

# ৪৫তম বিসিএম নির্ধিত ফুল কোর্স

## ENGLISH

Lecture: 9

Topic:

Reading Comprehension-01: Introduction to Reading Strategies, Guessing the meaning of the word, Paraphrasing.





# MARK DISTRIBUTION

- ➔ An unseen passage dealing with a topic relevant to our times will be set. Candidates will be required to answer :
- (a) A number of thematic questions that will test their understanding of the passage. **(30 marks)**
- (b) A number of questions related to grammar and usage. **(30 marks)**



# BASIC READING STRATEGIES

৩৫ তম বিসিএস এর লিখিত পরীক্ষার পাঠ্যক্রম অনুযায়ী ইংরেজি Part - A-তে একটি Unseen Comprehension থাকবে। এই Unseen Comprehension-থেকে (a) Thematic questions এবং (b) Grammar and usage-সম্পর্কিত কিছু প্রশ্ন থাকবে। পরীক্ষার্থীদেরকে Unseen Comprehension-টি ভালোভাবে পড়ে প্রদত্ত প্রশ্নগুলোর উত্তর করতে হবে।

## Unseen Comprehension থেকে Thematic Questions-এর উত্তর লেখার নিয়ম:

Unseen Comprehension-থেকে প্রশ্নাবলির উত্তর করার জন্য অনেকেই অনেক পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে থাকে। তবে সবচেয়ে প্রচলিত ও কার্যকরী কয়েকটি পদ্ধতি নিম্নে আলোচনা করা হলো:

### ✓ প্রথমে প্রশ্নগুলো খুব ভালোভাবে মনোযোগ দিয়ে পড়তে হবে:

Unseen Comprehension-এর প্রশ্নগুলো উত্তর করার এটি একটি সবচেয়ে কার্যকরী পদ্ধতি। পরীক্ষায় যে Unseen Passage-থাকবে সেটি পড়ার আগে এর Questions আগে পড়ে নিতে হবে। কারণ প্রশ্ন পড়ার পর পরীক্ষার্থীরা যখন Passage-টি পড়বে তখনই খুব ভালোভাবেই বুঝতে পারবে যে Passage-টিতে কোন বিষয়গুলো খুঁজে বের করতে হবে। প্রকৃতপক্ষে এটিকে বলা হয় Skimming। এই কৌশলটি আপনাকে কোনো শব্দ বা বাক্যাংশের নিচে Underline-করতে হবে তা খুঁজে বের করতেও সাহায্য করবে।



# BASIC READING STRATEGIES

✓ প্রশ্নগুলোতে বিশেষভাবে কোনো নির্দেশনা দেয়া থাকলে সেগুলো খেয়াল করতে হবে:

প্রদত্ত Passage-টিতে প্রদত্ত Instructions বা নির্দেশনাগুলো ভালোভাবে যত্নসহকারে পড়তে হবে যাতে কোনো গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়ের Misunderstanding না ঘটে।

আরো একটি বিষয় বিশেষভাবে লক্ষণীয়; সেটি হলো প্রশ্নগুলোর উত্তর করার সময় শুধু Passage-এর মধ্য থেকেই তথ্যাবলি সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। কিন্তু Passage-এর কোনো বাক্য ছবছ কপি করা যাবে না। তবে অনেক ক্ষেত্রেই দেখা যায় যে, Passage-টি খুবই Common টপিকের উপর লেখা যা সম্পর্কে পরীক্ষার্থীদের আগে থেকেই ধারণা থাকে। ফলে পরীক্ষার্থীরা স্বাভাবিক ভাবেই Passage-এর বাইরে নিজস্ব জ্ঞান থেকে উত্তর করার একটি প্রবণতা দেখায় যা অবশ্য বর্জনীয়। Outside knowledge বা Passage এর বাইরের কোনো বিষয়ের সাথে Passage এর অভ্যন্তরীণ বিষয়ের সংমিশ্রণ ঘটানো যাবে না। সবসময় Passage-এ প্রদত্ত Information অনুযায়ী Question এর উত্তর করতে হবে এবং প্রদত্ত Passage টির বিষয়বস্তু ভালোভাবে বুঝতে হলে Passage-টি কমপক্ষে দুইবার পড়তে হবে। তবে এক্ষেত্রে অতিরিক্ত সময় নেয়া যাবে না।

