

ENGLISH

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

For students preparing for MAH-B.BCA/BBA/BMS/BBM CET 2024 for admission to BCA, BBA, BMS, BBM

DIRECTIONS (Q. Nos. 1-5) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are printed in bold to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

Among the major tasks before us none is of greater importance for our strength and stability than the task of building up the unity and solidarity of our people. Our country often stood like a solid rock in the face of common danger and there is a deep underlying unity which runs like a golden thread through all our seeming diversity. There have been occasions when unfortunate and disturbing divisions, some of them accompanied by violence, have appeared in our society.

Political democracy and the way it has functioned in our country is surely a great achievement. Here again we owe an immeasurable debt to Shri Jawaharlal Nehruji for his deep attachment to democracy as a form of government and as a way of life. There is something in our older cultural heritage too. I have particularly in view that enduring strength in Indian life which can best be described as respect for human personality and the spirit of tolerance. I have no doubt in my mind that it is only by methods of persuasion and mutual accommodation and by constant search for areas of agreement as the basic for action that democracy can work. It is in this spirit that I shall devote myself to the duties and responsibilities of the office I have been called upon to fill.

Of all the problems facing us none is more distressing than that of dire poverty in which

tens of millions of our countrymen continue to live. It is my great desire to be able to lighten in some measure the burden of poverty on our people. In this I remember particularly the claims of most backward sections like scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, who have suffered neglect and have had to endure disabilities for many centuries. It would be my proud privilege to work for the establishment of a more just social order.

1. Shri Nehru was deeply attached to
 - (a) democracy as a way of life
 - (b) democracy of the western type
 - (c) democracy which emerges from our culture
 - (d) the Indian way of living.
2. What is the permanent trend in Indian life?
 - (a) Respect for human personality
 - (b) Love for animals
 - (c) Worship of nature
 - (d) Hero-worshipping
3. The author believes that democracy can work
 - (a) if leaders are honest
 - (b) if people participate
 - (c) if method of persuasion and mutual adjustment are employed
 - (d) if people have faith in democracy
4. The writer wants to work for
 - (a) just economic order
 - (b) just social order

- (c) democratic forces
- (d) none of the above

5. The writer thinks that

- (a) we have never faced dangers.
- (b) in our country there is unity underlying diversity
- (c) our society is tribal in organisation
- (d) stability of the nation depends upon many factors

DIRECTIONS (Q. Nos. 6-14) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are printed in bold to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

A young man wanted to learn the art of sword fighting. He approached the greatest instructor in the country and said, "Please teach me sword fighting." The instructor gladly accepted him as a student and said, "Young man you can stay with me and learn this art". In the days that followed the instructor gave him many odd chores to perform. The chores were sweeping the floors, cutting vegetables, cooking, washing linen and the like. But there was no mention of the sword or the art of fighting with it. The young man got desperate, approached the instructor and said. "Great teacher kindly begin my lessons." The instructor agreed.

The next day when the young man was cooking, the instructor came from behind and hit him with a wooden sword and vanished. The young man was taken by surprise. The teacher repeated the same thing every day. The young man now started preparing himself mentally to counter any such surprise attacks. After a few days, whenever the instructor came to attack him, the young man was able to **dodge** the blow of the sword. He was very happy with his performance. He asked the instructor, "Now have I learnt the art of defending myself?" The instructor did not respond to his question and walked away. The surprise attacks continued, and the young man kept improving on his skill of countering the attacks.

One day the young man saw that the instructor was seriously engaged in a task and a sudden

desire crept into his head. He thought "Now let me catch the instructor unaware and attack him." He took the wooden sword and attacked the instructor without a sound from behind. But to his surprise the instructor was fully prepared for it. He took a shield lying near him, turned around and defended himself using techniques the young man had never seen before. Realisation **struck** the young man that very moment. He thought, "How great is this instructor! Today I have learnt the real secret of sword fighting. He has taught me that merely swinging the sword and learning the opponent's moves are not the essentials of sword fighting. What's important is to read what goes on in the opponent's mind and to counter his movement and his thoughts too." The young man continued to take lessons in all humbleness and with newer insights trained well to become a great sword fighter of his country.

