

Discursive Passages for CBSE Class 10 English (Language & Literature)

PASSAGE - 1

Read the following passage carefully:

1. Frankness may be among the most overrated of virtues! And here's why. Because unrestricted and unfiltered frankness is a recipe for breaking relationships, even the closest ones. Such frankness is understandable, acceptable and even 'cute' only in children under the age of five.
2. Thinking before one speaks and using restraint are hallmarks of growing maturity and preparation for life. Learning to put a filter between thought and spoken word (and, even more importantly, written word) is an important life skill. Think is a popular acronym for True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary and Kind. This would do wonderfully well as a filter in our minds.
3. It is good to speak what's true, but only along with the other attributes in the acronym, particularly the last one, kindness. In the righteous glow of speaking what we see as the truth, we often forget to be kind. We blurt out 'truths' even when it is totally unhelpful and unnecessary to do so, let alone inspiring! Too often, such truth-telling is destructive rather than noble. Only those who do not care about the consequences can afford the luxury of 'speaking their minds' whenever and wherever they please. When relationships are at stake, it is essential to choose the time, place and words appropriately when imparting unpleasant truths. And even then, only when absolutely necessary and with the utmost kindness.
4. Speaking without forethought can be even more dangerous in other circumstances, for example, when someone has entrusted us with a secret. A sign of maturity is the ability to keep a secret. Very young children are incapable of understanding the concept of a secret. To them, every piece of information is interesting, new and meant to be shared. As we grow older, we all learn how to keep a secret, but too often we keep only our own secrets and not those that others confide in us. We may blurt out something a friend told us in confidence, perhaps carelessly but often to appear important in other people's estimation. It gives us a sense of power to know something that our friends don't, and it requires conscious effort to keep the information to ourselves.
5. But this is the real test of an important life skill: self-restraint. Revealing a friend's secret is to betrayal of the friendship. Indeed, the consequences may well spread way beyond the friendship alone. It may lead to gossip spreading like a forest fire, destroying peace of mind and even lives.
6. Words have power to hurt or heal. They are not mere tools for tweeting and messaging. Before the tongue speaks, before the fingers fly over the keyboard, it is important to pause and apply the THINK acronym filter. Is this True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary and Kind?
7. Of course it is important to communicate. But it is far more important to be considerate and compassionate. Speaking well is a skill: speaking kindly is a life skill.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY FIVE questions from the six given below.

- (a) How much of frankness is acceptable?
- (b) What does the term ‘to put a filter’ mean in this context?
- (c) According to the writer what is the best way to reveal the truth?
- (d) Why is it important to keep secrets?
- (e) The antonym of ‘cruelty’, used in para 3 is.....
- (f) What are the power of Words excluding tweeting and messaging?

Answers:

- (a) One should be frank to the extent that it does not affect relationships. Complete frankness looks good only in small children. As we grow old we should be smart and filter information.
- (b) In this context ‘to put a filter’ means before speaking, a sensible person will filter whatever he wishes to say. He will think through his thoughts before uttering a word.
- (c) The writer says that one must ensure that the place, time and the words are chosen with care. In addition to this, one must use very kind words to convey the truth.
- (d) It is very important to keep secrets. We may blurt out something a friend told us in confidence, in a careless manner but often to appear important in other people’s estimation. So, it requires conscious effort to keep the information to ourselves.
- (e) kindness
- (f) hurt or heal.

PASSAGE - 2

Read the following passage carefully:

1. I came to California during spring; that alone was stressful. Then I discovered that academics here were much harder than back home. Add to this that I didn’t know anyone and had trouble making friends. I was getting more anxious by the day, and I didn’t know what to do. However, as time went by my shyness changed to excitement, and that excitement generated an adventurous spirit in me. I wanted to go out and explore Berkeley, and I was building up the courage to talk to more people.
2. I stayed in the dorms when I first arrived. Although most people on the floor had already formed their cliques, I’m still grateful to have lived there. I met people who introduced me to many clubs, classes, and activities that I might otherwise have missed out on.
3. Still, all the changes and challenges were really getting to me. I used to overeat when I was anxious, which didn’t benefit my body at all—my stomach would hurt, and then I’d be even more stressed that I didn’t feel well! —Talking to someone wasn’t an idea that occurred to me until much later, when I

learned that expressing my feelings might be a healthier (and less stomach–ache–inducing) way to relieve stress.

