

The background of the page is a blurred image of an open book with a pen resting on it, set against a dark, out-of-focus background.

English Language Guide for SSC CGL Tier 2 Exams (Part 2 of 2)

This eBook includes:

- *Reading Comprehension*
- *Sentence jumbles*
- *Synonyms and Antonyms*
- *Sentence Completion*
- *Wrongly spelt words*

With explanation, samples and tips

Presenting the second part of our [Comprehensive English Language Guide for SSC CGL Tier-2](#).

English Language is one of the most important sections of the **SSC CGL Tier 2 examination**. The section has 200 questions for a total of 200 marks. Therefore, it is essential that you're aware of the various topics under this section to be able to crack it.

Below is a sample of the kind of question that can be asked from the English Language section.

The following sentence is given with a blank that needs to be filled with an appropriate word(s). Choose the correct alternative out of the four suggested:

1. He set up institutes of international _____

A. reputation

B. famous

C. repute

D. renown

Solution: Option C is the correct answer.

Let us now dive deep into some of the important concepts.

Reading Comprehension

Reading Comprehension is one of the most scoring topics of the English Language section in competitive exams. It appears in every exam and almost every time carries the highest marks among other topics. Reading comprehension tests a candidate's ability to read, understand and analyze a given passage.

Due to the high marks allotted to it and its accuracy rates, Reading Comprehension is crucial when it comes to clearing sectional cutoff marks in the English Language section.

In reading comprehension candidates are given a passage to read and it is followed by questions related to the passage. Each question has 4 options and the candidate is supposed to choose the correct answer from the given options.

Sample Reading Comprehension question:

Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives.

Nobody can argue that the acquisition of knowledge is more fun and easier with computers. The mere activity of touching and exploring this device constitutes an enjoyable task for a child. This, accompanied by the relaxing attitude and software interactivity, usually contributes to a better grasping of new knowledge. At a higher educational level the availability of digital books, simulators and other academic materials provide the student with an ever accessible source of information, that otherwise would not be at hand. But, besides the increasing complexity and behavior of intelligent software, which is usually embedded in the academic digital material, the need for human interaction in the learning process will always be present, at least in the foreseeable future. There is the necessity for a human being to be able to determine what the specific needs of each individual are. A computer, no matter how sophisticated its software is, can hardly mimic the expertise of a teacher in how to explain and adapt complex concepts of different individuals.

1. According to the author, human intervention will always be required in order to

- A. Update old software
- B. Built bigger machines
- C. Determine the specific needs of the individual
- D. Repair broken down machines

Solution: C

2. What other factors related to Computers contribute to a deeper acquisition of knowledge?

- A. Relaxing attitude and software interactivity
- B. Prompt response and accuracy
- C. Convenience of usage and design
- D. User friendliness and easy accessibility

Solution: A

3. According to this essay, what new developments in the world of computers have helped students gain more access to information?

- A. Availability of general knowledge software
- B. Availability of printing facilities
- C. Availability of word processing applications
- D. Availability of digital books

Solution: D

4. In what way are computers inadequate even in spite of their sophistication?

- A. They keep breaking down after much use
- B. They can hardly imitate a teacher's ability to explain the most difficult concepts
- C. They still need humans to turn them on and off
- D. They require humans to update them periodically

Solution: B

5. That computers make learning easier is a fact-

- A. Accepted by all
- B. Rejected by some
- C. Welcomed by all
- D. Contested by a few

Solution: A

Tips to solve:

Read: Read a lot! Read a variety of text like newspapers, magazines, online articles, novels, books on variety of subjects like science and technology, history, economics, geography, culture, politics, etc. The passage given under Reading Comprehension can be from anywhere; hence it's a good idea to read all kinds of text to be prepared for any kind of passage.

Step 1: Read the passage thoroughly. Focus on speed and accuracy in comprehension while reading.

Step 2: As you're reading, make a mental note of the following:

Main idea of the passage: This is the central idea of the passage, the message the author is trying to convey. The main idea can be determined from a simple sentence or found in any other part of the passage.

Implied message: This is an idea which is not directly stated in the passage. To find this, club together different sentences of the passage.

Supporting ideas: Facts, examples, reasons, etc. which give out the ideas or evidences to support the central theme of the passage.

Tone of the passage: Notice the tone used by the author to convey the message. Analyze the structure of the passage to determine whether the structure is narrative/supportive/critical/analytical etc. The passage can either be informative or persuasive. Informative passages contain information and persuasive passages contain facts and opinions of the author, put together in a convincing way.

Transitions: These are words used to suggest the relationship between different ideas. Example: lastly, however, moreover, another, further, after, soon, next, immediately, etc.

Opinions & Conclusions: Opinions are beliefs that the author has based on the facts. They contain adjectives like good, bad, interesting, wonderful, etc. And conclusions are summaries derived by the author at the end of the passage.