*Model Test*



# BASIC READING STRATEGIES

পরীক্ষায় যেহেতু Unseen passage থেকে কিছু সংখ্যক Thematic questions দেওয়া থাকবে তাই এখানে প্রত্যেকটি Passage-এর উপর বিভিন্ন প্রকার Thematic questions pattern প্রদান করা হয়েছে। এগুলো থেকে কমন না পড়লেও এসব questions-এর নিয়মিত অনুশীলন পরীক্ষার্থীদের আত্মবিশ্বাস বাড়িয়ে দেবে।

এছাড়াও ইংরেজি Part-A তে Unseen comprehension এর Thematic question অংশে ভালো করতে হলে SSC, HSC এবং Degree এর Compulsory ইংরেজি পরীক্ষায় Unseen Comprehension অংশে যে প্রশ্নগুলো থাকে তা অনুশীলন করলে পরীক্ষার্থীরা এই অংশে ভালো ফলাফল লাভ করতে পারবেন বলে আশা করা যায়।

আর Grammar and Usage-সম্পর্কিত প্রশ্নগুলো নিভুলভাবে উত্তর করার জন্য ইংরেজি ব্যাকরণগত বিষয়গুলোর উপর উচ্চতর দক্ষতা অর্জন করা আবশ্যিক।



# READING COMPREHENSION

English : 44th BCS

Persons who <sup>victimize</sup> exploit others

'Digital detox' is a phrase <sup>NON PHRASE</sup> that we hear more and more, instantly conjuring up loss of control, fear of addiction and imposed periods of 'cold turkey'. As parents, many of us are still beginners in this brave new digital world and rather than empowering our youth to blaze trails into the modern age, our suspicion of Snapchat and general fear of the unknown lead us to restrict or even reject these influences as we see them encroach further into our children's lives. It's easy to see why the accessibility to technology can be a cause of concern. Bullies, predators and other nasties do exist in the cyber world, just as they do in the natural one. But while some try to combat the influence of social media and the demon 'screen time' on pupils (banning phones and switching off Wi-Fi are two solutions that have been tried), some have adopted a more 21st Century approach. They actively embrace technology as a force for good, incorporating technology in many aspects of their learning and well-being. It's not just about gadgets and gizmos; digital is fast becoming the language of the age and one in which we must all be literate. Pupils can learn to code and use Swift Playgrounds, an incredibly powerful app which bring their ideas to life. It's the same platform which was used to create applications like Duolingo and Airbnb. In years 10 and 11, students gain experience with professional programming language C# and the new generation can get involved in a 'tech start-up' day. What of the virtual world? No longer restricted to the realms of entertainment, the applications of VR are enormous, and schools can incorporate exciting technology into their lessons. Learning by doing is, after all, one of the most effective and neglected methods of learning. Just as an airline pilot will train in a simulator before being let loose with a plane full of passengers, VR allows access to global resources and immersive learning experiences with which to experiment, tackle problems, and take risks, in a virtual environment, free from fear.

tox → toxic

A programme used for training.



# READING COMPREHENSION

What a wonderful way to help students develop into curious, resilient, and resourceful adults! A recent article in the Telegraph offered 'survival tips of parents on the technology battlefield'. The battlefield metaphor is a telling one. As parents we are right to worry about the screen time we allow our children and the teenage years can be fraught with the additional pressures of social media, but should blame be laid so squarely at the digital door? The need to connect in social groups has existed since humans first walked the earth. Most of us want to be liked and to form friendships, and psychologists agree that this kind of affirmation is important for our mental health. Social media is just one of many channels through which we all do this and as adults, we must set a good example and equip young people with the information and skills to use technology responsibly. I believe that by teaching good practice and embedding key IT skills in the classroom, we can embrace technology as our friend here. For the well-being of our students we should adopt a positive approach. We need to work with experts in psychological health <sup>to lead</sup> to spearhead the use of an app-based digital toolkit that helps teachers and pupils to monitor and even restrain their emotions, developing positive habits of mind, improved social Wi-Fi and a shared language with which to better communicate both in the classroom and the wider world. When applied in an intelligent way, technology really can be a force for good improving levels of academic attainment and helping us all to ride the peaks and troughs of everyday life with greater control. So, let's all engage with the app generation. The online realm is a challenging one but we must equip young people with the skills to explore it with confidence. It is the responsibility of parents and teachers to cast aside their suspicion, and to actively support children as they navigate these uncharted waters, for their own happy futures, and our own.