4. One of my first friends happened to be in the Health Worker Program (HWP). She was so amazing! I felt like I finally found someone to talk to, someone who would listen to me. Eventually, by the end of my first semester at California, things started to look up. I made more friends, I adjusted to the academics at Berkeley, and I learned how to live in a city completely different from my hometown. I don't think I would have managed, though, if it had not been for my friend's empathetic nature and peer counselling training. My experience with her led me to become a health worker as well. When one thinks of health, many images come to mind; the flu, a cough, medicine. With my major being Linguistics (read: a social science!), I was very apprehensive about applying to such a program. I quickly discovered, however, that being a health worker wasn't about playing doctor—it's about learning life skills (which I continue to use in my daily life, on and off campus) and becoming an advocate of health for your peers.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY FIVE questions from the six given

below.

- (a) What were the causes of stress for the writer?
- (b) What recourse did the writer take to as time went by?
- (c) What is the essential job of a health worker?
- (d) How did meeting with the health worker help the writer?
- (e) What are the health workers basically do, who care for the health of their peers? (f) When did the writer get adventurous spirit in him?

Answers:

(a) The writer was new to California. He was away from his hometown and also the classroom learning was very different from what it was back in his hometown. That caused lots of stress and he had nobody to talk to about it.

(b) Initially he was a shy person but with time he developed interest in the things around him and slowly started talking to people, made friends and this helped him to beat the stress.

(c) Health workers are people whom you can go to, talk to and discuss your issues. Essentially, they are life–skill trainers. They care for the health of their peers.

(d) Meeting the health worker gave more confidence to the writer, helped him adapt to the new surroundings and he decided to become a health worker himself so that he could help his peers with their problems.

(e) Life skill trainer

(f) When time went by his shyness changed to excitement, and that excitement generated an adventurous spirit in him.

PASSAGE - 3

Read the following passage carefully:

1. Every form of human activity upsets or changes the wildlife complex of the area unceasingly and unavoidably. Man has destroyed many forms of wildlife for no reasonable purpose. Small sections of the community, for their own narrow, selfish ends, have destroyed many things of general interest. Expediency has often led man to make grave blunders in land use, habitat destruction, and the extermination of many forms of wildlife.

2. In his everyday life, man's attitude is determined in the main by purely practical considerations; ethical or moral considerations come afterwards. Looked at in this way, the disappearance from Britain of such animals as the wolf and wild boar can be more easily understood. In our intensively cultivated and over-populated country there was no room for such large mammals, the one a predator of big livestock and the other a pest to agriculture. Thus, man's first attitude to animals is the result of their effect on his own survival, or what he considers to be their effect on his survival.

3. Then there is his concern with sport. The animals he sets aside for this purpose are given special protection and war is waged unceasingly on any other creatures that may be a danger to them. This creates many problems and man has made serious errors in his destruction of predators. Until recent years all hawks and falcons were destroyed as —vermin|| by game preservers. This meant the destruction of kestrels, which are useful to the farmer: it meant the destruction of owls, which are useful to the farmer; so here you had sport acting against the interests of food production. Agedy of all this is that all the killing of predators did not in any way improve man's sport. It has been clearly shown by modern research that eagles, hawks, falcons and predatory mammals have not the slightest effect on the numbers of game birds anywhere.

4. Broadly speaking, man wages war against the creatures which he considers harmful, even when his warfare makes little or no difference to the numbers of his enemies. And he encourages those creatures which are useful, even though their attacks on pests make little difference to the numbers of those pests. It would be true to say, therefore, that our attitude to song-birds, to most birds of prey and to many of our predatory animals, arises from the fact that they have either been proved useful or of no consequence. Either way, from this, we have developed the idea of conservation which means preserving what we have left of our heritage of wildlife and even finding room for rarities which may do a little damage on the side.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY FIVE questions from the six given below.

