

**English Language for Competitive Exams**  
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**Week - 04**  
**Lecture - 18**  
**Reading Comprehension: Long Passages**

Good morning. We will be doing a Reading Comprehension: Long Passages. The other day also we stopped practicing reading comprehension, I will be again practicing long passages with you something that is extremely important for all your competitive exams and this will be followed by an extensive session on developing vocabulary skills. So, I have been telling you that we are going to do verbal analogy soon. So, soon we will be doing, right after his session we will be starting with that other one also. So, please be attentive and please look at the slides and pay full attention to that.

So, we should also know that when we do reading comprehension type of questions then they are typically full of factual information. The questions also generally asked repetition of what is already provided in the passage that you are going to look at. And then what is a basically tested here is your ability to answer to the point and not your skill or your written skills or your analytical skills. Remember long passages are easier to read and comprehend there is no need for analysis.

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PASSAGE 1

The true Regency lasted only nine years. It began on 5 February 1811 when George, Prince of Wales, was officially sworn in as Regent and ended on 31 January 1820 when he was proclaimed King George IV. Yet the term 'Regency' is frequently used to describe the period of English history between the years 1780 and 1830, because the society and culture during these years were undeniably marked by the influence of the man who would become George IV. With the final years of the Napoleonic Wars and the enormous impact of industrialisation the Regency was an era of change and unrest as well as one of glittering social occasions, celebrations and extraordinary achievement in art and literature. Artists such as Thomas Lawrence, John Constable and Joseph Turner created iconic paintings which today constitute a tangible record of some of the people and places of the period, while many of England's greatest writers produced some of their most enduring works during the Regency. The writings of Jane Austen, Walter Scott, John Keats, Mary Shelley, Samuel Coleridge, William Wordsworth, Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley continue to stand as a testament to the romance, colour and vitality of the times. In many ways the Regency period was also a reflection of the character and personality of the Prince Regent himself who was one of the most flamboyant and cultured of all English monarchs. His passion for art, architecture, music, literature and hedonistic living set the tone for the era and caused his Regency to be forever linked with the high-living, mayfly class that was the ton. The Regency world was highly structured and the conventions attached to Regency life were so numerous and intricate that usually only those born and bred into upper-class circles knew and understood them.

Now, let us begin with looking of the first passage, look at the slide. The true Regency lasted only 9 years it began on 5th of February 1811 when George Prince of Wales was officially sworn in as regent and ended on 31st January 1820 when he was proclaimed King George the fourth. Yet the term Regency is frequently used to describe the period of English history between the years 1780 and 1830, because the society and culture during these years were undeniably marred by the influence of the man who would become George the fourth. With the final years of the Napoleonic wars and the enormous impact of the industrialization the Regency was an era of change and unrest as well as one of glittering social occasions, celebrations and extraordinary achievement in art and literature.

Artists such as Thomas Lawrence, John Constable and Joseph Turner created iconic paintings which today constitute a tangible record of some of the people and places of the period, while many of England's greatest writers produced most enduring works during the Regency. The writings of Jane Austen, Walter Scott, John Keats, Mary Shelley, Samuel Coleridge, William Wordsworth, Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley continued to stand as a statement to the romance colour and vitality of the times.

In many ways the Regency period was also a reflection of the character and personality of the Prince regent himself; who was one of the most flamboyant and cultured of all English monarchs. His passion for art, architecture, music, literature and hedonistic living set the tone for the era and caused the Regency to be forever linked with the high living mayfly class that was the ton. The Regency world was highly structured and the conventions attached to Regency life were so numerous and intricate that usually only those born and bred into upper-class circles knew and understood them.

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Above all, it was intensely class-conscious: the ton (from the French phrase *le bon ton*, meaning 'in the fashionable mode' and also known as Polite Society or the Upper Ten Thousand) lived a privileged, self-indulgent life; birth and family were vital to social acceptance, and social behaviour was determined by a complex set of rules of varying flexibility, with different codes of behaviour for men and women. It was an era of manners, fashion and propriety, and yet, for the upper class, it was also a time of extraordinary excess, extravagance and indulgence. By contrast the middle class was more interested in morality than manners and often found it difficult to follow the distinctive behaviour of the upper class. During the Regency the nobility was made up of members of the royal family, peers above the rank of baronet and their families, statesmen and the prelates of the Church of England such as the more powerful bishops and the Archbishop of Canterbury (who took precedence over all ranks after the royal family). The gentry included baronets, knights, country landowners (often incredibly wealthy) and gentlemen of property and good birth but no title. Apart from manners and breeding, one of the main distinguishing factors between the upper class and the upper levels of the middle class was the need for the latter to actually earn their living.

Above all, it was intensely class conscious: the ton from the French phrase [FL] meaning 'in the fashionable mode' and also known as polite society or the upper ten thousand lived a privileged self indulgent life. Birth and family were vital to social acceptance and social behaviour was determined by a complex set of rules of varying flexibility, with different codes of behaviour for men and women. It was an era of manners, fashion, and propriety, and yet for the upper-class it was also a time of extra ordinary excess, extravagance and indulgence.

By contrast the middle-class was more interested in morality than manners and often found it difficult to follow the distinctive behaviour of the upper-class. During the Regency the nobility was made up of members of the royal family peers above the rank of baronet and the families, statesmen and the prelates of the Church of England such as the more powerful bishops and the Archbishop of Canterbury who took precedence over all ranks after the royal family. The gentry included baronets, knights, country landowners often incredibly wealthy, and gentlemen of property and good birth but no title. Apart from manners and breeding one of the main distinguishing factors between the upper-class and the upper levels of the middle-class was the need for the latter to actually earn their living.

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**Questions:**

1. When did the true Regency begin?
2. What was the duration of the Regency era?
3. Who was referred to as Regent?
4. Name two influential events that occurred during the Regency.
5. Who were the notable Regency authors? Give three examples.
6. What was the Regency upper-class called?
7. Who had to work for a livelihood?
8. Who was the top most at the class hierarchy of the Regency, even above the nobility?

Look at the questions here: when did the true Regency begin? What was the duration of the Regency era? Who was referred to as Regent? Name two influential events that occurred during the Regency? Who were the notable Regency authors? Give three examples. What was the Regency upper-class called? Who had to work for a livelihood? Who was the top most at the class hierarchy of the Regency, even above the nobility?

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**Answers (Do not construct sentences; try to answer as briefly as possible):**

1. 5 February 1811.
2. 9 years.
3. George, Prince of Wales.
4. The Napoleonic war and the Industrial Revolution.
5. Jane Austen. Mary Shelley and John Keats.
6. *Le bon ton*
7. The Regency middle-class.
8. The Archbishop of Canterbury.

Look at the slides: look at the questions once more now look at the answers now. Officially we mark it as 5th February 1800; it lasted for 9 years, associated with George

Prince of Wales. Two major events: The Napoleonic war and the Industrial Revolution. Major names: Jane Austen, Mary Shelley and John Keats. This is the French term [FL]. The Regency middle-class, they were supposed to earn the livelihood. And the Archbishop of Canterbury was one of the most influential powerful. But most had class hierarchy of the Regency sometimes even above the nobility. So, this is Archbishop of Canterbury.