↓ explore findings way traverse



# READING COMPREHENSION

❑ Write the meanings of the following words in English (The words are underlined>):

1×5=5

(a) Cold turkey ✓ *suddenly giving up, suddenly abstaining from*

(b) Predators ✓ *Hunters*

(c) Simulator ✓ *A program for training*

(d) To spearhead ✓ *to lead*

(e) Navigate ✓ *to explore*



# READING COMPREHENSION

## English : 43<sup>rd</sup> BCS

As we enter the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, public health leaders must take stock of where we are and how we can end the crippling hold that the SARS-CoV-2 virus has over us all. All pandemics end. The COVID-19 pandemic will end too, but it is not over yet. Already we have endured two years of missed opportunities, missed education, missed connections with family and loved ones. Without action, 2022 could be the same. But it doesn't have to be. The virus will continue to affect our lives and livelihoods unless the global community collectively addresses <sup>discriminatory, unequal</sup> inequitable access to vaccines, therapeutic agents and diagnostics, as well as the fact that we are giving the SARS-CoV-2 virus the room it needs to thrive through uneven and inconsistent international as well as national policies to reduce transmission, some of which are undermined by division and politicization. At the same time, governments must invest in preparedness, prevention and in science. One of the greatest scientific achievements during the pandemic has been the speed of the development of several safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, <sup>strong</sup> Robust data continue to show that COVID-19 vaccines are very effective in preventing people from getting seriously ill and dying. This protection seems to be maintained against the more transmissible Delta variant and over time. However, we continue to see persistent inequities in access to COVID-19 vaccines. Of the more than 7 billion doses administered so far, less than 3% have been in countries in the African continent. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended that those at higher risk of severe disease and health workers be prioritised for COVID-19 vaccination in all countries.

→ consistent

→ transmit / Able to spread from one person to another



# READING COMPREHENSION

The number of doses administered by the end of September 2021 was enough to have covered 40% of the population in all countries. The failure to provide access of sufficient doses of vaccines to low- and middle-income countries is not only unethical but also epidemiologically and economically unwise, and it is prolonging the pandemic. Unfortunately, vaccines alone will not end this pandemic, in part because of more transmissible new variants and also because vaccines are primarily designed to protect against severe disease and death. The more the virus is allowed to circulate, the more opportunity the virus has to evolve. Throughout the course of the pandemic, SARS-CoV-2 has shown its ability to become better adapted to the human host, with variants Alpha and Delta demonstrating enhanced transmissibility. One of the biggest unknowns in 2022 will be how this evolution continues. In 2022, epidemiological and genomic surveillance efforts should be expanded in all countries to detect SARS-CoV-2 variants and ensure that robust testing systems are linked to public health action. As we track the evolution of the virus, WHO and partners will continue to closely assess and monitor the effect of virus evolution on public health and medical countermeasures, including diagnostics, therapeutic agents and COVID-19 vaccines. Preparedness for the next pandemic or pandemic pathogen does not begin when the current emergency is over. It begins now with investing in integrated respiratory disease surveillance, a well-protected work force, early clinical care, access to health care, better personal protective equipment, further research and development for diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines, and addressing long-standing inequalities. This will only help to control COVID-19 but also ensure that we are in a better position to confront the next outbreak.

things that cause disease & disease forming agent.



# READING COMPREHENSION

❑ Write the meanings of the following words in English as used in the passage (The words are underlined). 1×5 = 5

(a) Inequitable

(b) Robust

(c) Transmissible

(d) Persistent

(e) Pathogen



# READING COMPREHENSION

↑

critical point

English : 41<sup>st</sup> BCS

a certain point of time on phase after which things change rapidly.

An influential group of scientists have recently warned that several climate tipping points are now imminent. The researchers, part of a group of more than 14000 scientists who have signed on an initiative declaring a worldwide climate emergency. said that governments had consistently failed to address the root cause of climate change: 'the overexploitation of the earth'. In a similar assessment in 2019. they noted an 'unprecedented surge' in climate-related disasters including flooding in South America and Southeast Asia. record-shattering heatwaves and wildfires in Australia and the USA and devastating cyclones in Africa and South Asian of 31 'vital signs'—key metrics of planetary health that include greenhouse gas emissions, glacier thickness sea-ice extent and deforestation—they found that 18 hit records highs or lows. For example, despite a dip in pollution linked to the pandemic. levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide and methane hit all-time highs in 2021; Greenland and Antarctica both have recently showed all-time low levels of ice mass, and glaciers are melting 31 percent faster than they did just 15 years ago. they said. Both ocean heat and global sea levels set new records since 2019, and the annual loss rate of the Brazilian Amazon reached a 12-year high in 2020. Echoing previous research. they said that forest degradation linked to fire, drought and logging was causing parts of the Brazilian Amazon to now act as the source of carbon, rather than absorb the gas from the atmosphere. Tim Lemon, director of the University of Exeter's Global systems Institute and study co-author, said the recent record-breaking heat waves in the Western United States and Canada showed that the climate had already begun to behave in shocking, unexpected ways.

