, tired of not being able to feed his family, decided to leave the village and move to the city where he was certain to earn enough to feed everyone. Along with his family, he left the village for the city. At night, they stopped under a large tree. There was a stream running nearby where they could freshen up themselves. He told his sons to clear the area below the tree, he told his wife to fetch water and he instructed his daughters-in-law to make up the fire and started cutting wood from the tree himself. They didn't know that in the branches of the tree, there was a thief hiding. He watched as Mike's family worked together and also noticed that they had nothing to cook. Mike's wife also thought the same and asked her husband "Everything is ready but what shall we eat?" Mike raised his hands to heaven and said "Don't worry. He is watching all this from above. He will help us."

The thief got worried as he had seen that the family was large and worked well together. Taking advantage of the fact that they did not know he was hiding in the branches, he decided to make a quick escape. He climbed down safely when they were not looking and ran for his life. But, he left behind the bundle of stolen jewels and money which dropped into Mike's lap. Mike opened it and jumped with joy when he saw the contents. The family gathered all their belongings and returned to the village. There was great excitement when they told everyone how they got rich.

Morris thought that the tree was miraculous and this was a nice and quick way to earn some money. He ordered his family to pack some clothes and they set off as if on a journey. They also stopped under the same tree and Morris started commanding everyone as Mike had done. But no one in his family was willing to obey his orders. Being a rich family, they were used to having servants all around. So, the one who went to the river to fetch water enjoyed a nice bath. The one who went to get wood for fire went off to sleep. Morris's wife said "Everything is

ready but what shall we eat ?” Morris raised his hands and said, ” Don’t worry. He is watching all this from above. He will help us.”

As soon as he finished saying, the thief jumped down from the tree with a knife in hand. Seeing him, everyone started running here and there to save their lives. The thief stole everything they had and Morris and his family had to return to the village empty handed, having lost all their valuables that they had taken with them.

Question 1 : Why did Mike and his family decide to rest under the thief’s tree ?

- A) Being a large family, they knew that they could easily defeat the thief
- B) It was a convenient spot for taking a halt at night
- C) There was a stream nearby and wood enough to build a house
- D) That was the only large tree that could shelter their large family

Solution : B) It was a convenient spot for taking a halt at night

A is incorrect as they didn’t knew that a thief was hiding on the tree.

C is incorrect as nothing has been mentioned in the passage about the amount of wood

D is incorrect as nothing has been mentioned about the number of trees.

Question 2 : Which of the following best describes Morris ?

- A) He was a rich businessman
- B) He bullied his wife
- C) He paid his servants well
- D) He was greedy and imitated Mike

Solution : D) He was greedy and imitated Mike

Question 3 : What did Mike mean when he said “He is watching all this from above”?

- A) He had spotted the thief and wanted to scare him
- B) He was telling his wife to have faith in god
- C) It was just a warning for his family members to stick together
- D) He was begging the thief to help his family

Solution : B) He was telling his wife to have faith in god

Question 4 : Why did the thief return to the tree?

- A) To wait for Mike to return
- B) To set up a trap
- C) To wait for Morris’s family
- D) Not mentioned in the passage

Solution : D) Not mentioned in the passage

Question 5 : How did the fellow villagers react to Mike getting rich overnight?

- A) They were jealous of him
- B) They were very excited
- C) They followed his example
- D) They envied him

Solution : B) They were very excited

Unseen Passage - 2

The economic transformation of India is one of the great business stories of our time. As *stifling* government regulations have been lifted, entrepreneurship has flourished, and the country has become a high-powered centre for information technology and pharmaceuticals. Indian companies like Infosys and Wipro are powerful global players, while Western firms like G.E. and I.B.M. now have major research facilities in India employing thousands. India's seemingly endless flow of young, motivated engineers, scientists, and managers offering developed-world skills at developing-world wages is held to be putting American jobs at risk, and the country is frequently heralded as "the next economic superpower."

But India has run into a surprising hitch on its way to superpower status: its inexhaustible supply of workers is becoming exhausted. Although India has one of the youngest workforces on the planet, the head of Infosys said recently that there was an "acute shortage of skilled manpower," and a study by Hewitt Associates projects that this year salaries for skilled workers will rise fourteen and a half per cent, a sure sign that demand for skilled labor is outstripping supply.

How is this possible in a country that every year produces two and a half million college graduates and four hundred thousand engineers? Start with the fact that just

ten per cent of Indians get any kind of post-secondary education, compared with some fifty per cent who do in the U.S. Moreover, of that ten per cent, the vast majority go to one of India's seventeen thousand colleges, many of which are closer to community colleges than to four-year institutions. India does have more than three hundred universities, but a recent survey by the London Times Higher Education Supplement put only two of them among the top hundred in the world. Many Indian graduates, therefore, enter the workforce with a low level of skills. A current study led by Vivek Wadhwa, of Duke University, has found that if you define "engineer" by U.S. standards, India produces just a hundred and seventy thousand engineers a year, not four hundred thousand. Infosys says that, of 1.3 million applicants for jobs last year, it found only two per cent acceptable.