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**PASSAGE 1**

Even as a child, growing up in the Sylhet region of Bangladesh – the ancestral home of around 80% of British curry chefs – Khan had understood that curry houses were an unshakeable part of the British way of life. By the late 1990s, curry had come to represent a newly cosmopolitan Britain, culminating in the former foreign secretary Robin Cook's famous 2001 speech citing chicken tikka masala as the national dish of Britain, an example of the way that the country "absorbs and adapts external influences". Though hardly acknowledged by restaurant critics, except for mocking asides about their red flock wallpaper, curry houses were one of the great successes of the postwar restaurant industry in Britain. In her 2005 book *Curry: A Biography*, the historian Lizzie Collingham argued that the Sylheti curry cooks converted "unadventurous British palates" to a new flavour spectrum. Goodbye, mince and potatoes; hello, chicken bhuna. "More than any other ethnic food," Collingham wrote, "the British have made curry their own." Across the country, in any town big enough, you could guarantee that there would be at least one Kismet or equivalent, set up by enterprising Bangladeshi or Pakistani families. In high streets dominated by chains, from Harvester to Pizza Express, these were rare independent traders, and they played a role in the regeneration of many local economies in the 1980s and 90s. (In the past decade, according to a trade group, Britain's curry houses employed 100,000 people and generated annual sales of £4.2 billion.) Now, however, the curry house's once unassailable place in British life looks precarious. Thousands of Indian restaurants are critically short of both staff to cook the food and customers to eat it. Across the industry, two or three curry houses are closing down a week. This is a crisis with many causes, the effects of which extend far beyond curry. Since the Brexit vote and the subsequent collapse of the pound, independent food outlets of all kinds have been hurt by rises in rents, rates and food prices.

Let us look at the second passage now. Now before we do this remember there must have been a number of difficult words in the previous passage, please start marking and start practicing on your own. So, words like hedonistic, [FL], so what do these mean. You are expected to now be very proficient with dictionary skills. Please keep looking up all these words, how words are formed as well as the opposites of these words.

Let us look at passage two: even as a child growing up in the Sylhet region of Bangladesh- the ancestral home of around 80 percent of British curry chefs- Khan had understood that curry houses were an unshakeable part of the British way of life. By the late 1990s curry had come to represent a new cosmopolitan Britain, culminating in the former foreign secretary Robin Cook's famous 2001 speech citing chicken tikka masala as the national dish of Britain, an example of the way that the curry 'absorbs and adapts external influences'. Though hardly acknowledged by restaurant critics except for

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Now, however, the curry houses once it should not be as an apostrophe so plural; please make a correction. The curry houses once unassailable place in British life looks precarious. Thousands of Indian restaurants are critically short of both staff to cook the food and customers to eat it, across the industry two or three curry houses are closing down a week. This is a crisis with many causes, the effects of which extend far beyond curry. Since the Brexit vote and the subsequent collapse of the pound independent food outlets of all kinds have been hurt by rises in rents rates and food prices.

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Meanwhile, in families that run curry houses younger generations have moved away from catering to more lucrative jobs in medicine or tech. So long as there was a ready supply of new onion choppers from Asia, the exodus of upwardly mobile offspring did not affect curry houses too much. The real blow came when a harsh new politics of immigration came in, which made it harder for skilled south Asian chefs to work in the country, just as the wider British public were changing the ways in which they consumed curry. Curry is still the soul food of the UK, the bowl of warmth that people turn to when sniffy, sloshed or merely peckish. But curry house owners have watched as dishes once unique to their restaurants were sold in cheapened forms, from supermarket ready meals – an “Indian banquet for 2” for only 19! – to the 26 Thursday curry nights offered by Wetherspoon pubs, which by 2016 was the biggest seller of curry in the UK. Another source of competition were the curries people had started to make for themselves at home, evidenced by rising sales of fresh ginger, chills and exotic vegetables, the market for which leapt 22% to reach £215m in 2005. For a few decades from the 1970s to the 2000s, the curry house – like its high street companion, the pub – looked like a permanent feature of British life; maybe even an emblem of Britishness itself. Yet it is now clear that our passionate relationship with these restaurants was a product of particular circumstances. For the high street curry house to flourish in its classical form, British tastes needed to stay fixed and south Asian cooks needed to be free to work here. Neither of these conditions now holds.



Meanwhile, in families that run curry houses younger generations have moved away from catering to more lucrative jobs in medicine or tech. So, as long as there was a ready supply of new onion choppers from Asia the exodus of up upwardly mobile offspring did not affect curry houses too much. The real blow came when a harsh new politics of immigration came in, which made it harder for a skilled South Asia chefs to work in the country, just as the wider British public were changing the ways in which they consumed curry. Curry is still the soul food of the UK, the bowl of warmth that people turn to when sniffy, sloshed or merely peckish. But curry house owners have watched as dishes once unique to their restaurants were sold in cheapened form, from supermarket ready meals an Indian banquet for two for only 9 pounds to the 6 pounds Thursday curry nights offered by Wetherspoon pubs which by 2016 was the biggest seller of curry in the UK.

Another source of competition were the curries people had started to make for themselves at home, evidenced by rising sales of fresh ginger, chillies and exotic vegetables; the market for which leapt 20 percent to reach 215 Million Pounds in 2005. For a few decades from the 1970s to the 2000s the curry house like its high street companion the pub looked like a permanent feature of British life, maybe even an emblem of Britishness self. Yet it is now clear that our passionate relationship with these restaurants was a product of particular circumstances. For the high street curry house to flourish in its classical form British tastes needed to stay fixed and south Asian cooks needed to be free to work here. Neither of these conditions now holds.

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#### Questions:

1. Where did Khan grow up?
2. What was referred to as the national dish of Britain?
3. Where was red flock wallpaper found?
4. What did chicken bhuna replace?
5. Which restaurant chain was a guarantee in any English town?
6. Give two reasons to explain the decline of curry houses.
7. Why are there rising ginger sales?
8. What had the most negative impact on the curry business?

Look at the questions here: where did Khan grow up? What was referred to as the national dish of Britain? Where was red flock wallpaper found? What did chicken bhuna replace? Which restaurant chain was a guarantee in any English town? Give two reasons to explain the decline of curry houses. Why are there rising ginger sales? What had the most negative impact on the curry business?

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**Answers:**

1. The Sylhet region of Bangladesh
2. Chicken tikka masala
3. Curry houses
4. Mince and potatoes
5. Kismet
6. Staff shortages and the recent fall of the pound.
7. Because people are increasingly cooking curry at home.
8. New anti-immigration policies

Khan grown up in the Sylhet region of Bangladesh, and then chicken tikka masala this was one representative curry dish. Curry houses to be found everywhere. And they replaced many mince and potatoes. Which restaurant chain was a guarantee in any English town? Kismet. The reason for the decline is staff shortages and the recent fall of the pound. Answer to the 7th question because people are increasingly cooking curry at home, therefore rise in the sale of ginger and curry leaves etcetera. And then the final blow is new anti immigrant policies.