Step 3: If you come across a difficult word and don't know its meaning, try reading the lines before and after the word. Sometimes the meaning of certain words can be understood based on the context of the paragraph.

Step 4: If you're running out of time, you can use the interactive approach to solve the RC questions. In this approach, read the questions first and try and find the answers in the given passage.

Step 5: Use the elimination technique to save time by eliminating the wrong answers to find out the correct one.

Sentence Jumbles

Like Parajumbles, sentence jumbles refers to a jumbled up sentence. The candidates are given a sentence which is split into four or more parts that are jumbled. Unlike Parajumbles, in sentence jumbles the candidates aren't given the first and the last part. The candidates are supposed to rearrange the parts in proper order and make the sentence meaningful.

Sample sentence jumble question:

In the following question, a passage is split into 4 parts and named A, B, C and D. These four parts are not given in their proper order. Read the passage and find out which of the four combinations is correct.

A. Choice of goals that are not

B. Wisdom is equally needed

C. Only beneficent but also attainable

D. in private life in the

A. BDAC

B. ADCB

C. ABCD

D. CBDA

Solution: BDAC

Tips to solve:

Step 1: Read the split-up parts of the sentence to get an idea of it. Try to find the opening/first part of the sentence.

Step 2: Try to identify a link between the given parts like a chronology of events, activities or sequences. This will help you arrange the parts easily.

Step 3: If any of the parts has an example, try to find the idea or source behind that example as usually that precedes the example.

Reread the sentence after rearranging them to make sure it makes sense.

Synonyms & antonyms

Synonyms are words that are closest in meaning to a given word and antonyms are words that are opposite in meaning to a given word. In synonyms and antonyms, candidates are given a word to which they're either asked to choose the synonym or antonym from the given options.

Sample synonyms and antonyms question:

In the following question, choose the word opposite in meaning to the given words and mark it in the answer sheet.

Minuscule

A. Impressive

B. Minute

C. Massive

D. Menial

Solution: C

Tips to solve:

Synonyms: Word that has exact or similar meaning as that of the other word.

Antonyms: Word, the meaning of which is opposite to that of the other word.

Step 1: *Read the word and depending on the question, think of all the opposite words or similar words.*

Step 2: *Go through the options and choose the one which means opposite to the given word (Antonym) or means something similar to the given word (Synonym)*

Sentence completion

In sentence completion, candidates are given an incomplete sentence with one or two words missing. The candidates are supposed to choose the right word or set of words and complete the sentence.

Sample sentence completion question:

In the following question, a sentence is given with blanks to be filled with an appropriate word(s). Choose the correct alternative out of the four.

The noise of the drum beats _____ and frightened the tiger

- A. Perplexed
- B. Prevented
- C. Pertained
- D. Persisted

Solution: A

Tips to solve:

Step 1: Read the sentence carefully and try to fill the blank(s) with an appropriate word. Understand the crux of the sentence. This will enable you to understand its context and determine the missing word. The sentence will also provide a clue as to what kind of word is needed to fill the gap.

Step 2: Go through the options and check which one of them is closest to your word.

Step 3: Place the word you have chosen from the options in the blank and read the sentence. If the word is right the sentence should sound grammatically and logically correct. Reread to ensure the sentence is meaningful and complete.

A good knowledge in vocabulary and grammar will help you solve this easily.

Wrongly spelt words

In wrongly spelt words, the candidates are given a set three wrongly spelt and one correctly spelt word. The candidates are supposed to choose the correctly spelt word or choose the option “none” if none of the words given are correctly spelt.

Sample wrongly spelt words question:

In the following question, four words are given, out of which only one word is correctly spelt. Find the correctly spelt word.

Find the correctly spelt word.

- A. Nigardly
- B. Emminent
- C. Magnificent
- D. Nuisence

Solution: C

Tips to solve:

The following rules should help you spot some common mistakes in spellings:

1. All words that have “**Over**” are one word.

Example: Overkill, overheard, etc.

2. Words that end with the letter ‘y’ after a vowel, just add a ‘s’

Example: Alloy – Alloys, toy – toys, etc.

3. Whenever the word '**Full**' is added to a noun, one '**I**' is dropped

Example: Helpful, Grateful, etc.

4. '**Q**' is always followed by a '**U**'

Example: Quite, Acquire, Quinoa, Quit, etc.

5. The silent '**e**', at the end of words, drops when adding a suffix which starts with a vowel, to the word.

Example: Shine – Shining, Whine – Whining, etc.

Good vocabulary is needed to solve these questions. Read the words and spell each one out.

Use the elimination technique by eliminating the wrong ones and choose the right one.

In case you missed our first part, here's the link: [Comprehensive English Language Guide for SSC CGL Tier-2](#).

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