(a) What has been man's attitude towards wildlife?

(b) How is the justification given for the killing of wolves and wild boar in Britain?

(c) Why has man been killing predators?

(d) In the last paragraph the writer talks about contradictory opinions. Explain.

(e) Which two large mammals are mentioned in above paragraph which taking more place?

(f) In para 4, What is the antonym of 'endangering'?

Answers:

(a) Man is selfish and self-centred. He has no morals and ethics. For him it is practical aspects first and then other things. He can kill any animal, over-cultivate crops, cut forests and all this for his survival.

(b) Britain, being intensely cultivated and over-populated, destroyed its wolf and wild boar population because of man's preoccupation with preserving only those animals that had practical implications therefore, the wolf, a predator of livestock and the boar, a pest to agriculture, were destroyed.

(c) Man has been killing predators because he thinks that they are a danger to the birds useful in sports. But killing these animals has had no effect on the number of game birds. In nature it is a cycle. If man disturbs this cycle everything gets disturbed.

(d) Man kills those animals which he thinks are harmful and protects those which he thinks are worth preserving. But in all this he forgets that it is his idea of conservation and not nature's.

(e) The wolf, a predator of livestock and the boar, a pest to agriculture, were destroyed.

(f) Preserving

PASSAGE - 4

1. Reading Comprehension (RC, as it is normally called) is the most peculiar section in almost all scholastic, entrance and employment tests. The skills in RC make a lot of difference to one's chances of good grades/selection.

2. Most students find it difficult to tackle topics that are diverse from the field they are in or they are comfortable with. So one needs to develop a taste for even the most obscure and boring topic on this planet. For success in RC one should be able to understand. And even with an average speed one can succeed if one implements the strategies.

3. Broadly speaking, RC passages can be classified in a few categories. Fact based RC is the simplest form of RC. These types of passages have lot of information in the form of names, numbers etc. In this type of passages, one should read very fast.

4. Don't try to memorize any facts, numbers or names etc. In fact there is no need to even remember them. Just make yourself familiar with the structure of the passage. Just see in which paragraph author is talking about what. Mark it. Then when you go to the questions, identify in which paragraph

information regarding that question is mentioned. Go to that paragraph, read the numbers, names etc. and mark the answer.

5. Inference based RC is the toughest form of RC. Here the passage is fairly tough to understand. This includes passages on topics like Religion, Spirituality, Philosophy, etc. Most of the students will be comfortable attempting these passages at least in RC. The reading speed is fairly slow in this type of passages. The way to master this type of passages is to read them again and again while practising.

6. Topic based RC includes passages on any particular topic like economics, astrology, medical science, etc. Generally what makes -these passages tough is usage of technical terms. If a topic is new to us then presence of technical term scares us even if they are defined in the passage. For success in this type of passages we need to have a fair understanding of the definition of the term if it is defined in the passage. Read that definition twice if you need to. But don't worry about technical terms if they are not defined in the passage. Assume them to be non-existent and proceed. Key principle in these passages is that don't go to the next line unless the previous line is clear.

7. Reading passage first and then questions is the most popular strategy for RC. While answering the question you may come back to the passage to find answer as you have just read the passage initially and not crammed it. But you should not come back for each and every question. If you come back for majority of questions then you haven't read the passage properly. The key to success for this strategy is that you should understand the passage very well. We will suggest students to follow this technique from the beginning and work upon this.

8. Reading questions first and then passage is the strategy followed by a few students. They just look at the questions and not options. The objective is that after seeing the questions when you read the passage then you read only that part carefully where the answer is given. The flaw with this is that you will not be able to remember all the questions. Besides this, this strategy fails when there are questions that require understanding of the passage.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY FIVE questions from the six given below.

(a) What should one do for finding the right answers?

(b) Why is topic-based RC tough?

(c) Which step is considered more essential for finding right answers? Why?

(d) What is the most popular strategy for solving Reading Comprehension (RC)?

(e) Why do most students find Reading Comprehension difficult?

(f) Find the words similar in the meaning from passage.