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PASSAGE 3

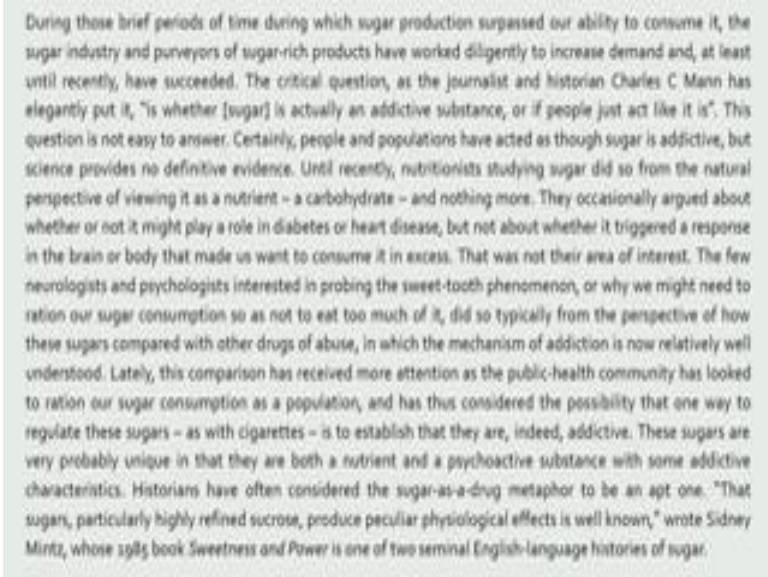
There is something about the experience of consuming sugar and sweets, particularly during childhood, that readily invokes the comparison to a drug. I have children, still relatively young, and I believe raising them would be a far easier job if sugar and sweets were not an option, if managing their sugar consumption did not seem to be a constant theme in our parental responsibilities. Even those who vigorously defend the place of sugar and sweets in modern diets – “an innocent moment of pleasure, a balm amid the stress of life”, as the journalist Tim Richardson has written – acknowledge that this does not include allowing children “to eat as many sweets as they want, at any time”, and that “most parents will want to ration their children’s sweets”. But why is this rationing necessary? Children crave many things – Pokémon cards, Star Wars paraphernalia, Dora the Explorer backpacks – and many foods taste good to them. What is it about sweets that makes them so uniquely in need of rationing? This is of more than academic interest, because the response of entire populations to sugar has been effectively identical to that of children: once people are exposed, they consume as much sugar as they can easily procure. The primary barrier to more consumption – up to the point where populations become obese and diabetic – has tended to be availability and price. As the price of a pound of sugar has dropped over the centuries, the amount of sugar consumed has steadily, inexorably climbed. In 1934, while sales of sweets continued to increase during the Great Depression, the *New York Times* commented: “The Depression [has] proved that people wanted candy, and that as long as they had any money at all, they would buy it.”

Let us move on to the third passage: there is something about the experience of consuming sugar and sweets particularly during childhood that readily invokes the comparison to a drug. I have children still relatively young and I believe raising them would be a far easier job, if sugar and sweets were not an option, if managing their sugar consumption did not seem to be a constant theme in our parental responsibilities. Even those who vigorously defend the place of sugar and sweets in morning diets- ‘an innocent moment of pleasure a balm amid the stress of life’, as the journalist Tim Richardson has written acknowledge that this does not include allowing children ‘to eat as many sweets as they want at any time’ and that ‘most parents will want to ration their children’s sweets’.

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As the price of pound of sugar has dropped over the centuries, the amount of sugar consumed has steadily inexorably climbed. In 1943 while sales of sweets continued to increase during the great depression the New York Times commented: “The depression has proved that people wanted candy, and that as long as they had any money at all, they would buy it.”

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During those brief periods of time during which sugar production surpassed our ability to consume it, the sugar industry and purveyors of sugar-rich products have worked diligently to increase demand and, at least until recently, have succeeded. The critical question, as the journalist and historian Charles C Mann has elegantly put it, “is whether [sugar] is actually an addictive substance, or if people just act like it is”. This question is not easy to answer. Certainly, people and populations have acted as though sugar is addictive, but science provides no definitive evidence. Until recently, nutritionists studying sugar did so from the natural perspective of viewing it as a nutrient – a carbohydrate – and nothing more. They occasionally argued about whether or not it might play a role in diabetes or heart disease, but not about whether it triggered a response in the brain or body that made us want to consume it in excess. That was not their area of interest. The few neurologists and psychologists interested in probing the sweet-tooth phenomenon, or why we might need to ration our sugar consumption so as not to eat too much of it, did so typically from the perspective of how these sugars compared with other drugs of abuse, in which the mechanism of addiction is now relatively well understood. Lately, this comparison has received more attention as the public-health community has looked to ration our sugar consumption as a population, and has thus considered the possibility that one way to regulate these sugars – as with cigarettes – is to establish that they are, indeed, addictive. These sugars are very probably unique in that they are both a nutrient and a psychoactive substance with some addictive characteristics. Historians have often considered the sugar-as-a-drug metaphor to be an apt one. “That sugars, particularly highly refined sucrose, produce peculiar physiological effects is well known,” wrote Sidney Mintz, whose 1985 book *Sweetness and Power* is one of two seminal English-language histories of sugar.

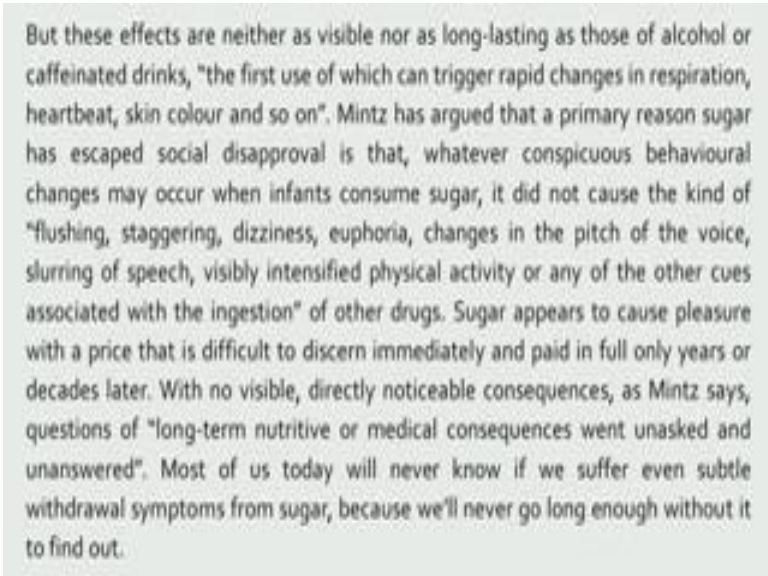
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But these effects are neither as visible nor as long-lasting as those of alcohol or caffeinated drinks, “the first use of which can trigger rapid changes in respiration, heartbeat, skin colour and so on”. Mintz has argued that a primary reason sugar has escaped social disapproval is that, whatever conspicuous behavioural changes may occur when infants consume sugar, it did not cause the kind of “flushing, staggering, dizziness, euphoria, changes in the pitch of the voice, slurring of speech, visibly intensified physical activity or any of the other cues associated with the ingestion” of other drugs. Sugar appears to cause pleasure with a price that is difficult to discern immediately and paid in full only years or decades later. With no visible, directly noticeable consequences, as Mintz says, questions of “long-term nutritive or medical consequences went unasked and unanswered”. Most of us today will never know if we suffer even subtle withdrawal symptoms from sugar, because we’ll never go long enough without it to find out.

