INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: XII	Department: ENGLISH	2025 - 26
READING SKILLS	Topic: UNSEEN COMPREHENSION PRACTICE	

SECTION A- READING (22 MARKS)

I. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. No student of a foreign language needs to be told that grammar is complex. By changing word sequences and by adding a range of auxiliary verbs and suffixes, we are able to communicate tiny variations in meaning. We can turn a statement into a question, state whether an action has taken place or is soon to take place, and perform many other word tricks to convey subtle differences in meaning. Nor is this complexity inherent to the English language. All languages, even those of so-called 'primitive' tribes have clever grammatical components. The Cherokee pronoun system, for example, can distinguish between 'you and I', 'several other people and I' and 'you, another person and I'. In English, all these meanings are summed up in the one, crude pronoun 'We'. Grammar is universal and plays a part in every language, no matter how widespread it is. So, the question which has baffled many linguists is—who created grammar?
2. At first, it would appear that this question is impossible to answer. To find out how grammar is created, someone needs to be present at the time of a language's creation, documenting its emergence. Many historical linguists are able to trace modern complex languages back to earlier languages, but in order to answer the question of how complex languages are actually formed, the researcher needs to observe how languages started from scratch. Amazingly, however, this is possible.
3. Some of the most recent languages evolved due to the Atlantic slave trade. At that time, slaves from a number of different ethnicities were forced to work together under colonizer's rule. Since, they had no opportunity to learn each other's languages, they developed a make-shift language called a pidgin. Pidgins are strings of words copied from the language of the landowner. They have little in the way of grammar, and in many cases it is difficult for a listener to deduce when an event happened, and who did what to whom. Speakers need to use circumlocution in order to make their meaning understood. Interestingly, however, all it takes for a pidgin to become a complex language is for a group of children to be exposed to it at the time when they learn their mother tongue. Slave children did not simply copy the strings of words uttered by their elders, they adapted their words to create a new, expressive language. Complex grammar systems which emerge from pidgins are termed creoles and they are invented by children.
4. Further evidence of this can be seen in studying sign languages for the deaf. Sign languages are not simply a series of gestures; they utilise the same grammatical machinery that is found

in spoken languages. Moreover, there are many different languages used worldwide. The creation of one such language was documented quite recently in Nicaragua. Previously, all deaf people were isolated from each other, but in 1979 a new government introduced schools for the deaf. Although children were taught speech and lip reading in the classroom, in the playgrounds they began to invent their own sign system, using the gestures that they used at home. It was basically a pidgin. Each child used the signs differently, and there was no consistent grammar. However, children who joined the school later, when this inventive sign system was already around, developed a quite different sign language. Although it was based on the signs of the older children, the younger children's language was more fluid and compact, and it utilised a large range of grammatical devices to clarify meaning. What is more, all the children used the signs in the same way? A new creole was born.

5. Some linguists believe that many of the world's most established languages were creoles at first. The English past tense –ed ending may have evolved from the verb 'do'. 'It ended' may once have been 'It end-did'. Therefore, it would appear that even the most widespread languages were partly created by children. Children appear to have innate grammatical machinery in their brains, which springs to life when they are first trying to make sense of the world around them. Their minds can serve to create logical, complex structures, even when there is no grammar present for them to copy.

1.1. On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions :

(a) Complexity in language is inherent to.....

(i) all the languages (ii) English

(iii) tribal languages (iv) primitive languages

(b) The Cherokee pronoun system can distinguish between.....

(i) you and I (ii) several other people and I

(iii) you, another person and I (iv) all of these

(c) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the correct sequence of the sentences associated with the formation/ creation of grammar.

1. In order to answer the question of how complex languages are actually formed, the researcher needs to observe how languages started from scratch.
2. Slaves developed a make-shift language called a pidgin.
3. Some linguists believe that many of the world's most established languages were creoles at first.
4. To find out how grammar is created, someone needs to be present at the time of a language's creation.

(i) 1, 2, 3, 4 (ii) 3, 4, 1, 2

(iii) 4, 1, 2, 3 (iv) 2, 1, 3, 4

(d) All the following sentences about Nicaraguan sign language are true except:

(i) the language has been created since 1979

(ii) the language is based on speech and lip reading

(iii) the language incorporates signs which children used at home

(iv) the language was perfected by younger children

(e) Some of the most recent languages evolved due to the.....

(f) What is common to all languages? (2)

(g) According to the passage what can be attributed as a consequence of the Atlantic slave trade?