There was a time when many economists believed that post-secondary education didn't have much impact on economic growth. The really important educational gains, they thought, came from giving rudimentary skills to large numbers of people (which India still needs to do—at least thirty per cent of the population is illiterate). They believed that, in economic terms, society got a very low rate of return on its investment in higher education. But lately that assumption has been overturned, and the social rate of return on investment in university education in India has been calculated at an impressive nine or ten per cent. In other words, every dollar India puts into higher education creates value for the economy as a whole. Yet India spends roughly three and a half per cent of its G.D.P. on education, significantly below the percentage spent by the U.S., even though

India's population is much younger, and spending on education should be proportionately higher.

The irony of the current situation is that India was once considered to be overeducated. In the seventies, as its economy languished, it seemed to be a country with too many engineers and Ph.D.s working as clerks in government offices. Once the Indian business climate loosened up, though, that meant companies could tap a backlog of hundreds of thousands of eager, skilled workers at their disposal. Unfortunately, the educational system did not adjust to the new realities. Between 1985 and 1997, the number of teachers in India actually fell, while the percentage of students enrolled in high school or college rose more slowly than it did in the rest of the world. Even as the need for skilled workers was increasing, India was devoting relatively fewer resources to producing them.

Since the Second World War, the countries that have made successful leaps from developing to developed status have all poured money, public and private, into education. South Korea now spends a higher percentage of its national income on education than nearly any other country in the world. Taiwan had a system of universal primary education before its phase of hypergrowth began. And, more recently, Ireland's economic boom was spurred, in part, by an opening up and expansion of primary and secondary schools and increased funding for universities.

Education will be all the more important for India's well-being; the earlier generation of so-called Asian Tigers depended heavily on manufacturing, but India's focus on services and technology will require a more skilled and educated workforce.

India has taken tentative steps to remedy its skills famine—the current government has made noises about doubling spending on education, and a host of new colleges and universities have sprung up since the mid-nineties. But India's impressive economic performance has made the problem seem less urgent than it actually is, and allowed the government to defer difficult choices. (In a country where more than three hundred million people live on a dollar a day, producing college graduates can seem like a low priority.) Ultimately, the Indian government has to pull off a very tough trick, making serious changes at a time when things seem to be going very well. It needs, in other words, a clear sense of everything that can still go wrong. The paradox of the Indian economy today is that the more certain its glowing future seems to be, the less likely that future becomes.

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Questions:

1 Which of these could you infer according to the passage?

- a. Wages in the Developing countries are less as compared to wages in the developed countries.
- b. Wages in the Developing countries are more as compared to wages in the developed countries.

- c. Wages in the Developing countries are same as wages in the developed countries.
- d. None of these.

2. What does “*American jobs*” in the last line of the first paragraph of the passage imply?

- a. Jobs provided by American companies.
- b. Jobs held (or to be held) by American people.
- c. Jobs open to only American citizens.
- d. Jobs provided by the American government.

3. According to the passage, why India does not have enough skilled labour?

- a. The total amount of the young population is low.
- b. The total number of colleges are insufficient.
- c. Students do not want to study.
- d. Maximum universities and colleges do not match global standards.

4. What can you infer as the meaning of ‘*stifling*’ from the passage?

- a. Democratic.
- b. Liberal.
- c. Impeding.
- d. Undemocratic.

5. What is an appropriate title to the passage?

- a. Growing Indian Economy.
- b. Higher education in India.
- c. India's Skill Shortage.
- d. Entrepreneurship in India.

6. In the third sentence of the third paragraph of the passage, the phrase "closer to community colleges" is used. What does it imply?

- a. Near to community colleges.
- b. Like community colleges.
- c. Close association with community colleges.
- d. None of these.

7. According to the passage, what is the paradox of the Indian economy today?

- a. The economic progress is impressive, but the poor (earning one dollar per day) are not benefited.
- b. The economic progress is impressive disallowing the government to take tough decisions.
- c. There is not enough skilled workforce and the government does not realize this.
- d. Government is not ready to invest in setting up new universities.

8. Why are salaries for skilled workers rising?

- a. Companies are paying hire to lure skilled people to jobs.
- b. American companies are ready to pay higher to skilled workers.
- c. Entrepreneurship is growing in India.
- d. There are not enough skilled workers, while the demand for them is high.

Answers:

1)a. Wages in the Developing countries are less as compared to wages in the developed countries

2)b. Jobs held (or to be held) by American people

3)d. Maximum universities and colleges do not match global standards

4)c. Impeding.

5)c. India's Skill Shortage

6)b. Like community colleges

7) b. The economic progress is impressive disallowing the government to take tough decisions.

8)d. There are not enough skilled workers, while the demand for them is high.