But these effects are neither as visible nor as long lasting as those of alcohol or caffeinated drinks, “the first use of which can trigger rapid changes in respiration, heartbeat, skin colour and so on”. Mintz has argued that a primary reason sugar has escaped social disapproval is that, whatever conspicuous behavioural changes may occur when infants consume sugar, it did not cause the kind of “flushing, staggering, dizziness, euphoria, changes in the pitch of the voice, slurring of speech, visibly intensified physical activity or any of the other cues associated with the ingestion” of other drugs.

Sugar appears to cause pleasure with a price that is difficult to discern immediately and paid in full only years or decades later. With no visible, directly noticeable consequences as Mintz says, questions of “long-term nutritive or medical consequences went unasked and unanswered”. Most of us today will never know if we suffer even subtle withdrawal symptoms from sugar, because we will never go long enough without it to find out.

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#### Questions:

1. What is a regular part of parent responsibility?
2. Name two things children commonly desire.
3. What is the trait adults and children share, according to the author?
4. What are the most visible barriers to consumption of sugar?
5. What question does the author say is difficult to answer?
6. Why is sugar a unique food item?
7. Why will we never know if sugar can be addictive?
8. Why does sugar not face the social disapproval most other drugs do?

Questions now: what is a regular part of parent responsibility? Name two things children commonly desire? What is the trait adults and children share, according to the author? What are the most visible barriers to consumption of sugar? What question does the author say is a difficult to answer? Why is sugar a unique food item? Why will we never know if sugar can be addictive? Why does sugar not face the social disapproval most other drugs do?

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**Answers:**

1. Managing one's children's sugar consumption.
2. Pokémon cards and Dora the Explorer backpacks.
3. Both children and adults, once exposed to sugar, consume as much sugar as they can easily get.
4. Availability and price.
5. Is sugar actually an addictive substance, or do people just believe it is?
6. Sugar can be both a nutrient and an addictive substance.
7. Because we will never go long enough without sugar to realise if we are addicted.
8. Because consumption of sugar does not result in the common symptoms of drug intake, like dizziness, slurring of speech etc.

Now here are your answers: parents face this challenge managing one's children's sugar consumption. Some things which are as addictive could be Pokemon cards and Dora the Explorer backpacks. Answer to the third one- both children and adults once exposed to sugar consumed as much sugar as they can easily get. Answer to fourth question- availability and price. And this is something that needs to be discussed, is sugar actually an addictive substance or do people just believe it is? Sugar can be both a nutrient and an addictive substance- answer to the sixth question. And answer to the seventh one- because we will never go along enough without sugar to realise if we are addicted. And the last one because it is the long term and questions of addiction, because consumption of sugar does not result in the common symptoms of drug and intake like dizziness slurring of speech etcetera, therefore it is not possible to look at the short term impact of sugar intake.

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#### PASSAGE 4

Until recently, the thought that there might ever be a cure for ageing seemed preposterous. Growing older and more decrepit appeared to be an inevitable and necessary part of being human. Over the last decade, however, scientists have begun to see ageing differently. Some now believe that the average life-expectancy may soon be pushed up to 160 years, others think that it may be extended to 200 or 300 years. A handful even wonder whether we might one day live for a millennium or more. Behind this new excitement is the theory that the primary cause of ageing lies in highly reactive molecules called free radicals, left behind by the oxygen we breathe. Free radicals react with the molecules in our bodies, damaging DNA, proteins and other cell tissues, and are known to be implicated in diseases as diverse as cataracts, cancer and Alzheimer's. The body does its best to protect itself against free radicals by producing its own chemicals to prevent ageing, such as vitamins E and C, but it is always fighting a losing battle. A year ago Gordon Lithgow of the University of Manchester discovered a way to help combat free radicals. Using one of these anti-ageing chemicals, he managed to increase the lifespan of one species of earthworm by 50 per cent. Despite cautionary words from the scientists, many welcomed this as the first step towards a drug which would extend life. Research involving the mutation of genes has also thrown up fascinating results: after identifying two of the genes that appear to control how long the earthworm lives, similar genes were found in organisms as various as fruit-flies, mice and human beings. When one considers the vast evolutionary distances that separate these species, it suggests that we may have discovered a key to how ageing is regulated throughout the entire animal kingdom. In June last year a small American company called Eukarion sought permission to carry out the first trials of an anti-ageing drug, SCS, on human beings.

Let us move on to the fourth passage now: until recently, the thought that there might ever be a cure for ageing seemed preposterous. Growing older and more decrepit appeared to be an inevitable and necessary part of being human. Over the last decade, however, scientists have been begun to see ageing differently. Some now believed that the average life expectancy may soon be pushed up to 160 years, others think that it may be extended to 200 or 300 years. A handful even wonder whether we might one day live for a millennium or more. Behind this new excitement if the theory that the primary cause of ageing lies in highly reactive molecules called free radicals left behind by the oxygen we breathe.

Free radicals react with the molecules in our bodies damaging DNA, proteins and other cell tissues, and are known to be implicated in diseases as diverse as cataracts, cancer and Alzheimer's. The body does its best to protect itself against free radicals by producing its own chemicals to prevent ageing such as vitamin E and C, but it is always fighting a losing battle.

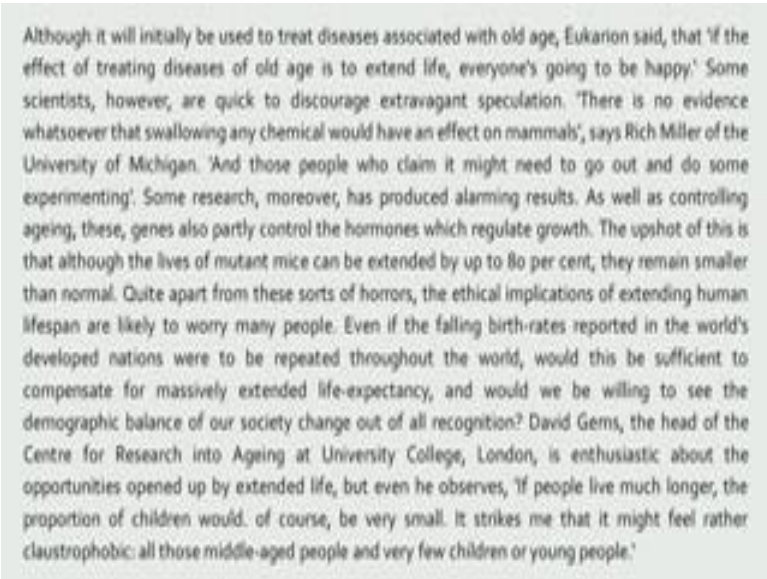
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When one considers the vast evolutionary distances that separate these species, it suggests that we may have discovered a key to how ageing is regulated throughout the entire animal kingdom. In June last year a small American company called Eukarion sought permission to carry out the first trials of an anti ageing drug, SCS on human beings.