6. Why did the young man approach the instructor?

- (a) He wanted to learn the art of cutting vegetables
- (b) He wanted to perform chores for the instructor
- (c) He did not agree with the instructor's methods of teaching
- (d) He wanted to learn the art of sword fighting

7. What did the instructor ask the young man to do?

- (a) To practice sword fighting with a real sword
- (b) To do household chores like washing, cleaning and cooking
- (c) To practise sword fighting with the help of a wooden sword
- (d) To prepare himself for attacks

8. How did the young man learn the art of defending himself?

- (a) The teacher did not tell him how to defend himself so he learnt it on his own from another teacher
- (b) The teacher gave him a shield and asked him to learn the art of defending on his own

- (c) The teacher kept surprising him with attacks and eventually he started defending himself
- (d) He learnt the art of defending himself by learning how to attack the teacher

9. What did the young man do when he saw that his instructor was busy?

- (a) He went and offered help to the instructor in the task that he was doing
- (b) He tried to kill the instructor as the instructor was not teaching him properly
- (c) He tried to render a surprise attack on the instructor with a wooden sword
- (d) He asked the instructor to stop whatever he was doing and start the lesson

10. How did the instructor react to the young man's attack?

- (a) He took a shield and defended himself very skillfully
- (b) He asked the student to leave his house immediately
- (c) He called the police and had the student arrested
- (d) He was delighted and congratulated the student for his presence of mind

11. Which lesson did the young man learn on the day he attacked his instructor?

- (a) That sword fighting cannot be learnt without the help of wooden swords and also learning how to render surprise attacks
- (b) That sword fighting is not just about learning the opponent's moves, but also about understanding the opponents mind in order to counter his next move
- (c) That being humble about ones skill is the most important trait that one can possess and being boastful about it can backfire
- (d) That the instructor is a far better sword fighter than him and he could never compete with the great instructor

12. Which of the following best explains the phrase 'in all humbleness' as used in the passage?

- (a) without any help

- (b) with confidence
- (c) without any protest
- (d) with arrogance

13. Which of the following is most nearly to the word 'Dodge' as given in passage?

- (a) Cheat
- (b) Amour
- (c) Affection
- (d) Interest

14. Which of the following is most opposite to the word 'Struck' as given in passage?

- (a) Strike
- (b) Smite
- (c) Bludgeon
- (d) None of these

DIRECTIONS (Q. Nos. 15-22) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are printed in bold to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

Like most Indians, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is well aware that in the past, when the US and most of its Western allies were close to Pakistan, it was Russia that stood like a rock behind India. Whether it was Kashmir, where Moscow used its veto to stop anti-India resolutions at the UNSC or the liberation of Bangladesh, when the US-backed Islamabad and sent its Seventh Fleet to the Bay of Bengal in support of Pakistan, it was Russia that backed the Indian army.

During Modi's first term in office, as MEA officials were briefing the PM for his first summit with Vladimir Putin, he told an aide, Russia is important to India, they had stood by this country at critical times. So, though Narendra Modi's foreign policy is seen as tilting towards the US, he is aware of the importance of Russia and the need to maintain the special and privileged strategic partnership with Moscow.

The world has changed a lot since the time that India and Russia were on the same side of the Cold War divide. There has been a major churn in economic, political, and diplomatic ties across the world and new equations have emerged.

The rise of a self-confident China and its aggressive moves across Asia is now a reality and is changing the diplomatic dynamic in the region. China was used by the US since the early 70s to cut to size the former Soviet Union during the latter part of the Cold War era. The very country that Washington had used against Moscow is now posing a major challenge to America's place in the world.

Though the US remains far ahead of China at the moment, America realizes that in another twenty years or so, Beijing can challenge US superpower status. The new divide is China and Russia on one side and the US and its Western allies on the other. India has joined the quad, with the US, Japan, and Australia, three democracies in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China. Beijing and Moscow see the quad as an Asian NATO, though it is not a defence alliance. But the new formation, the AUKUS (Australia, UK and the US) is one, with the aim of arming Canberra with top-of-line nuclear submarine technology to help guard the Pacific waters where China is increasingly active.