emit → discharge / release  
cutting trees



# READING COMPREHENSION

We need to respond to the evidence that we are hitting ciliate tipping points with equally urgent action to decarbonise the global economy and start restoring instead of destroying nature,” he said. The researchers said there was ‘mounting evidence that we are nearing or have already crossed’ a number of climate tipping points. These include melting of the Greeplantand West Antarmicice...slitels, which may now be **irreversible** on a centuries-long time scale, regardless of how or if humankind slashes its emissions. They said increasing ocean deoxygenation and warming waters were threatening warm-water coral reefs, upon which half a billion people rely for food, income and storm protection. The study has been published in the journal Bioscience. The authors echoed previous calls for transformative change inifLareas: eliminating fossil fuels, slashing pollutants, restoring ecosystems, switching to plant-based diets, moving away from indefinite growth models, and stabilizing the human population. They also called for climate change education to be included in school core curriculums globally in order to raise awareness. In the immediate term they proposed a trio of emergency responses to the climate emergency. These consisted of ‘a significant carbon price’, a global phase-out and ban of fossil fuels, and the development of strategic climate reserves such as restoring and maintaining carbon sinks and biodiversity hotspots. “Policies to combat the climate crisis or any other symptoms should address their root cause: human overexploitation of the planet,” said William Ripple. distinguished professor of ecology at Oregon State University’s College of Forestry.



# READING COMPREHENSION

❑ Write the meanings of the following words/expressions in English using contextual clues (The words expressions are underlined in the passage): 1×5=5

(a) Tipping point : *critical point*

(b) Emission : *Discharge/release*

(c) Logging : *Cutting trees*

(d) Irreversible : *Unchangeable*

(e) Slash : *minimize*



# READING COMPREHENSION

English : 40<sup>th</sup> BCS

trouble

Home to over four million child workers, Bangladesh has been subject of global concern regarding children's rights and child labour. In a place where poverty is the cause of everyday tribulation, it is not possible to abolish this long-established system of child drudgery entirely. A 2002-2003 UNICEF survey noted that children represent 16.6% of the total workforce. At the time there were 3.2 million child labourer in Bangladesh among whom about 1.4 million children were doing hazardous work. Countless children are engaged in strenuous work in industries such as tanneries, ship-breaking yards. Tobacco factories, transportation, car workshops and construction, while others serve in tea stalls, restaurants or do household chores. In Bangladesh children work both in rural and urban based industries; however, the children working in urban areas are subjected to more dismal work conditions like unfixed wages, health hazards, no contracts and are vulnerable to mental, physical and sexual harassment. It is understandable in what circumstances the destitute families choose their children to work in order to make both ends meet. This situation is often referred to as 'borrowing from the future for present consumption', since present needs blight the development of the child in future. This creates an intergenerational transfer of poverty whereby the downward spiral of exploitation and poverty is passed from adult to child. The current situation of child rights in Bangladesh may fall short of international standards, but the circumstances are supposed to be different in a country where about 38 million people live below poverty line.

small  
being  
work

dismal! very bad

earning not sufficient  
enough to mitigate  
needs



# READING COMPREHENSION

In many cases children are the sole bread winners for their family, which may comprise up to 4-5 members. Owing to severe pecuniary constraints and common social inclinations most children are forced to give up their studies and start working in order to stanchion their families. As seen in the case studies mentioned above, the major cause of children's entering the workforce is economic difficulties. As a result, in Bangladesh where absolute poverty exists, 67% of children are working on account of financial hardship. Another factor contribution to child labour is the lack of awareness and tradition. As most of the people are unaware of the concept of child labour and its pernicious effect, most parents do not object to their children's working, rather, on the contrary, they encourage it.

While all agree that child labour is a bane of a nation that needs to be addressed immediately, it is also and impracticable idea to uproot it completely from a country like Bangladesh. Rather, attempts at decreasing it should be the first course of active.

Steps must be taken to reduce and eventually eradicate extreme poverty through economic and social development. Furthermore, child focused education and awareness are also required. As many children drop out of school because of associated costs, such as transport and uniform expenses, these can be subsumed within the school budget.

