Reading Comprehension

10-11 Questions

Each Section

Reading Comprehension

- Texts taken from the New York Times
- 4 texts (3 short and 1 long)
- A short text consists of 1 or 2 paragraphs
- A long text consists of 3 paragraphs
- Topics: Literature/ Science/ Culture
- Cultural texts related to: History/Feminism/education/ Law/Business/Economics, etc.

First Reading Theories

A. Active Reading:

1. Topic

2. Scope

3. Tone/Attitude

First Reading Theories

B. Manhattan:

Drawing an outline

C. GRE bible:

Understanding connectors
(the ones conveying contrast)

Reading Theories

D. Text Patterns:

1. Persuasive

Paragraph 1: general belief

Paragraphs 2and 3: writer's opinion
 challenging/arguing/reinterpreting/refuting

Main idea:

Tone:

Reading Theories

D. Text Patterns

2. Contrast

Paragraph 1: 1st theory

Paragraphs 2 and 3: 2nd theory

Main idea:

Tone:

Reading Theories

D. Text Patterns

3. Analytical

Paragraph 1 (last sentence): Hypothesis

Paragraph 2 and 3: Verification of the hypothesis

Last sentence of Paragraph 3: Restatement of the hypothesis

Main Idea:

Tone:

Reading Theories

D. Text Patterns (Possible Patterns):

4. Evaluation

First sentence of Paragraph 1: +

Last sentence of Paragraph 3: -

Main Idea:

Tone:

D. Text Patterns (Possible Patterns)

5. Illustration

Last sentence of Paragraph 1: Main idea

Topic Sentences: examples illustrating the main idea

Main idea:

Tone:

D. Text Patterns (Possible Patterns)

6. Problem-Solution

First sentence: Problem

Lat sentence of the first paragraph: Solutions

Main Idea:

Tone:

Types of Reading Questions

1. Main Idea (purpose, argument, summary, title, focus, etc)

Refer to text patterns

Location of main idea:

- First sentence
- Last sentence of Paragraph 1
- First sentence of Paragraph 2
- Last sentence of the text

Types of Reading Questions

2. Description question (according to the passage, states, believes, mentions, etc)

A. Highlight keywords in the question so that you refer to one or two sentences in the text

B. Same words/paraphrased words as the ones in the text

Types of Reading questions

3. Extension question (imply, infer, suggest)
A. Highlight keywords in the question
B. Eliminate obvious answer choices
C. 1. Answer by opposition (in comparisons)

2. By referring to one sentence before or one sentence after, if the line number is stated in the question

3. By referring to one part of the sentence and not the other

Types of Reading Questions

4. Sentence structure question (in order to, points out to, serves to, is used to, etc)

=observes the relationship between the sentence indicated in the question and the one before

A. Support

B. Contrast

C. Idea/example

Types of Reading Questions

5. Application Question

A. Analogy question (like, similar, same, analogous, etc)

    Same action verbs/adjectives

B. Exemplification (example)

    Refer to the idea/factor stated in the text

C. Conclusion (most logically completes the passage/ paragraph)

    Restate the main idea/ Relate to the last sentence in the paragraph

Types of Reading Questions

6. Tone/Attitude

+;-; neutral; positive and negative

Examples of recurrent adjectives:

Derisive/ Ironic/Ambivalent/ Resigned/ Approving/ Didactic

Types of Reading Questions

7. EXCEPT Question:

A. Refer to listing in the text

B. Start with the answer choice then refer to the sentences in the text

Types of Reading Questions

- 8. Vocabulary in Context
- A. Refer to keywords in the sentence
- B. Check the connotation of the word
- C. Check whether it has a literal or non-literal meaning

Types of Reading Questions

- 9. Figurative Language
- A. Metaphor
- B. Personification
- C. Euphemism
- D. Hyperbole
- E. Irony
- F. Paradox
- G. Allusion

Patterns of Wrong Answer Choices in Reading Comprehension

1. Irrelevant
2. Incomplete
3. Contrast as main idea (in evaluation)
4. All the answer choice is correct EXCEPT for one word (which is usually an adjective)
5. "Should", "will"
6. Extreme (reconcile conflicting/ the best/the only/the most)
7. Judgmental, stating preferences (more aware/ inaccurate)
8. Mismatching quantifiers
9. Vague
10. Last sentence as main idea (in contrast)
11. Boosters (certainly, absolutely, definitely, etc)