So, is India ranged against China and Russia? Yes and no. Yes against China but not so with traditional ally Russia. Since last summer's military confrontation between India and China in Ladakh which led to a nosedive in ties, New Delhi has looked more and more to the US to counter China's assertive stand.

With China far ahead of India in military and economic clout, India has no option but to build ties to thwart Beijing's unfettered rise. But this will not be at the cost of Russia.

The very fact that Prime Minister Modi went ahead with the \$400 missile defence agreement with Russia, despite **tremendous** pressure from both the Trump and Biden administration is proof of that. India was well aware of the threat of sanctions hanging like a Damocles sword if it chooses to do the \$5-billion defence purchase. But the government refused to call it off, placing the ball entirely in the US court. What finally happens depends on the US Congress.

The weakest link in the India-Russia ties is private business. India-Russia economic ties are

mainly driven by both governments and that has not changed through the years. India is eyeing Russia's the Far East, with Prime Minister Modi visiting Vladivostok in 2019 for the annual summit and announcing a one-billion credit line for the development of the region.

15. According to the passage, in which of the following instances did Russia support India?
 - (a) When India helped in the emancipation of Bangladesh
 - (b) Stopping anti-India resolutions at the UNSC through its veto power
 - (c) When India helped in the labefaction of Bangladesh
 - (d) Both (a) and (b)
16. Why is Russia an important ally for India?
 - (a) It is one of the strongest countries in the world
 - (b) It has great military strength that has helped India in the past
 - (c) It is the only country that can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the US and China.
 - (d) It has stood by India in the past during difficult times.
17. Which of the following is the most appropriate title for the above passage?
 - (a) India's allies - US or Russia
 - (b) Russia - India's strongest ally
 - (c) India joins the winning time
 - (d) India's allies against Pakistan and China
18. According to the passage, what is true regarding the consequences of the Cold War?
 - (a) New political alliances and equations have become apparent in the world.
 - (b) Beijing challenged the US superpower status.
 - (c) Major disturbances in the economic, political and diplomatic ties.
 - (d) Both (a) and (c)
19. Why is India more focused on building ties to stop China's development than fighting a war with it?
 - (a) India doesn't want to get in the way of the US's fight with China.
 - (b) China's superiority in military and economic strength.

- (c) India fears that a war with China might cost it its closest ally - Russia.
- (d) All of the above

20. According to the passage, which country/organisation is the Indian government and its foreign policies angling towards?

- (a) Russia
- (b) The three democracies in the Indo-Pacific region - the US, Japan and Australia
- (c) The Asian NATO
- (d) The United States

21. What is the most major flaw in India's ties with Russia?

- (a) Russia's connection with China
- (b) Russia's silent war with the US
- (c) Private businesses
- (d) India's connection with the US

22. Choose the word most similar in meaning to the word as used in the passage. **TREMENDOUS**

- (a) Fabulous
- (b) Ginormous
- (c) Minute
- (d) Bodacious

DIRECTIONS (Q. Nos. 23-26) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are printed in bold to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

From a vantage point in space, an observer could see that the Earth is engaged in a variety of motions. First, there is its rotation on its own axis; causing the alternation of day and night. This rotation, however, is not altogether steady. Primarily because of the Moon's gravitational action, the Earth's axis wobbles like that of an ill-spun top. In this motion, called 'precession', the North and South Poles each traces out the base off a cone in space, completing a circle every, 25800 years. In addition as the Sun and the Moon change their positions with respect to the Earth, their changing gravitational effects result in a slight 'nodding' of the earth's axis, called 'nutation', which is superimposed on precession. The Earth completes one of these 'nods' every 18.6 years.