Another thing that can be done is raising awareness of child labour. This can be done by both the government and NGOs through various means of awareness building. Educating the mass about the pitfalls of child labour is necessary as most of them do not understand the concept. If they are able to realize the dangers and disadvantages of sending their children to work instead of school, they will be less inclined to send them to work.

Harmon / Damage



# READING COMPREHENSION

❑ Write the meanings of the following words/expressions in English using contextual clues  
(The words are underlined in the passage): 1×5 = 5

(a) Tribulation

(b) Chore

(c) Dismal

(d) Make both ends meet

(e) Pitfall



- ✓ ① word root
- ✓ ② অর্থ → বিশেষ, বিশেষ English
- ③ context sentence এর সঙ্গে synonym guessing
- ④ meaning এর লিখা বিশেষ → সঙ্গে relevant word  
আরও ক্রম।



# READING COMPREHENSION

In the recent years many countries are emphasizing climate-smart agriculture technologies to ensure sustainable farming. Climate-smart agriculture is an approach for developing agricultural strategies to secure sustainable food security under climate change. This concept refers to climate responsive agriculture which can sustain productivity amid a changing climate, enhance resilience and reduce greenhouse gases. It is no denial that the world has seen a significant increase in agricultural productivity over the years. The spirit of green revolution has knocked at every corner of the world. There are many developing countries which have been able to achieve food security growing bumper crops using their limited agricultural land resource. In this consideration Bangladesh may be taken as a glaring example. After her independence in 1971, the food productivity of the country has increased manifolds. It is evident that in the last 50 years the country has lost some of its agricultural land due to providing living spaces for the growing population. Though the cultivable land of the country is limited, the farmers have been able to produce more crops with the spirit of green revolution. Over the years, the country has attained food security to some extent. However, the revolution in the global agriculture has not been able to mitigate the hunger problem completely. People of many African and Asian countries are bearing the brunt of food crisis. Reports estimate that there are about 800 million undernourished and 1 billion malnourished people in the world. Again, it is estimated that by the end of 2050 the world population will reach 9 billion. To feed up the entire population the agriculture productivity will increase by 60 per cent. Certainly, there is no alternative to adopting innovative strategies in agriculture to ensure more productivity for the growing population. But the concerns are more pervasive due to the unprecedented climatic changes affecting agriculture sector drastically.



# READING COMPREHENSION

Due to the increase of global temperatures caused by human activities along with weather variability and many more man-made and natural causes are shrinking agricultural productivity in the world. Climate change is a threat to sustainable productivity in agriculture. In the Asian context Bangladesh is prone to experiencing a major threat in its agriculture due to gradual climate change which causes river erosion, floods, flash floods and intrusion of salinity into the land. The rise of sea level, rainfall variability and intensity of extreme weather, have considerable impacts on the country's agricultural production. It is true that the global climate change is beyond our control but the question is; how far we are committed to making our environment habitable? We are doing many unwise acts that are making the environment vulnerable. We see, in agriculture, farmers are so desperate to use the chemical substances in their field in a bid to ensure more productivity. But it is evident that the increased use of pesticides, chemical fertilizers and many more toxic substances are degrading soil qualities significantly. Not only that, this process has made a significant cost for farming. Amid all these the most concern is that they are causing great harms to the human beings, livestock, wild and aquatic lives and above all environment. In Bangladesh the coastal zone suffers drastically due to the frequent visit of many natural disasters such as cyclones, storm surges and floods. Climate change is indirectly responsible for bringing such disasters. In these areas agriculture, fishing and farming undergo many challenges. Due to the constant threats in the agriculture of this zone, the government has identified the zone as agro ecologically disadvantaged region. Every year huge number of crops are damaged due to enduring shocks from climate change. Again, climate change leads to reducing crop yields, the nutritional quality of major cereals, and lowering livestock productivity. But can we have a look to opening up possibilities for the farmers in the zone introducing climate-smart agriculture technologies?



