

## Class 2: Comprehension Answering Techniques Workshop

### **1. Overview**

Students will do well in this section if they take note of the following tips and strategies on how to do well for comprehension practices.

### **2. Answering questions**

When answering a question, students should focus on the portions or paragraphs in the passage which the question is asking about.

### **3. Remember the definitions of key grammar terms**

Students should remember the meanings of key grammatical terms, such as:

- Verb: action words
- Noun: objects or people
- Adjective: words that describe people
- Adverb: words that describe verbs
- Preposition: Words that show relationships between objects

### **4. Quoting from the passage**

For some questions, students have to refer to the passage and quote the relevant parts to answer them. Pay attention to the paragraph or line(s) that is/are mentioned in the question to know where to find the answer.

#### ***Example 1: Excerpts from the passage***

When it was Cheryl's turn, Samantha blurted, "Cheryl's father is a rubbish collector. It is a stinky job!" Samantha then made a funny face and pretended to faint on the spot. Everyone in the class laughed loudly at her actions. Jen's face turned red.

**Question: What did Samantha do that made the children laugh? [2m]**

*Samantha made a funny face and pretended to faint.*

#### ***Example 2: Excerpts from the passage***

Clara observed in amazement as William picked up two large metal cans and carried them out the door. She trailed behind William with a pair of clothes, watching him carry the two cans effortlessly. They were large and were covering William's small frame.

**Question: Why was Clara amazed in the first paragraph? [2m]**

*Clara was amazed because William was able to carry the two large metal cans effortlessly despite being small in size.*

### 5. True/False questions

Students should look closely at the CONTENT words of the question's statement and compare them to the text. They may also use words like "is/are" and "is not/are not" as clues.

Compare statements in the question to those in the passage.

- "Is/are" vs "is not/are not"

#### **Example 1: Excerpts from the passage**

Mr. Tan said firmly, "All of you owe Cheryl an apology. Her father works extremely hard to keep the city clean." Everyone in class apologised but Cheryl felt that some were insincere. When Cheryl arrived home, she went to cry in her room. Worried, her father tried to get her to talk but she was apprehensive as she did not want to hurt his feelings. After a while, Cheryl grudgingly confided in him. Surprisingly, Cheryl's father was neither angry nor sad. Instead, he smiled widely, saying, "Your peers don't know how satisfying my job is!"

**Question: Based on the story, state whether the statement in the table below is True or False, then give one reason why you think so.**

Statement	True/False	Reason
All the pupils who apologised to Cheryl meant what they said.	False	Everyone apologised. Cheryl felt that some of the pupils were insincere.
Cheryl's father was not upset when Cheryl told him what her classmates had said about his job.	True	Cheryl's father was neither angry nor sad and instead smiled widely.

**Example 2: Excerpts from the passage**

Clara's father had sent her to the village to learn about rural life. Having grown up in a privileged environment, Clara had never once done any household chores back home. The rural life was too dull for her to bear and she could not wait to return home. Her resistance to learning new things only further dampened her mood. Clara's friends even quipped that she would not be able to survive in the village.

**Question: Based on the story, state whether the statement in the table below is True or False, then give one reason why you think so.**

Statement	True/False	Reason
Clara was willing to go to the village during the holidays.	False	She asked her father if she could stay home during the holidays.
Clara's friends did not believe that she would be able to adapt well to life in the village.	True	Clara's friends even quipped that she would not be able to survive in the village.

### 6. The “what do these words refer to” questions

Students should focus on the context of the given words or phrase, especially nouns, in order to find the answer to the question. Look out for nouns in the sentences surrounding the given words/phrases.

#### *Example: Excerpts from the passage*

Passage	Line
A snort that emitted from another pupil was enough to make Mr Tan cast a long and	15
hard stare at that pupil. <b>That</b> was like a final warning that shopped anyone else	16
from trying to incur Mr Tan’s wrath again.	17

Passage	Line
Every day, I see litter everywhere and it can make one’s head spin. However, my	26
co-workers and I would clear <b>this</b> up. Cheryl, I like my job. I like the fact that I play a	27
part in keeping this city clean.	28

**Question: Look at the table below. What do the words in the left column refer to in the passage? Write your answers in the column on the right.**

Word(s) from the passage	What the word(s) refer(s) to
that (line 16)	Mr Tan’s long and hard stare at the pupil that snorted
this (line 27)	The litter everywhere

### **7. Inference questions**

In some cases, there are questions that require students to read the passage and make inferences to explain the reasons behind certain events that took place. Students should read carefully to make a reasoned guess.

#### ***Example: Excerpts from the passage***

Cheryl realised that clearing rubbish was hard work but it was definitely a meaningful job. "I am proud of you, Pa! Without you, the city would not be clean!" Cheryl exclaimed as she hugged her father.

**Question: Do you think that Cheryl is proud of what her father does after working alongside him? Support your answer with evidence from the text. [2m]**

Cheryl exclaimed and hugged his father and told him that she was proud of her father as he kept the city clean. She realised that cleaning rubbish is hard and without her father, the city would not be clean.