The earth also, of course, revolves around the Sun, in a 6-million mile journey that takes 365.25 days. The shape of this orbit is an ellipse, but it is not the center of the Earth that follows the elliptical path. Earth and Moon behave like an asymmetrical-dumb-bell, and it is the center of mass of this dumb-bell that traces the ellipse around the sun. The center of the Earth-Moon mass lies about 3000 miles away from the center of the Earth, and the Earth thus moves in an S-curve that crosses and re-crosses its orbital path. Then too, the Earth accompanies the sun in the sun's movements; first, through its local star cloud, and second, in a great sweep around the hub of its galaxy, the Milky Way that takes 200 million years to complete.

23. Which of the following best describes the main subject of the passage?

- (a) The various types of the Earth's motions
- (b) Past changes in the Earth's position
- (c) The moon's gravitational effect on the earth
- (d) Oddities of the Earth's rotation on its axis.

24. The passage is most likely directed toward an audience of:

- (a) geologists
- (b) astronauts
- (c) meteorologists interested in weather prediction.
- (d) persons with little technical knowledge of astronomy

25. Which of the following technique does the author use in order to make the descriptions of motion clear?

- (I) Comparison with familiar objects
- (II) Reference to geometric forms
- (III) Allusions to the works of other authors

- (a) (I) only
- (b) (II) only
- (c) (I) and (II) only
- (d) (II) and (III) only

26. The passage indicates that a single cycle of which of the following motions is completed in the shortest period of time?

- (a) nutation

- (b) precession
- (c) The Earth's rotation on its axis
- (d) The movement of the dumb-bell formed by the center of mass of Earth-Moon.

DIRECTIONS (Q. Nos. 23-26) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are printed in bold to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

Scientism has left humanity in our technical mastery of inanimate nature but impoverished us in our quest for an answer to the riddle of the universe and of our existence in it. Scientism has done worse than that with respect to our status as social beings, that is, to our life with our fellow human beings. The quest for the technical mastery of social life, comparable to our mastery over nature, did not find Scientism at a loss for an answer: reason suggested that physical nature and, social life was fundamentally alike and therefore proposed identical methods for their domination. Since reason in the form of causality reveals itself most plainly in nature, nature became the model for the social world and the natural sciences the image of what the social sciences one day would be. According to scientism, there was only one truth; the truth of science, and by knowing it, humanity would know all. This was, however, a fallacious argument. Its universal acceptance initiated an intellectual movement and a political technique which retarded, rather than furthered, human mastery of the social world.

The analogy between the natural and social worlds is mistaken for two reasons. On the one hand human action is unable to model the social world with the same degree of technical perfection that is possible in the natural world, On the other hand, the very notion that physical nature is the embodiment of reason, from which the analogy between natural and social worlds derives, is invalidated by modern scientific thought itself. Physical nature, as seen by the practitioner of science consists of a multitude of isolated facts over which human action has complete control. We know that water boils at a temperature of 212 degrees Fahrenheit, and by exposing it to this

temperature; we can make it boil at will. All practical knowledge of physical nature and all control over it are essentially of this same kind. Scientism proposed that the same kind of knowledge and of control held true for the social world. The search for a single cause, in the social sciences, was but a faithful copy of the method of the physical sciences. Yet in the social sphere, the logical coherence of the natural sciences finds no adequate object, and there is no single cause by the creation of which one can create a certain effect at will.

Any single cause in the social sphere can entail an indefinite number of different effects, and the same effect can spring from an indefinite number of different effects, and the same effect can spring from an indefinite number of different causes.

27. In the passage, the author is most concerned with doing which of the following?

- (a) Upholding the primacy of reason over superstition.
- (b) Attacking a particular approach to the social sciences.
- (c) Describing a method for achieving control over human social behavior
- (d) Demonstrating the superiority of the social sciences over the natural sciences.

28. As used in the passage, the term scientism' can best be defined as

- (a) belief that the methods of the physical sciences can be applied to all fields of inquiry.
- (b) faith that human beings can master their own physical limitations.
- (c) desire to keep the social sciences separate from the physical sciences.
- (d) opinion that scientists must take moral responsibility for their actions.