# READING COMPREHENSION

Studies around the world have proved that climate-smart agriculture technologies bring huge possibilities to ensure sustainable food security. Many countries are seeing innovation using these agro-technologies. However, many may raise a question; is climate-smart agriculture an innovation ahead of green revolution? Green revolution is undeniably a fundamental issue in increasing food production but climate-smart agriculture is built upon a technical foundation. For example, in this approach, there is a scope to use on-farm sensors for ensuring real-time management of crops and livestock systems. This approach allows agriculture with minimizing fertilizers and chemicals and encourages use of integrated crops and pest management systems. Digital technologies are used to monitor the weather and provide early warning services which ensure resilience in agriculture. Climate-smart agriculture aims to achieve three outcomes. These are productivity, adaptation, and mitigation which are interlinked. First of all, climate-smart agriculture helps to increase productivity. Not only that, it ensures better food to improve nutrition security and boost incomes for the poor and marginalized communities who maintain livelihoods by farming. Secondly, it reduces the vulnerability caused by climate-related risks and shocks. Crops grow with natural adaptability to face short- and long-term stresses caused by climate change. It helps to enhance resilience of agriculture. Lastly, this strategy helps to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and avoids deforestation from agriculture. In Bangladesh context, some of the practices of climate-smart agriculture have been existent in the name of traditional farming practices, especially in the southern coastal plains for centuries, in response to increasing floods and cyclones. But this is not significant to bring a rapid response of agriculture to the climate change. Reports say that there are more than 30 per cent cultivable land in the coastal areas but farmers have merely the scope to cultivate most of the land in these areas during the winter but these are left fallow during other seasons. To help the flow of food productivity it is time to take initiatives on introducing climate-smart agriculture technologies not only in the coastal regions but also across the country that will help ensure sustainable food security. However, it is appreciative that Bangladesh has taken initiatives to address climate-smart agriculture technologies to ensure sustainable agriculture. Lastly, we hardly have any options to fulfill the plan of food security and sustainable agriculture without taking initiatives urgently to use every piece of agricultural land wisely. Climate responsive agriculture will take the country's agriculture sector to a great height where we will not only have food security but also have the guarantee of quality food.



❑ Write the meanings of the following words/expressions in English using contextual clues  
(The words expressions are underlined in the passage). 1×5=5

(a) Sustainable

(b) Drastically

(c) Livestock

(d) Revolution

(e) Deforestation



# READING COMPREHENSION

## Answer:

### Given words

### Meaning

- (a) Sustainable = Able to be maintained at a certain rate or level.
- (b) Drastically = Likely to have a strong or far-reaching effect.
- (c) Livestock = Farm animals regarded as an asset.
- (d) Revolution = A forcible overthrow of a government or social order in favor of a new system.
- (e) Deforestation = The activity of clearing a wide area of trees.



# READING COMPREHENSION

Food distribution and production are both impacted by a worldwide issue. According to the Global Report on Food Crises 2022, in 2021 there were almost 193 million individuals who had acute food insecurity. They had facilities in 53 different countries. The number of persons who faced extreme food insecurity in 2020 was 40 million less than this statistic. Before the current armed war in Ukraine escalated in February 2022, which undoubtedly impacted the global food crisis, all of this had a place. Before discussing the causes of this crisis, a review of how the current global food system operates may not be appropriate. The elites of industrialized nations, mostly located in the temperate areas of the Global North, are considered to have a significant influence over several important commodities. This is accurate since most of these essential items are not offered at local stores in the Global North. Most of these vital goods are produced in tropical and subtropical regions, which are mostly populated by poor countries. As part of this control, working people's salaries are constrained, increasing the flow of raw resources to the developed world. Consequently, these countries' working population experiences ongoing hunger, malnutrition, and famine. However, this compression does not equally impact all categories of working people in developing countries or within them. Regarding agriculture, this export to industrialized countries typically means converting cultivable land from food to non-food crops and exporting food crops at the expense of local food security. Emerging countries are forced to import food when this change is big enough. They are susceptible to market volatility because they rely on corporate agribusiness and the elites of affluent countries in general, notably via the international financial system, which controls much but not all of the world's commerce in food and basic commodities. Because of this, the contemporary global food system continues to foster food insecurity, especially in developing countries.



