

HOW TO EFFICIENTLY SOLVE RC

Presenter Sh

Shraddha Jaiswal



<u>Purpose</u>: To help you solve Reading Comprehension questions <u>efficiently</u> and with <u>high accuracy.</u>

<u>Target Audience</u>: Test takers who struggle to solve RC in a timely manner.

AGENDA

- 1 Overview of Reading Strategies
- 2 Apply Strategies to 1 difficult passage
- 3 Strategies for common question types
- 4 Post session exercises (10 passages, ~40 questions)

Post Session Exercises

Added to e-GMAT Free trial



FUNDAMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

What leads to improved RC performance

- Main idea
- Key Transitions
- Purpose of Passages

Efficiency in Reading

(5)Reading Strategies concept and practice

- Error concepts and application files
- Evaluate answer choices



- Humanities
- Physical Sciences
- Bio Sciences
- Business
- Economics

Accuracy in solving error



Familiarity with passage types

17 files detailing various question types and strategies

~50 passages, 250 question types; 2X as many as OG







Researchers argue that the brain stem comprising the medulla oblongata, the pons and the mid brain is better at handling a large amount of information. On the other hand, the Cerebral Cortex that is responsible for rational decision making is better at applying very strict, mathematical rules on fewer variables involving well-defined parameters. Consequently, researchers agree that it is better to "sleep on" certain complex decision rather than burn midnight oil to arrive at rationale solution. They believe that in these situations, rationality comes on the way of making a rational decision and that the brain stem is better equipped to handle them than the Cerebral Cortex, arguing that it's better to leave such decisions on unconscious thought process — thinking without paying attention. There are decisions where, the researchers believe, conscious thought outperforms unconscious thought. For example, when a decision requires application of very strict, mathematical rules, conscious thought is beneficial.

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"Get Immersed in the passage" Read 1st line **Pause** Think about the subject 4. Predict You CARE about the SUBJECT



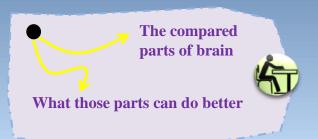
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GET IMMERSED



Read 1st line of passage and feel connected to it.





2

"Summarize in your own words"





- 2. Pause
- 3. Simplify & take notes

Absorb information as you Read



STOP









Marketing Buff



2-3 lines

Emancipation of women

4-5 lines

Humanities Guru

4-5 lines

Marketing Techniques

2-3 lines





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Researchers argue that the brain stem comprising the



- 1: Brain stem is better at handling large amount of information.
- 2: Cerebral Cortex is better at applying strict rules involving parameters.

SUMMARIZE



Read a set of sentences & take notes



3

"Predict the thoughts through keywords"



2. Predict the direction of the author



Moreover, furthermore, for example

☐ Author reverses his direction

However, in contrast, etc.

Helps you actively understand the passage.



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On the other hand – Comparison

Brain Stem has been compared to Cerebral

Cortex.

Consequently – Result

Some complex decision must be taken from brain stem and not Cerebral Cortex.

SPOT KEYWORD & PREDICT



Spot the keyword and predict what author may say next



"Shorten the technical terms & names"

Shorten terms that will be repeated

- Technical terms
 - Names of people, organizations



Helps to maintain concentration













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Medulla oblongata = MO Cerebral Cortex = CO

ABBREVIATE



Make your mind focus on key aspects





"Identify & quickly go through the Details"





- 2. Note down the gist of it
- . Move ahead quickly

Note the presence of detail.

Do not try to understand all aspects of it.