29. Which of the following statements about scientism is best supported by the passage?

- (a) Scientism provides the basis for mastery of the social world.
- (b) Scientism is only is only superficially concerned with cause-and-effect relationships
- (c) Scientism is poorly suited to explain social behavior

words/phrases are printed in bold to help you to located them while answering same of the questions.

How many times have you asked, "Why did he do that ? Why did she say that ? Why does nothing ever work out for me ? Why didn't I get what I wanted ? Why does this keep happening in my life ?" "Whyology" is the obsessive need to know why things happen as they do, which results in emotional paralysis, keeping you stuck. Why do you need to know why things happen? If you did know, would it make that much difference? Many people will say, "Yes. it would make a difference, because then I would be able to move on and let go." The truth is that the letting-go experience has nothing to do with knowing why things happen as they do. In fact, the more you need to know why, the less likely you are to let go and move on. Unless you release this cycle, you will be robbed of your ability to appreciate and enjoy the moment you are living in right now. Think of all the energy that you could use to create in life if you left the practice of keeping vigil on tombstones. Internal stress comes when you resist what is in life. When you release your need to know why, an amazing thing starts to happen. You begin to connect with your inner creativity, which helps you find creative solutions to your situation.

37. What does 'Whyology' lead to?
- (a) Happiness
 - (b) Success
 - (c) A positive attitude
 - (d) Emotional stagnation
38. What happens when this cycle of 'whyology' is released?
- (a) Appreciation and enjoyment of life follows
 - (b) Negative thoughts enter one's mind
 - (c) One becomes critical
 - (d) Life is filled with unhappy moments
39. What does the 'practice of keeping vigil to tombstones' mean?
- (a) Going to the cemetery
 - (b) Keeping a watch on tombstones
 - (c) Brooding over the past
 - (d) Worrying over the future

40. When does 'internal stress' occur?
- (a) When one is creative
 - (b) When one does not accept what is in life
 - (c) When one accepts what is in life
 - (d) When one helps others
41. What is 'Whyology' ?
- (a) It is a philosophy of life.
 - (b) It the compulsive need to know the reason behind an act.
 - (c) It is a branch of literature.
 - (d) It is a scientific approach to life

DIRECTIONS (Q. Nos. 42-49) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are printed in bold to help you to located them while answering same of the questions.

[IBPS PO Pre 2018]

The World Bank's agreement with the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA) to help it mobilise a trillion dollars in investments by 2030 and its billion-dollar programme to support Indian initiatives for expanded solar generation are significant steps in the global transition to a clean energy pathway. While the cost of solar power has been declining, one of the biggest obstacles to a scale-up in developing countries has been the high cost of finance for photovoltaic projects. That problem can be addressed by the ISA through the World Bank partnership, as the agreement will help develop financing instruments, reduce hedging costs and currency risks, and enable technology transfer. India has raised its ambitions five-fold since the time it launched the National Solar Mission, and the target now is an installed capacity of 100 gigawatts by 2022 out of a total of 175 GW from all renewables: Strong policy support is also necessary to improve domestic manufacture of solar cells and panels, which has remained unattractive because cheap imports are available. India's efforts have also suffered a setback, with the adverse WTO ruling against the stipulation of a prescribed level of domestic content for solar projects. Developing a strong solar manufacturing industry is essential for sustained economic growth, and to connect those who never had the boon of electricity.

Support from the World Bank for large-scale and rooftop solar deployments, innovative and hybrid technologies, and storage and transmission lines presents an opportunity for India to go the German way and achieve energiewende, or energy transition.

For instance, the \$625-million grid-connected rooftop solar fund could help strengthen State-level programmes for net metering.

A transparent regime that enables individuals and communities to plug into the grid without bureaucratic hurdles would unlock small-scale private investment. There are several pointers from Germany's experience as a leading solar- and wind-powered nation to prepare for a major ramping up of these green sources.