# READING COMPREHENSION

Corporate agribusinesses, which are mostly based in developed countries and connected to worldwide funding, regulate the trade in numerous agricultural inputs and products. The prolonged conflict in Ukraine and the economic war America and its "allies" have waged against Russia are to blame for the worsening of the global food crisis. This problem was already significant since corporate agriculture and global finance benefited from the repercussions of neo-liberal policy responses to the Covid-19 epidemic. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization's Food Price Index, the price of grains increased worldwide by 17.1% between early February 2022 and early March 2022. Over this period, the price of oilseeds increased by 24.8% on the global market. In 2021, Russia and Ukraine exported together 73% of the world's sunflower oil, 24% of its sunflower seeds, 17% of its maize, 33% of its wheat, 27% of its barley, and 24% of its sunflower seeds, according to the Global Report on Food Crisis 2022. Corporate agribusinesses are profitably expanding their stock-holding of other current quantities of these crops as a result of the interruption of these supplies, which is driving up the price of essential commodities internationally. The government of the Russian Federation, on its side, claims that the Ukrainian military mined the Black Sea approaches to Ukrainian ports, preventing Ukrainian ships from sailing through. Additionally, compared to Ukraine, Russia produces and exports more of the majority of the goods that both nations farm. The government of the Russian Federation claims that as a result, the United States and its "allies" unilateral sanctions on Russia are the biggest barriers to the sale of Russian agricultural goods. Given the present issue with global food distribution, several governments (including those in India, Kazakhstan, and other nations) are restricting food exports to safeguard local food security. Due to the increase in energy costs and the increase in fertilizer prices brought on by the economic war on Russia, farming is becoming more expensive.



# READING COMPREHENSION

Due to cost-related reasons, speculative acts by corporate agriculture, and global finance, many peasants may be compelled to reduce the quantity of land they farm or food prices may rise higher. The economic dispute with Russia has also accelerated inflation in several countries, notably the United States. As a consequence, the US Federal Reserve is increasing its policy interest rate. Unless other central banks increase their target interest rates, these countries will lose their access to international credit. Such hikes in policy rates in developing countries will result in higher lending rates for borrowers. Agricultural production would be further hampered by either higher-interest loans or fewer credit alternatives since peasants in developing countries are least able to get credit at higher interest rates. Given that many of them tend to be net consumers of food grains, the overall burden on agricultural production would increase food insecurity for workers across the world, including these poor peasants. The severity of the present global food crisis needs both short-term and long-term policy answers. A military solution to the crisis in Ukraine cannot lead to the short-term "defeat of Russia" that the United States seeks. The United States must be aware that if it imposes sanctions on other countries, other governments will retaliate. This retaliation won't necessarily be prevented by the standard recommendations that the US provides to other countries in the "rules-based international order." The rest of the world is paying more because the United States won't accept a diplomatic solution to the Ukraine crisis. As a result, the governments of Europe, especially France and Germany, must take the initiative to end their trade war with Russia and resolve the Ukrainian crisis diplomatically. This would be very helpful for those who are impacted by the current worldwide food crisis.



# READING COMPREHENSION

❑ Write the meanings of the following words/expressions in English using contextual clues  
(The words expressions are underlined in the passage). 1×5=5

(a) Temperate

(b) Malnutrition

(c) Famine

(d) Corporate

(e) Consumers



## Answer:

### Given words

### Meaning

- (a) Temperate = Relating to or denoting a region or climate characterized by mild temperatures.
- (b) Malnutrition = Lack of proper nutrition.
- (c) Famine = Extreme scarcity of food.
- (d) Corporate = Relating to a large company or group.
- (e) Consumers = A person who purchases goods and services for personal use.



# READING COMPREHENSION

While Covid-19 captured the attention of the world for the last two years or more, another pandemic has been silently killing countless numbers of people around the world. On March 27, this newspaper reported on an alarming finding: drugs that are used to successfully fight diseases are slowly becoming ineffective because of decades of malpractice such as the intake of over-prescribed or self-prescribed medicines. This is known as antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines. Antibiotic resistance is a subset of AMR that applies specifically to bacteria that become resistant to antibiotics. The discovery of this silent epidemic in the country was initially publicized in 2019, following a first-of-its-kind study by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR). It was found that at least 10 types of bacteria had become more resistant to 17 life-saving antibiotics used for treating patients with various infectious diseases across the country. Despite these findings, Bangladesh is already late to this game. In 2013, BestPublicHealthSchools.org had listed AMR as one of the 10 most potentially devastating public health threats on the horizon. And in January this year, The Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance report, published in The Lancet, found that more than 1.2 million people died from drug-resistant infections in 2019, while a further 4.95 million deaths were indirectly associated with antimicrobial resistance in the analysis of 204 countries and territories. A review of AMR commissioned by the UK government warned that, by 2050, an extra 10 million people will die each year from drug-resistant infections. Against this backdrop, Bangladesh urgently needs to get up to speed to this grave threat.