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Although it will initially be used to treat diseases associated with old age, Eukarion said, that 'if the effect of treating diseases of old age is to extend life, everyone's going to be happy' Some scientists, however, are quick to discourage extravagant speculation. 'There is no evidence whatsoever that swallowing any chemical would have an effect on mammals', says Rich Miller of the University of Michigan. 'And those people who claim it might need to go out and do some experimenting'. Some research, moreover, has produced alarming results. As well as controlling ageing, these genes also partly control the hormones which regulate growth. The upshot of this is that although the lives of mutant mice can be extended by up to 80 per cent, they remain smaller than normal. Quite apart from these sorts of horrors, the ethical implications of extending human lifespan are likely to worry many people. Even if the falling birth-rates reported in the world's developed nations were to be repeated throughout the world, would this be sufficient to compensate for massively extended life-expectancy, and would we be willing to see the demographic balance of our society change out of all recognition? David Gems, the head of the Centre for Research into Ageing at University College, London, is enthusiastic about the opportunities opened up by extended life, but even he observes, 'if people live much longer, the proportion of children would, of course, be very small. It strikes me that it might feel rather claustrophobic: all those middle-aged people and very few children or young people.'

Although, it will initially be used to treat diseases associated with old age, Eukarion said, that if the effect of treating disease of old age is to extend life everyone is going to be happy. Some scientists, however, are quick to discourage extravagant speculation. 'There is no evidence whatsoever that swallowing any chemical would have an effect on mammals', says Rich Miller of the University of Michigan. And those people who claim it might need to go out and do some experimenting. Some research moreover has produced alarming results as well as controlling ageing these genes also partly control the hormones which regulate growth.

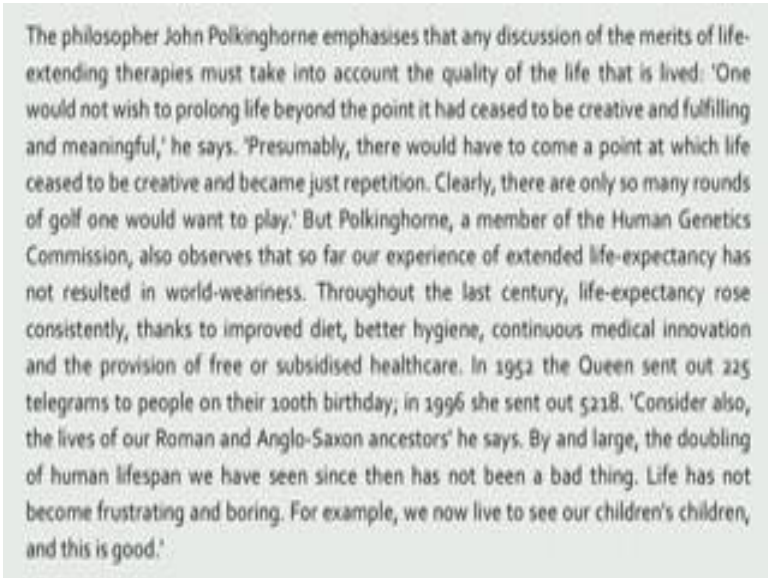
The upshot of this is that although the lives of mutant mice can be extended by up to 80 percent, they remain smaller than normal. Quite apart from these sorts of horrors, the ethical implications of extending human lifespan are likely to worry many people. Even if the falling birth rates reported in the world's developed nations were to be repeated



throughout the world, would this be sufficient to compensate for massively extended life expectancy, and would we be willing to see the demographic balance of our society change out of all recognition?

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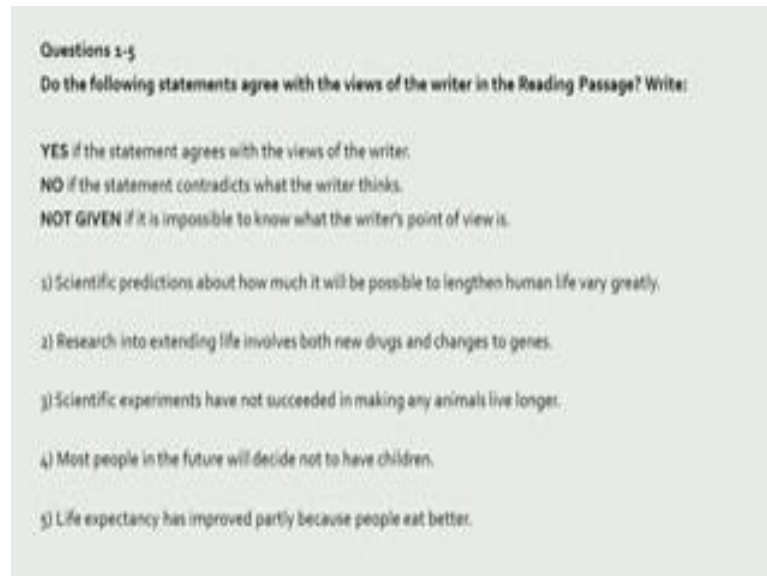


The philosopher John Polkinghorne emphasises that any discussion of the merits of life-extending therapies must take into account the quality of the life that is lived: 'One would not wish to prolong life beyond the point it had ceased to be creative and fulfilling and meaningful,' he says. 'Presumably, there would have to come a point at which life ceased to be creative and became just repetition. Clearly, there are only so many rounds of golf one would want to play.' But Polkinghorne, a member of the Human Genetics Commission, also observes that so far our experience of extended life-expectancy has not resulted in world-weariness. Throughout the last century, life-expectancy rose consistently, thanks to improved diet, better hygiene, continuous medical innovation and the provision of free or subsidised healthcare. In 1952 the Queen sent out 225 telegrams to people on their 100th birthday; in 1996 she sent out 5218. 'Consider also, the lives of our Roman and Anglo-Saxon ancestors' he says. By and large, the doubling of human lifespan we have seen since then has not been a bad thing. Life has not become frustrating and boring. For example, we now live to see our children's children, and this is good.'

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Questions 1-5

Do the following statements agree with the views of the writer in the Reading Passage? Write:

**YES** if the statement agrees with the views of the writer.  
**NO** if the statement contradicts what the writer thinks.  
**NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to know what the writer's point of view is.

- 1) Scientific predictions about how much it will be possible to lengthen human life vary greatly.
- 2) Research into extending life involves both new drugs and changes to genes.
- 3) Scientific experiments have not succeeded in making any animals live longer.
- 4) Most people in the future will decide not to have children.
- 5) Life expectancy has improved partly because people eat better.

Here are some questions: scientific predictions about how much it will be possible to lengthen human life vary greatly. So, you have to be yes if the statement agrees with the views of the writer, and no if the statement contradicts what the writer thinks, and not given if we cannot really answer. Research into extending life that is number the next second question; involves both new drugs and changes to genes. Scientific experiments have not succeeded in making any animals live longer. Most people in the future will decide not to have children. Life expectancy has improved partly because people eat better.

