

Comprehension-1

Answer Key

A. Read the following passage Carefully.

People came to him when the patient was on his last legs. Dr Raman often burst out, 'Why couldn't you have come a day earlier?' The reason was obvious—visiting fee twenty-five rupees, and more than that, people liked to shirk the fact that the time had come to call in Dr Raman; for them there was something ominous in the very association. As a result, when the big man came on the scene it was always a quick decision one way or another. There was no scope or time for any kind of wavering or whitewashing. Long years of practice of this kind had bred in the doctor a certain curt truthfulness; for that very reason his opinion was valued; he was not a mere doctor expressing an opinion but a judge pronouncing a verdict. The patient's life hung on his words. This never unduly worried Dr Raman. He never believed that agreeable words ever saved lives. He did not think it was any of his business to provide comforting lies when as a matter of course nature would tell them the truth in a few hours. However, when he glimpsed the faintest sign of hope, he rolled up his sleeve and stepped into the arena: it might be hours or days, but he never withdrew till he wrested the prize from Yama's hands.

Today, standing over a bed, the doctor felt that he himself needed someone to tell him soothing lies. He mopped his brow with his kerchief and sat down in the chair beside the bed. On the bed lay his dearest friend in the world: Gopal. They had known each other for forty years now, starting with their kindergarten days. They could not, of course, meet as much as they wanted, each being wrapped in his own family and profession. Occasionally, on a Sunday, Gopal would walk into the consulting room and wait patiently in a corner till the doctor was free. And then they would dine together, see a picture and talk of each other's life and activities. It was a classic friendship, which endured untouched by changing times, circumstances and activities.

In his busy round of work, Dr Raman had not noticed that Gopal had not called in for over three months now. He only remembered it when he saw Gopal's son sitting on a bench in the consulting hall one crowded morning. Dr Raman could not talk to him for over an hour. When he got up and was about to pass on to the operating room, he called up the young man and asked, 'What brings you here, sir?' The youth was nervous and shy. 'Mother sent me here.'

'What can I do for you?'

'Father is ill ...'

It was an operation day and he was not free till three in the afternoon. He rushed off straight from the clinic to his friend's house, in Lawley Extension.

Gopal lay in bed as if in sleep. The doctor stood over him and asked Gopal's wife, 'How long has he been in bed?'

'A month and a half, Doctor.'

'Who is attending him?'

'A doctor in the next street. He comes down once in three days and gives him medicine.'

'What is his name?' He had never heard of him. 'Someone I don't know, but I wish he had had the goodness to tell me about it. Why, why couldn't you have sent me word earlier?'

'We thought you would be busy and did not wish to trouble you unnecessarily.' They were apologetic and miserable. There was hardly any time to be lost. He took off his coat and opened his bag. He took out an injection tube, the needle sizzled over the stove. The sick man's wife whimpered in a corner and essayed to ask questions.

'Please don't ask questions,' snapped the doctor. He looked at the children, who were watching the sterilizer, and said, 'Send them all away somewhere, except the eldest.'

On the basis of your understanding answer the following questions.

1. Why did Dr. Raman often get frustrated with patients' families?

- A. They never followed his advice.
- B. They waited too long to call him.
- C. They couldn't afford his fees.
- D. They ignored his recommendations.

2. What was the reason people hesitated to call Dr. Raman?

- A. He was not very skilled.
- B. He was often unavailable.
- C. His presence was seen as a bad omen.
- D. He was very expensive.

3. What was unique about Dr. Raman's approach to his practice?

- A. He provided comforting lies.
- B. He was known for his optimistic views.
- C. He was brutally honest.
- D. He often avoided serious cases.

4. How did Dr. Raman feel about Gopal's condition when he first saw him?

- A. Hopeful and relieved
- B. Worried and distressed
- C. Angry and frustrated
- D. Confused and uncertain

5. Why hadn't Dr. Raman noticed Gopal's absence for over three months?

- A. He was too busy with his work.
- B. Gopal had moved to a different city.
- C. He had assumed Gopal was fine.
- D. He was avoiding Gopal intentionally.

6. What was Dr. Raman's reaction to the doctor's treatment from the next street?

- A. He was satisfied and impressed.
- B. He was indifferent and unconcerned.
- C. He was critical and displeased.
- D. He was supportive and encouraging.

8. What did Dr. Raman request the family to do while he prepared the injection?

- A. Stay quiet and watch.

- B. Leave the room entirely.

- C. Only keep the eldest child in the room.

- D. Ask him questions about the treatment.

9. What does the word "ominous" most closely mean in the context of the passage?

- A. Promising

- B. Threatening

- C. Encouraging

- D. Delightful

9. What does the word "curt" most closely mean in the context of the passage?

- A. Lengthy

- B. Detailed

- C. Brief and direct

- D. Vague

10. What is the antonym of the word "unduly" as used in the passage?

A. Excessively

B. Justifiably

C. Inappropriately

D. Immoderately