# READING COMPREHENSION

We need to understand that without effective antibiotics, all manner of conditions—including pneumonia, tuberculosis, gonorrhea, and salmonellosis—could become far deadlier. The more antibiotics are used, the more resistant bacteria become to them, meaning that humanity must guard its reserves and slow down the pathogens' adaptive evolution by using them only when necessary. This is particularly relevant for us in Bangladesh, where, reportedly, as many as 60 percent of patients take medicines without consulting doctors or based on advices from informal providers like drug sellers and others. But it is unfair to blame the general public alone, as there is still no effective guideline on the use of antibiotics in the country. The sale of drugs without prescription is prohibited in Bangladesh, but not punishable under the Drug Policy of 2016, which is helping the malpractice to go on. Moreover, according to a 2021 IEDCR study, doctors themselves prescribed unnecessary antibiotics to Covid-19 patients in hospitals in 83 percent of cases. The fact that there is no scientific data on deaths or sufferings due to antimicrobial resistance at the community level in the country further exacerbates this problem. It also illustrates how this issue is yet to be taken seriously at the policy level. Between 2000 and 2015, antibiotic consumption decreased by four percent in rich nations, but increased by 77 percent in developing ones. The poorer enforcement of medical laws in these countries leads manufacturers to adopt unethical marketing approaches and develop creative ways to incentivize prescribing among healthcare providers. While the overconsumption of antibiotics must stop, that itself is only half the solution. Antibiotic use in food animals is another factor that contributes to AMR. This makes it a danger to global food security also. It is time for policymakers to take this threat seriously. Spreading awareness among people and formulating the necessary policies are both urgently required. Investing in cutting-edge research to develop new antibiotics that may temporarily solve the problem of existing superbugs. But, in the long run, we must all understand that prevention is better than the cure. This means humanity must learn to live a healthier lifestyle, rather than depending on the unnecessary use of medication. As experts have highlighted, the key to staying healthy is maintaining good nutrition, hygiene and regular exercise, and recognizing that human health is closely connected to the health of animals and the shared environment. Which means we have to stop poisoning our environment in every way and more closely monitor what gets put into the animals that we consume.



# READING COMPREHENSION

❑ Guess the meaning of the following words/expressions using contextual clues: (The words are underlined in the passage). 1×5= 5

(a) Captured

(b) Backdrop

(c) Exacerbates

(d) Superbugs

(e) Poisoning



# READING COMPREHENSION

## Answer:

### Given Words

### Meaning

- |                 |   |             |
|-----------------|---|-------------|
| (a) Captured    | → | Caught.     |
| (b) Backdrop    | → | Stage.      |
| (c) Exacerbates | → | Aggravates. |
| (d) Superbugs   | → | Bug.        |
| (e) Poisoning   | → | Blemishing. |



Type  
Typical  
common

Guessing meaning

① (a) → without / a?

Atypical — uncommon

Asexual

Acellular

Amonal

② [bel] → Fighting / war

bellicose

rebel

Belligerent<sup>Ⓟ</sup>

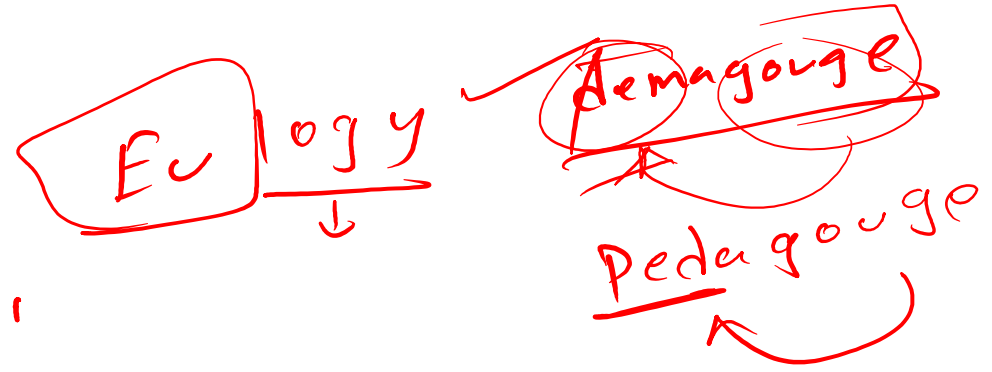


3) ~~class~~ chrome → colour  
chromatic  
Achromatic  
Dichromatic  
monochromatic

4) chron → time  
Chronicle  
Synchronized  
Chronological



- 5) Bene → স্নেহ
- 6) mal → মন্দ
- 7) Eu → স্নেহ
- 8) Log → Language
- 9) Path → emotion
- 10) Patho → disease



Apathy

Pathetic

- 11) Pan → all
- 12) dem → people

**BCS কঠিন নয়;  
প্রস্তুতি যদি গোছানো হয়**