



LIBERTY & SUCCESS LEARNING HUB

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

COMPREHENSION PASSAGE - HINTS

Before you start

- **Read the questions first.** This tells you what to look for (main idea, details, inference, vocabulary).
- **Note instruction words:** *state, explain, mention, infer, summarize.* They affect how you answer.

While reading the passage

- **Read once for meaning:** understand topic, tone, and purpose.
- **Read again for details:** underline/mentally note:
 - names, dates, places
 - causes and effects
 - examples and evidence
 - contrasting words: *however, although, but, yet*
 - concluding words: *therefore, thus, in conclusion*

Answering the questions

- **Answer from the passage, not from your opinion.**
- **Use the passage's wording,** but don't copy long sentences word-for-word. Pick the exact part that answers the question.
- **Be specific:** if asked "two reasons," give exactly **two** clear points.
- **For "Why/How" questions:** give a reason + support it with what the passage says.
- **For inference questions ("What can be deduced..."):**
 - combine clues from different parts of the passage
 - choose what is *implied*, not directly stated
- **For main idea/title questions:**
 - check the first paragraph + last paragraph
 - choose what covers the whole passage, not one example
- **For vocabulary-in-context:**
 - read the sentence before and after the word
 - replace the word with a possible meaning and see if it still makes sense

“in your own words”

- Don’t lift sentences directly.
- Pick only key points (no examples unless asked).
- Keep it short and direct.

Common mistakes to avoid

- Don’t answer “outside the passage.”
- Don’t write stories—write points.
- Don’t leave any question blank (attempt all).
- Don’t rush: wrong answers come from missing keywords like *not, except, mainly*.

Quick time-saving method (works well in exams)

1. Read questions (1 minute)
2. Read passage (2–3 minutes)
3. Answer easy ones first (details)
4. Then handle inference/main idea (harder ones)
5. Recheck answers against the passage