Arguably, the strength and reliability of a power grid capable of handling more power than is available are fundamental to induct higher levels of renewable power. The emphasis here must also be on improving transmission lines: the World Bank programme promises to provide the necessary linkage to solar-rich States. Making power grids intelligent to analyse and give priority to use the output of renewables, accurately forecast the weather to plan next day generation, and viability mechanisms for conventional coal-based plants are other aspects that need attention. Innovation in battery technology is a potential gold mine for the solar alliance and for India to exploit.

42. Which among the following is FALSE according to the passage given above?

- (a) the World Bank programme promises to provide the necessary linkage to solar-rich States
- (b) Innovation in battery technology is a potential gold mine for the solar alliance and for India to exploit
- (c) The \$652-million grid-connected rooftop solar fund could help strengthen State-level programmes for net metering.
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

43. As the cost of solar power declined, what proved to be one of the biggest obstacles for a scale-up in developing countries?

- (a) necessary to improve domestic manufacture of solar cells and panels
- (b) Innovation in battery technology
- (c) the high cost of finance for photovoltaic projects
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

44. According to the passage, what is essential for sustained economic growth and to connect those who have never had electricity?

- (a) Develop a strong solar manufacturing industry
- (b) Making power grids intelligent to analyse and give priority to use the output of renewables
- (c) viability mechanisms for conventional coal-based plants are other aspects that need attention
- (d) both (a) and (c)

45. How according to the passage will the World Bank's agreement with the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA) help?

- (a) develop financing instruments
- (b) reduce hedging costs and currency risks
- (c) and enable technology transfer
- (d) All the above

46. Which of the following would be a suitable title of the passage?

- (a) World Bank and International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- (b) the solar alliance
- (c) The World Bank's agreement with the India led International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- (d) Sunny times for solar

47. Which among the following is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word "ambition"?

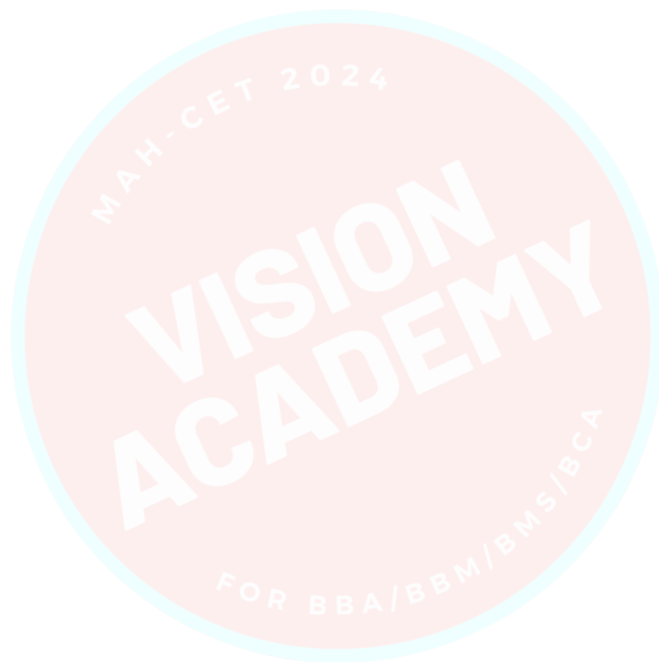
- (a) apathy
- (b) diffidence
- (c) agitation
- (d) aspirations

48. Which among the following is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning to the word "hurdles"?

- (a) opening
- (b) quixotic
- (c) traverse
- (d) snag

49. Which among the following is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word "stipulation"?

- (a) dearth
- (b) implication
- (c) clause
- (d) provocation



Answer Key

1. A	2. A	3. C	4. B	5. B	6. D	7. B	8. C	9. C	10. A
11. B	12. C	13. A	14. D	15. D	16. D	17. B	18. D	19. B	20. D
21. C	22. B	23. A	24. B	25. C	26. C	27. B	28. A	29. C	30. B
31. C	32. A	33. B	34. B	35. C	36. B	37. D	38. A	39. C	40. B
41. B	42. C	43. C	44. A	45. D	46. D	47. D	48. A	49. C	