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**Questions 6-9**

Look at the following names of people or organisations (Questions 6-9) and the list of opinions (A-F).  
Match each name with the opinion which the person or organisation expressed.  
**NB There are more opinions than names, so you will not use them all.**

A Increases in longevity may cause unwelcome changes in society.  
B People will live longer but become tired of life.  
C Past experience shows that people do not lose interest in life as a result of living longer.  
D There is no scientific proof that any drug can prolong human life expectancy.  
E One medicine we are developing may have a welcome benefit apart from its original purpose.  
F Using drugs to treat the diseases of old age is only the beginning.

6) Eukarion  
7) Rich Miller  
8) David Germs  
9) John Polkinghorne

Next section: you have to match the column. A, increases in longevity many cause unwelcome changes in society. B, people will live longer but become tired of life. C, past experience shows that people do not lose interest in life as a result of living longer. D, there is no scientific proof that any drug can prolong human life expectancy. E, one medicine we are developing may have a welcome benefit apart from its original purpose. F, using drugs to treat the diseases of old age is only the beginning. And these are the names to match: Eukarion, Rich Miller, David Germs, and John Polkinghorne.

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**Question 10**

Which TWO of the following are characteristics of free radicals?  
Choose TWO letters A-E.

A They are a partial cause of certain diseases.  
B They escape into the atmosphere when we breathe.  
C They are present in two vitamins.  
D They harm our body chemistry.  
E They are produced by our bodies.

And then question number two: which two of the following are characteristics of free radicals? Choose two letters A to E. They are partial cause of certain diseases. They escape into the atmosphere when we breathe. C, they are present in two vitamins. They harm our body chemistry. They are produced by our bodies.

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**Questions 11-14**  
Complete the following summary of the scientific progress towards extending life expectancy. Choose your answers from the box below the summary.

NB There are more words than spaces, so you will not use them all.

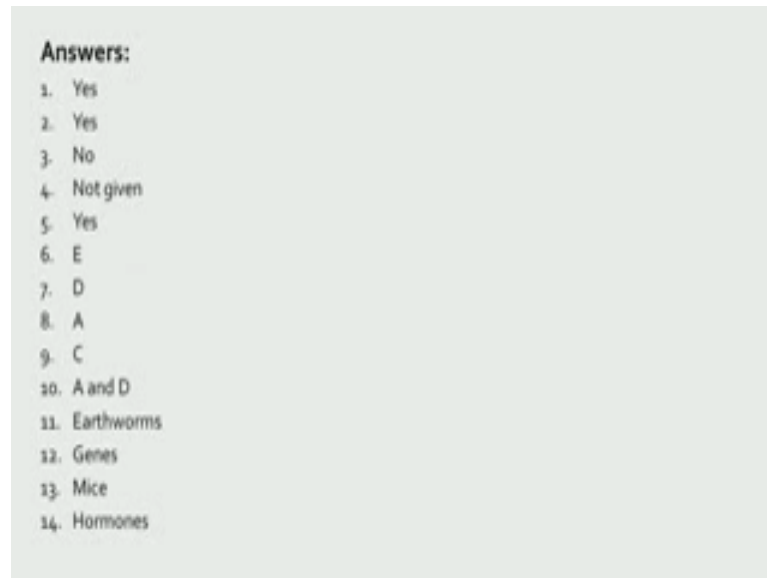
In one experiment using anti-ageing chemicals, the life of (11) \_\_\_\_\_ was extended by half. (12) \_\_\_\_\_ like the ones which control the ageing process in these animals have also been found in other species. Unfortunately, however, experiments on (13) \_\_\_\_\_ have been less successful, while they live longer, the (14) \_\_\_\_\_ controlling their growth are also affected with the result that they grow less.

A chemicals  
B earthworms  
C fruit flies  
D genes  
E hormones  
F human beings  
G mice  
H organisms

And now fill in the blanks here. In one experiment using anti ageing chemicals the lives of dash was extended by half dash like the ones which control the ageing process in these animals have also been found in other species. Unfortunately, however, experiments on dash have been less successful, while they live longer their controlling their growth are also affected with the result that they grow less.

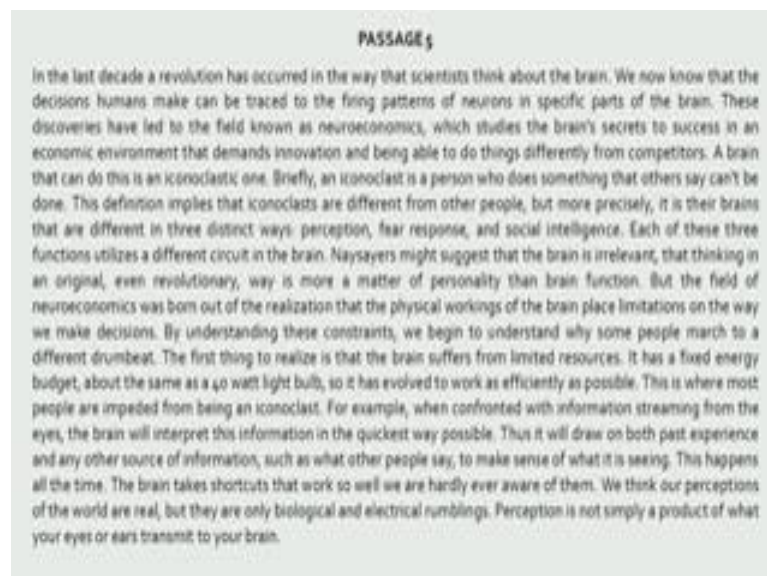
Answers are chemicals, earthworms, fruit-flies, genes, hormones, human beings, mice, organisms.

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Here are the answers please match them.

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Let us move on to the next passage now. In the last decade a revolution has occurred in the way that scientists think about the brain. We now know that the decisions humans make can be traced to the firing patterns of neurons in specific parts of the brain. These discoveries have led to the field known as neuroeconomics, which studies the brain's secret to success in an economic environment that demands innovation and being able to do things differently from competitors.

A brain can do this is an iconoclast one. Briefly, an iconoclast is a person who does something that others say cannot be done. This definition implies that iconoclasts are different from other people, but more precisely it is their brains that are different in three different distinct ways; perception, fear response, and social intelligence. Each of these three functions utilizes a different circuit in the brain. Naysayers might suggest that the brain is irrelevant, that thinking in an original even revolutionary way is more a matter of personality than brain function. But the field of neuroeconomics was born out of the realization that the physical workings of the brain place limitations on the way we make decisions.

By understanding these constraints we begin to understand why some people march to a different drumbeat. The first thing to realize is that the brain suffers from limited resources. It has a fixed energy budget, about the same as a 40 watt light bulb. So, it has evolved to look as efficiently as possible. This is where most people are impeded from being an iconoclast. For example, when confronted with information streaming from the eyes the brain will interpret this information in the quickest way possible. Thus it will draw on both past experience and any other source of information such as what other people say, to make sense of what it is seeing. This happens all the time. The brain takes shortcuts that work so well we are hardly ever aware of them. We think our perceptions of the world are real, but they are only biological and electrical rumblings. Perception is not simply a product of what your eyes or ears transmit to your brain.