(h) Creoles is a ……? (2)

(i) Which word in the passage means opposite to 'easy'? (para 1)

(j) Pick the option that correctly tells how the younger children's mind work in the absence of grammatical knowledge.

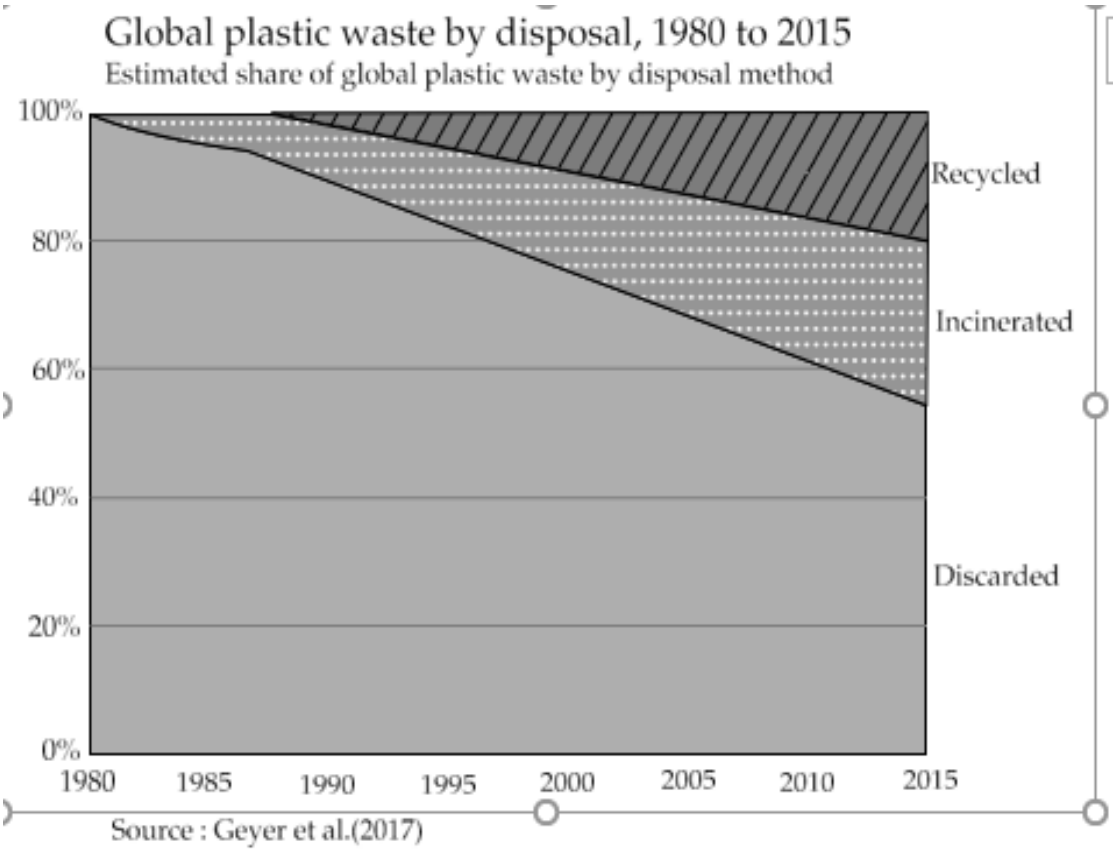
1. They create logical structures.
2. They imitate others.
3. They have innate grammatical machinery in their brains.
4. They learn other languages.

(i) 2 and 3 (ii) 1 and 3
(iii) 2 and 4 (iv) 3 and 4

II. Read the passage carefully:

1. When plastic waste is burnt, a complex weave of toxic chemicals is released. Breaking down Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) used for packaging, toys and coating electrical wires. It produces dioxin, an organochlorine which belongs to the family of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). A recent Dioxin Assessment Report brought out by the United States Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) says the risk of getting cancer from dioxin is ten times higher than reported by the agency in 1994.
2. Yet the Delhi government is giving the green signal to a gasification project which will convert garbage into energy without removing plastic waste. Former transport minister Rajendra Gupta, the promoter of this project, says this is not necessary.

