GP June Intensive Revision

**Lesson 5 – Reading and Extraction skills**

The objective of reading is to comprehend the ideas in a sentence, a paragraph or a passage. This is one of the fundamental steps in effective learning.

To comprehend a passage, it is imperative for students to develop efficient and effective reading skills. Students need to correct their bad reading habits and adopt a reading procedure that will enable them to extract information effectively and enhance their passive vocabulary development. In the reading process, students need to be able absorb the main points and sub-points. It is also crucial for students to draw implications from the reading.

1. **Process in the reading process**
2. Theme of the passage
3. Main areas of discussion

-perspective of discussion – causes, effects, impact, comparison

-categorization of discussion – economic issue, social factor, political, individual, health

3) paragraph development – causation – based on nature of discussion (explanation may on process explanation, evaluation ….)

4) proposition – providing direction of discussion for AQ and summary

1. Extraction of information

In the extraction of information, there is a need to identify the sub-clauses or phrases that are linked to the idea of the passage and interpret the respective phrases and sub-clauses in accordance to the writer’s point of view. These sub-clauses and phrases will reveal **the conceptualized ideas** that the writer is trying to depict which will support his evaluation, explanation or description.

Based on the main ideas extracted from the respective paragraphs, students need to derive the main propositions of the passage which will help in the derivation of information for the answering of Application-based and Summary question.

It is also important for students to know the purposes of other sentences and able to differentiate them from the topic sentence. Some of the sentences are used to elaborate the main point of the sentence while some are examples and analogies that the writer is stating to elaborate his point.

Points to take note:

* Read the passage without regression.
* Do not pause for vocabulary understanding or read word by word. Remember that the objective of reading is to comprehend the ideas of the passage. You can attempt to understand more about the meaning of the word when you read further as it usually gives you a clue on the meaning of the word. Very often, the reader can figure out the meaning of the word as he reads on.
* Avoid subjective mindset. Read for the writer’s intent and the implications provided in the passage. Ask yourself what the writer is trying to say to you.
* Undesirable Reading Behaviour

Readers with undesirable behaviours tend to slow their reading speed and weaken their comprehension. Some of the common bad reading behaviours can be seen in the following ways:

* + - 1. reading word by word
      2. subvocalization
      3. regression / back-skipping
      4. skipping sentences
  1. Weak Intra-connection

Students who are unable to link various ideas in the passage are unable to link the various ideas in the paragraph or the passage to derive a meaningful understanding. This affects the students’ capabilities to comprehend the factual information.

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* 1. Weak extra-connection

Students who are not effective in the analysis, criticism, appreciation and evaluation of the questions are usually weak in making interpretation of ideas during their reading.

* 1. Inadequate Knowledge

The lack of knowledge on a particular subject is another factor that will undermine the students’ ability to comprehend the passage. Students may require some prior knowledge to comprehend a passage. Students’ ability to comprehend a passage may be reduced if they are unable to link their general knowledge to the ideas in the subject.

* 1. Weak Vocabulary Power

Poor language proficiency is another factor that will undermine the comprehension skills of a reader.