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More than the physical reality of photons or sound waves, perception is a product of the brain. Perception is central to iconoclasm. Iconoclasts see things differently to other people. Their brains do not fall into efficiency pitfalls as much as the average person's brain. Iconoclasts, either because they were born that way or through learning, have found ways to work around the perceptual shortcuts that plague most people. Perception is not something that is hardwired into the brain. It is a learned process, which is both a curse and an opportunity for change. The brain faces the fundamental problem of interpreting physical stimuli from the senses. Everything the brain sees, hears, or touches has multiple interpretations. The one that is ultimately chosen is simply the brain's best theory. In technical terms, these conjectures have their basis in the statistical likelihood of one interpretation over another and are heavily influenced by past experience and, importantly for potential iconoclasts, what other people say. The best way to see things differently to other people is to bombard the brain with things it has never encountered before. Novelty releases the perceptual process from the chains of past experience and forces the brain to make new judgments. Successful iconoclasts have an extraordinary willingness to be exposed to what is fresh and different. Observation of iconoclasts shows that they embrace novelty while most people avoid things that are different. The problem with novelty, however, is that it tends to trigger the brain's fear system. Fear is a major impediment to thinking like an iconoclast and stops the average person in his tracks. There are many types of fear, but the two that inhibit iconoclastic thinking and people generally find difficult to deal with are fear of uncertainty and fear of public ridicule. These may seem like trivial phobias. But fear of public speaking, which everyone must do from time to time, afflicts one-third of the population.

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This makes it too common to be considered a mental disorder. It is simply a common variant of human nature, one which iconoclasts do not let inhibit their reactions. Finally, to be successful iconoclasts, individuals must sell their ideas to other people. This is where social intelligence comes in. Social intelligence is the ability to understand and manage people in a business setting. In the last decade there has been an explosion of knowledge about the social brain and how the brain works when groups coordinate decision making. Neuroscience has revealed which brain circuits are responsible for functions like understanding what other people think, empathy, fairness, and social identity. These brain regions play key roles in whether people convince others of their ideas. Perception is important in social cognition too. The perception of someone's enthusiasm, or reputation, can make or break a deal. Understanding how perception becomes intertwined with social decision making shows why successful iconoclasts are so rare. Iconoclasts create new opportunities in every area from artistic expression to technology to business. They supply creativity and innovation not easily accomplished by committees. Rules aren't important to them. Iconoclasts face alienation and failure, but can also be a major asset to any organization. It is crucial for success in any field to understand how the iconoclastic mind works.

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Questions 1-5  
Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

1) Neuroeconomics is a field of study which seeks to

- A cause a change in how scientists understand brain chemistry.
- B understand how good decisions are made in the brain.
- C understand how the brain is linked to achievement in competitive fields.
- D trace the specific firing patterns of neurons in different areas of the brain.

2) According to the writer, iconoclasts are distinctive because

- A they create unusual brain circuits.
- B their brains function differently.
- C their personalities are distinctive.
- D they make decisions easily.

Just look at the questions now. Choose the correct letter. Neuroeconomics is a field of study which seeks to: A cause a change in how scientists understand brain chemistry. B understands how good decisions are made in the brain, please mark your answers. C understand how the brain is linked to achievement in competitive fields. D trace the specific firing patterns of neurons in different areas of the brain.

Second question; according to the writer iconoclasts are distinctive because, they create unusual brain circuits, their brains function differently, C their personalities are distinctive, D they make decisions easily.

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Question three. According to the writer the brain works efficiently because: A it uses the eyes quickly. B it interprets data logically. C it generates its own energy. D it relies on previous events. Question four. The writer says that perception is a: A combination of photons and sound waves. B a reliable product of what your senses transmit. C a result of brain processes. D a process we are usually conscious of.

Fifth, according to the writer an iconoclastic thinker: A centralises perceptual thinking in one part of the brain. B avoids cognitive traps. C has a brain that is hardwired for learning. D has more opportunities than the average person.

(Refer Slide Time: 41:39)

Questions 6-11  
Do the following statements agree with the information given in the Reading Passage?

In boxes 6-11 on your answer sheet, write  
YES if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer  
NO if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer  
NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

6) Exposure to different events forces the brain to think differently.  
7) Iconoclasts are unusually receptive to new experiences.  
8) Most people are too shy to try different things.  
9) If you think in an iconoclastic way, you can easily overcome fear.  
10) When concern about embarrassment matters less, other fears become irrelevant.  
11) Fear of public speaking is a psychological illness.

Let us move on to look at question 6 to 11. And as we did in the previous section; yes if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer, no if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer, and not given if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this. Exposure to different events forces the brain to think differently. Iconoclasts are unusually receptive to new experiences. Most people are too shy to try different things. 9, if you think in an iconoclastic way you can easily overcome fear. 10, when concern about embarrassment matters less, other fears become irrelevant. 11, fear of public speaking is a psychological illness.

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Complete each sentence (12-14) with the correct ending, A-E, below.

A requires both perceptual and social intelligence skills.  
B focuses on how groups decide on an action.  
C works in many fields, both artistic and scientific.  
D leaves one open to criticism and rejection.  
E involves understanding how organisations manage people.

12) Thinking like a successful iconoclast is demanding because it  
13) The concept of the social brain is useful to iconoclasts because it  
14) Iconoclasts are generally an asset because their way of thinking

Let us move on to the next section. Complete each sentence with the correct ending, A to E. This requires both perceptual and social intelligence skills. B focuses on how groups decide on an action. C works in many fields both artistic and scientific. D leaves one open to criticism and rejection. E involves understanding how organisations manage people.

And here are your answers. Thinking like a successful iconoclast is demanding because it. The concept of the social brain is useful to iconoclasts because it. Iconoclasts are generally an asset because their way of thinking. So, complete these with the above ones.

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And here are your answers please match your answers.

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#### PASSAGE 6

**A.** Every autumn, when recruitment of new graduates and school leavers begins, major cities in Japan are flooded with students hunting for a job. Wearing suits for the first time, they run from one interview to another. The season is crucial for many students, as their whole lives may be determined during this period.

**B.** In Japan, lifetime employment is commonly practised by large companies. While people working in small companies and those working for sub-contractors do not in general enjoy the advantages conferred by the large companies, there is a general expectation that employees will in fact remain more or less permanently in the same job.

**C.** Unlike in many Western countries where companies employ people whose skills can be effective immediately, Japanese companies select applicants with potential who can be trained to become suitable employees. For this reason, recruiting employees is an important exercise for companies, as they invest a lot of time and money in training new staff. This is basically true both for factory workers and for professionals. Professionals who have studied subjects which are of immediate use in the workplace, such as industrial engineers, are very often placed in factories and transferred from one section to another. By gaining experience in several different areas and by working in close contact with workers, the engineers are believed, in the long run, to become more effective members of the company. Workers too feel more involved by working with professionals and by being allowed to voice their opinions. Loyalty is believed to be cultivated in this type of egalitarian working environment.