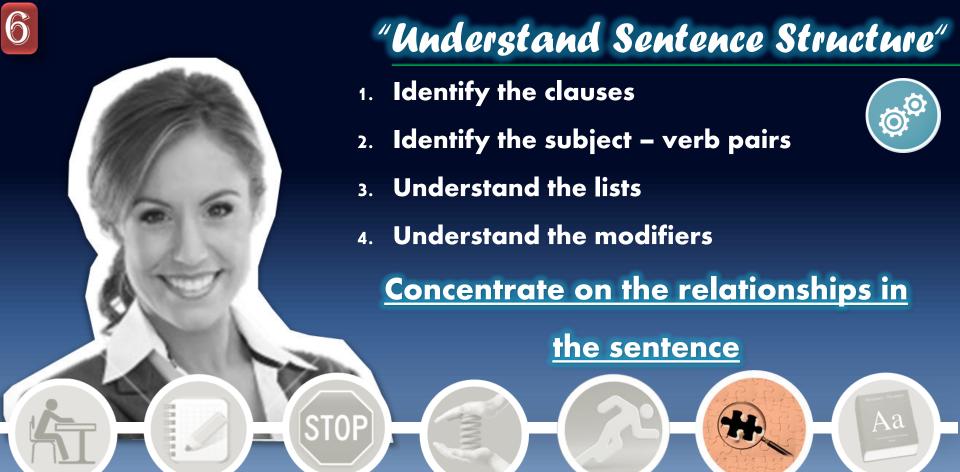


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amount of information.







"Infer Meaning of Difficult Words"

- 1. Do not panic.
- 2. Infer the meaning by
 - . Context of usage
 - Derivation of the word itself



You do not need to know the exact meaning. You can infer the meaning.



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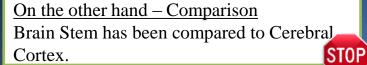
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"...comprising... mid brain"



Brain stem is better at handling large amount of information. Cerebral Cortex is better at applying strict rules involving limited parameters.

Brain Stem = BS Cerebral Cortex = CC



<u>Consequently – Result</u> Some complex decision must be taken from BS and not CC.





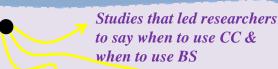
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BS = Unconscious thought process. CC = Conscious/rationale thought process.

For example – Presenting Instance
CC is better to take decision that involves application of strict rules.

- Conscious mind helps in arriving at decision requiring application of strict rules on limited parameters.
- Unconscious mind leads to best decisions when there is large amount of information.



One example to prove where one mind works better than the other

Scenarios for relying on CC & BS for best decision





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"...mileage... re-sale value..."



- Experiment 1: Conscious mind yielded best result when participants had four parameters for consideration to choose a car from 10 brands.
- Experiment 2 The decision was not that optimal when they left the decision on the unconscious mind.





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baffled = **confused**





appalling = disappointing causing dismay or horror



"...brand appeal... capability...



However – Contrasting Thought

The test group allowed to sleep over the decision gave better choice than the test group asked to give decision instantly. Even though – Contrasting Thought

Latest decision was not better than the decision given during very first experiment



Cl. 1 – ...suitable situation... is... goal-dependent... attention = BS

C1. 2 - when we are ...

C1.3 – when we are faced ...



Similarly – Similar situation

When low in energy, use BS.

When in high spirits, use conscious mind. STOP









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- Experiment 1: The conscious mind made poor decision when the parameters were doubled.
- Experiment 2 When the participants relied on their unconscious mind with double parameters, their decision was better than the one taken with conscious mind.



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Introduces the idea when to rely on conscious mind & when on unconscious mind for complex decisions

leave such decisions on unconscious thought process – thinking without paying attention. There are decisions where, the researchers believe, conscious thought outperforms unconscious thought. For example, when a decision requires application of very strict, mathematical rules, conscious thought is beneficial.

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Passage Summary

- Conscious mind helps in arriving at decision requiring application of strict rules on limited parameters.
- Unconscious mind leads to best decisions when there is large amount of information.
- Experiment 1: Conscious mind yielded best result when participants had four parameters for consideration to choose a car from 10 brands.
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argue that functions of Cerebral cortex only can lead to such important and complex decisions as buying a home or selecting a school.

compare and contrast the functions of brain stem and Cerebral Cortex to show the benefits of one over the other in making complex decision.

debate that all important decisions must be taken from Cerebral Cortex as it leads to rational decisions in complex situations.

summarize through examples which situations are conducive for conscious minds and when to employ brain stem to make optimal decisions of complex nature.

prove that sleeping on a complex decision is the best way to arrive at the optimal decision in complex situations.