   He claims no air pollution will be caused and that the ash produced can be used as manure. An earlier waste-to-energy project set-up in Timarpur failed. The new one, built with Australian assistance, will cost `200 crore. It will generate 25 megawatts of power and gobble 1,000 tons of garbage every day.
3. "Technologies like gasification are a form of incineration," says Madhumita Dutta, central coordinator with Toxics Link, New Delhi. Incineration merely transfers hazardous waste from a solid form to air, water and ash, she points out. Toxins produced during incineration include acidic gases, heavy metals as well as dioxins and furans. "The 'manure' will be hazardous and a problem to dispose," says Dutta.
4. Municipal solid waste contains a mix of plastics. Breaking down this waste emits hydrochloric acid which attacks the respiratory system, skin and eyes, resulting in coughing, vomiting and nausea. Polyethylene generates volatile compounds like formaldehyde and acetaldehyde, both suspected carcinogenic. Breathing styrene from polystyrene can cause leukemia. Polyurethane is associated with asthma. Dioxin released by PVC is a powerful hormone disrupter and causes birth defects and reproductive problems. There is no threshold dose to prevent it and our bodies have no defense against it.
5. "Even the best run incinerators in the world have to deal with stringent norms, apart from contaminated filters and ash, making them hugely expensive to operate," says Dutta. In Germany, air pollution devices accounted for two-thirds the cost of incineration. Despite such efforts, the European Dioxin Inventory noted that the input of dioxin into the atmosphere was the highest from incineration.



6. How has global plastic waste disposal method changed over time? In the chart, we see the share of global plastic waste that is discarded, recycled or incinerated from 1980 through to 2015. Prior to 1980, recycling and incineration of plastic was negligible; 100 percent was therefore discarded. From 1980 for incineration and 1990 for recycling, rates increased on average by about 0.7 percent per year. In 2015, an estimated 55 percent of global plastic waste was discarded, 25 percent was incinerated and 20 percent recycled.

7. "India does not have the facility to test dioxin and the cost of setting one up is prohibitively expensive," says Dutta. Besides, Indian garbage has a low calorific content of about 800 cal/kg, since it has high moisture and requires additional fuel to burn. Toxics link calculates that the electricity generated from such technology will cost between ` 5-7 per unit, which is six times higher than conventional energy. India has chosen a dioxin preventive route and burning of chlorinated plastics is prohibited under Municipal Solid Waste and Biomedical Rules.

   Nearly 80 percent of Indian garbage is recyclable or compostable. Resident associations, the informal sector and the municipal corporation can make Delhi's garbage disappear in a sustainable manner. "Instead, the government promotes end of pipeline solutions," says Dutta.

21. **On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:**
(10 x 1=10)

(a) Dioxine causes ……..

(i) cancer (ii) heart attack

(iii) hypertension (iv) sickness

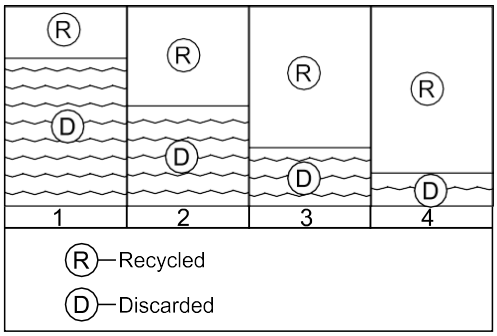
(b) Which statements are NOT TRUE according to the passage?

1. India has adopted a preventive measure under which burning of chlorinated plastics is prohibited.
2. USEPA says that the risk of getting cancer from dioxin is hundred times higher than reported by the agency in 1994.
3. Incineration merely transfers hazardous waste from a solid form to air, water and ash.
4. Hydrochloric acid attacks the digestive system, nose and eyes which results in diabetes and nausea.

(i) 2 and 4 (ii) 1 and 3
(iii) 3 and 4 (iv) 1 and 2

(c) Garbage can be converted into energy by ……..

(d) Based on the graphical chart in the passage, chose the option that correctly states the ratio between discarded waste to recycled global plastic waste in 2015.



(i) option 1 (ii) option 2
(iii) option 3 (iv) option 4

(e) Before 1980, how much global plastic waste was discarded?

(f) Based on the given graphical representation of data in the passage, choose the option that lists the statements that are TRUE.

1. In the year 2015, the incinerated plastic waste disposal was 80%.
2. In the year 1980, share of discarded plastic waste was 100%.
3. Discarded plastic waste was 60% in the year 2010.
4. Recycled plastic waste in the year 2000 was less than 70%.

(i) 1 and 3 (ii) 2 and 3
(iii) 1 and 4 (iv) 3 and 4

(g) Former transport minister Rajendra Gupta claims that during gasification, ash produced can be used as .....

(h) Converting waste to energy project will consume …… energy?

(i) By 2015, how much global plastic waste has been incinerated?

(j) Which word in the passage means the same as 'waste material'? (para 2)