(i) Different (para 2)

(ii) Accept as true (para 6)

Answers:

- (a) One should mark what the author is talking about in para.
- (b) Topic based R C is tough as it contains technical terms.
- (c) Careful reading of the passage is essential for proper understanding and answering correctly.
- (d) Reading passage first and then question is the most popular strategy for solving R C.
- (e) Because the topics are unrelated to their interest.
- (f) (i) Diverse
- (ii) Assume

PASSAGE - 5

1. The Food Bill is still in the works but has provoked a furious debate on the lack of grain storage facilities, rotting of grains and whether they should be distributed free to the hungry masses. Waking up to the fact that no food security programme can be effective without proper storage, the government is now planning to upgrade existing warehousing facilities and also adding new ones. However, between food security and large-scale storage, there's a missing link that needs to be taken note of: storage at the farm level. No one can deny the importance of decentralised storage; at least 25-30 per cent grains in the country are stored at the farm level.

2. However, it's not as if there hasn't been enough thrust on this issue: there are State institutes to look into the storage problems.

3. Yet, policy-wise we did have a sound start: the Save Grain Campaign, which was initiated 43 years ago, was supposed to do what we are floundering on now. Through this campaign, the Centre was to initiate and train states in warehousing and storage of grains. The Centre wanted the states to take it up on a large scale but the latter did not want any "added responsibility". Finding no takers, the campaign was withdrawn in 2008.

4. "Around 15-20 per cent food grain losses occur in large storage godowns. Along with investment in large storage capacities, we must encourage farm-level storage. This can be in the form of refining and improving the local/indigenous storage technologies and providing technical and financial support at that level," says M.B. Chetti, Dean, College of Agriculture, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka.

5. He and many experts like him suggest that if we want to leapfrog in storage capacity at the farm-level (since setting up large storages is time-consuming and expensive), new technologies vacuum packaging could be the answer. They assure quality as well as a chance to store grains almost anywhere and that it can be done in villages by trained persons.

6. "Alternatively, we have to go for cold storage facilities for food grains, which is very costly since it involves electricity supply," says Chetti. Instead, vacuum packing, say experts, helps preserve grains and seeds for long periods without any deterioration in quality. In fact, an experiment was carried out in the university on the usefulness of the packaging system (using chilli) and the results were satisfactory. The available technology offers a seven- layer packing to preserve quality for long periods of time and once sealed, climatic changes have no effect on it. Elimination of oxygen from the pack helps in extending shelf life.

7. "At present only three-layer plastic films are manufactured in India. The seven-layered film needs to be imported. But the import duty is high," says Mohan Bajikar, of course, such technologies are expensive, but then delivering to the hungry isn't enough—quality must be ensured.

8. Fool policy analyst Devinder Sharma, however, says expensive solutions like silos and warehousing are not the answer to procurement and storage problems. Instead, he says, "local production, local procurement and local distribution" is the answer, something like what Chhattisgarh has been doing. It procures paddy directly from farmers, buying it through cooperative societies and procurement centres at the village level. To store, he adds, the government can add a small godown next to each panchayat ghar.

9. Whichever way we look at it, decentralised storage cannot be left out of the loop if we want to ensure food security and reduce stock losses. Based on your understanding of the passage, answer ANY FIVE questions from the six given below.

- (a) Why was save green campaign withdrawn after 43 years?
- (b) Which is the most cost-effective solution for storage of grain?
- (c) How are new technologies like vacuum packaging more successful in storing?
- (d) Why do experts reject silos and warehousing?
- (e) Why the necessity of proper storage has been realized?
- (f) Find the words from the passage which are similar in meaning?
 - (i) Improve (para 1)
 - (ii) Native (para 4)

Answers:

- (a) Save green campaign was withdrawn because the states did not want any added responsibility.
- (b) Decentralized storage is the most effective solution for storage of grain.
- (c) They assure quality as well as a chance to store grains almost anywhere.

(d) Experts reject soil and warehousing because these are very costly solutions.

(e) Because no food security is possible without it

(f) (i) Upgrade (ii) Indigenous