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professionals and by being allowed to voice their opinions. Loyalty is believed to be cultivated in this type of egalitarian working environment.

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D. Because of this system of training employees to be all-rounders, mobility between companies is low. Wages are set according to educational background or initial field of employment, ordinary graduates being employed in administration, engineers in engineering and design departments and so on. Both promotions and wage increases tend to be tied to seniority, though some differences may arise later on as a result of ability and business performance. Wages are paid monthly, and the net sum, after the deduction of tax, is usually paid directly into a bank account. As well as salary, a bonus is usually paid twice a year. This is a custom that dates back to the time when employers gave special allowances so that employees could properly celebrate bon, a Buddhist festival held in mid-July in Tokyo, but on other dates in other regions. The festival is held to appease the souls of ancestors. The second bonus is distributed at New Year. Recently, bonuses have also been offered as a way of allowing workers a share in the profits that their hard work has gained.

E. Many female graduates complain that they are not given equal training and equal opportunity in comparison to male graduates. Japanese companies generally believe that female employees will eventually leave to get married and have children. It is also true that, as well as the still-existing belief among women themselves that nothing should stand in the way of child-rearing, the extended hours of work often do not allow women to continue their careers after marriage.

F. Disappointed career-minded female graduates often opt to work for foreign firms. Since most male graduates prefer to join Japanese firms with their guaranteed security, foreign firms are often keen to employ female graduates as their potential tends to be greater than that of male applicants.

Because of this system of training employees to be all-rounders, mobility between companies is low. Wages are set according to educational background or initial field of employment ordinary graduates being employed in administration, engineers in engineering and design departments and so on. Both promotions and wage increases tend to be tied to seniority, though some difference may arise later on as a result of ability and business performance. Wages are paid monthly and the net sum after the deduction of tax is usually paid directly in to a bank account.

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G. Some men, however, do leave their companies in spite of future prospects, one reason being to take over the family business. The eldest sons in families that own family companies or businesses such as stores are normally expected to take over the business when their parents retire. It is therefore quite common to see a businessman, on succeeding to his parents' business, completely change his professional direction by becoming, for example, a shopkeeper.

H. On the job, working relationships tend to be very close because of the long hours of work and years of service in common. Social life in fact is frequently based on the workplace. Restaurants and *nomi-ya*, "pubs", are always crowded at night with people enjoying an evening out with their colleagues. Many companies organise trips and sports days for their employees. Senior staff often play the role of mentor. This may mean becoming involved in the lives of junior staff in such things as marriage and the children's education.

I. The average age of retirement is between 55 and 60. For most Westerners, retirement may be an eagerly awaited time to undertake such things as travel and hobbies. Many Japanese, however, simply cannot get used to the freedom of retirement and they look for ways of constructively using their time. Many look for new jobs, feeling that if they do not work they will be abandoned by society. This has recently led to the development in some municipalities of municipal job centres which advertise casual work such as cleaning and lawn mowing. Given that Japan is facing the problem of an increasingly ageing society, such activities may be vital in the future.

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Questions 1-9	i) Section A
The Reading Passage has nine paragraphs A-I. Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.	2) Section B
	3) Section C
i how new employees are used in a company	4) Section D
ii women and Japanese companies	5) Section E
iii why men sometimes resign from Japanese companies	6) Section F
iv permanency in employment in Japan	7) Section G
v recruiting season: who, when and where	8) Section H
vi the social aspect of work	9) Section I
vii the salary structure	
viii the recruitment strategy of foreign firms	
ix Japanese people after retirement	

Let us look at the questions here. Choose the correct heading for each paragraph. How new employees are used in a company. 2, women and Japanese companies; why men sometimes resign from Japanese companies, permanency in employment in Japan recruiting season; who, when and where; number 6, the social aspect of works; 7, the salary structure; 8, the recruitment strategy of foreign forms; and 9 Japanese people after retirement.

(Refer Slide Time: 50:26)

**Questions 10-12**

Complete the sentences below with words taken from the reading passage. Use **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

10) Japanese employers believe that moving professionals within companies and listening to workers' views leads to .....

11) Employees receive their wages monthly and a bonus .....

12) Japanese workers often form close personal relationships and older staff may even become a ..... to junior staff.

Let us move on to the next set of questions. Fill in the blanks, complete the sentences. Japanese employers believe that moving professionals within companies and listening to worker's views leads to. Employees receive their wages monthly and a bonus. Number 12, Japanese workers often form close personal relationships and older staff may even become a dash to junior staff.

(Refer Slide Time: 50:54)

**Questions 13-15**

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

13) Company training in Japan

- A is not important
- B is for factory workers only
- C is for professionals only
- D is for all staff

14) Foreign firms are keen to employ Japanese women because

- A the women are more intelligent than men
- B the women that apply are more capable than the men that apply
- C the women will be only short-term employees
- D the women prefer guaranteed security

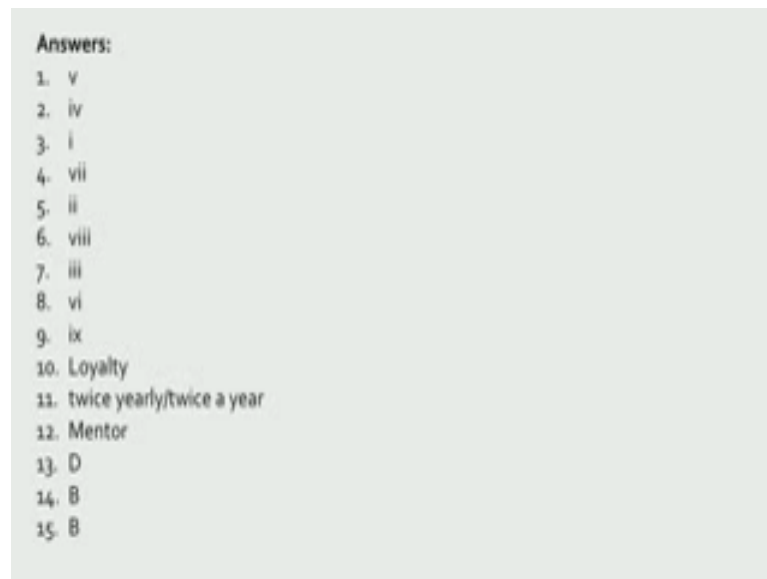
15) Japanese people continue to work after retirement because

- A they need the income
- B they miss working
- C they assist in the family business
- D they have no status outside employment

The questions 13 to 15- choose the correct letter A, B, C, D. It is a company training in Japan; is not important, is for factory workers only, is for professionals only, is for all

staff. 14, foreign firms are keen to employ Japanese women because, the women are more intelligent than men, the women that apply are more capable than the men that apply, the rein will be very only short term employees, d the women are preferred guaranteed security. 15, Japanese people continued to work after retirement because, they need the income, they miss working, they assist in the family business, they have no status outside employment.

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Here are your answers, please tally.

Alright, thank you very much. And in our next class we are going to do an extensive look at developing vocabulary skills. All the best.