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Choice Analysis

WHAT IS MAIN POINT OF THE PASSAGE?

MAIN POINT IS...

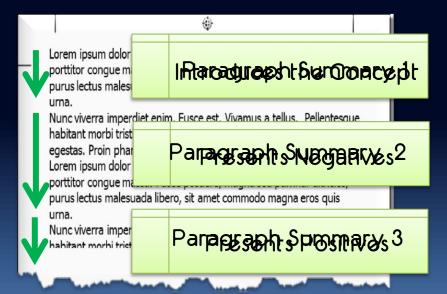
- Author's Purpose of writing the passage
- Central Idea of the passage
- Idea that the author aims to communicate

CHARACTERISTICS OF MAIN POINT

- 1. One-liner expressing intent of ENTIRE passage
- 2. Scope spans entire passage
- 3. Does not typically contain any specific detail

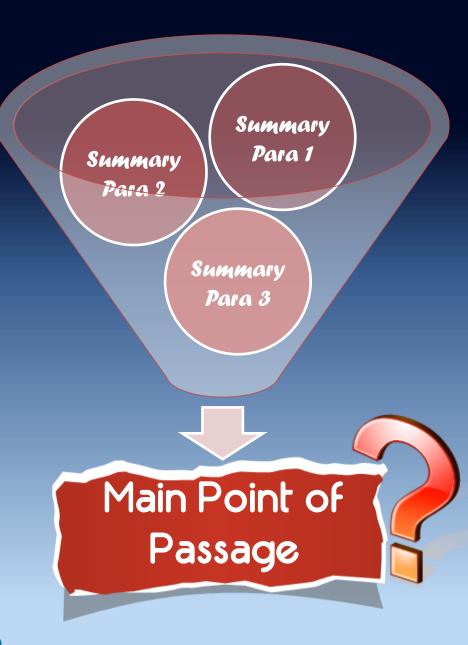


HOW TO ARRIVE AT MAIN POINT OF PASSAGE



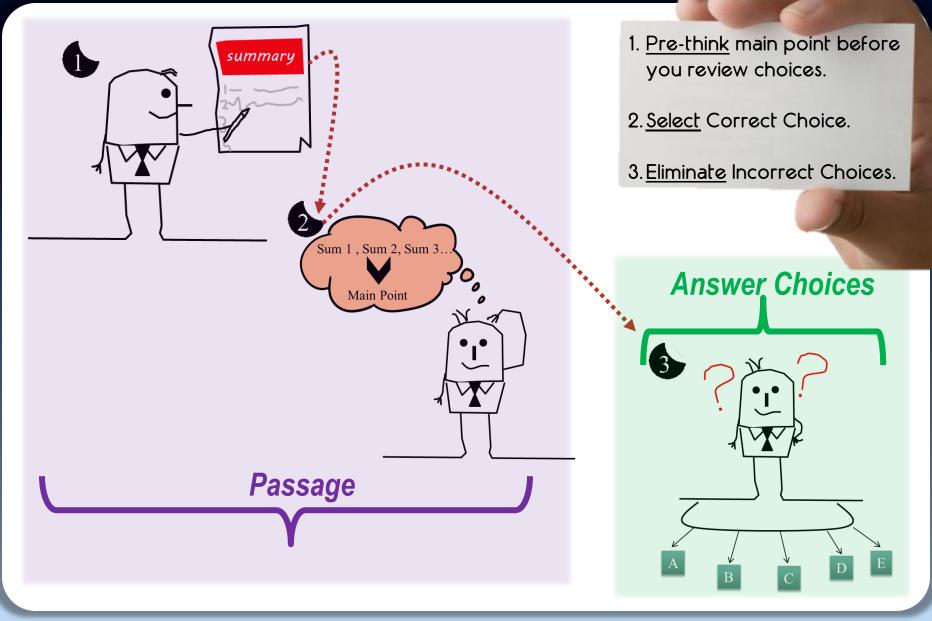
To Evaluate the Concept

Paragraph Summaries are critical to arriving at the Main Point.

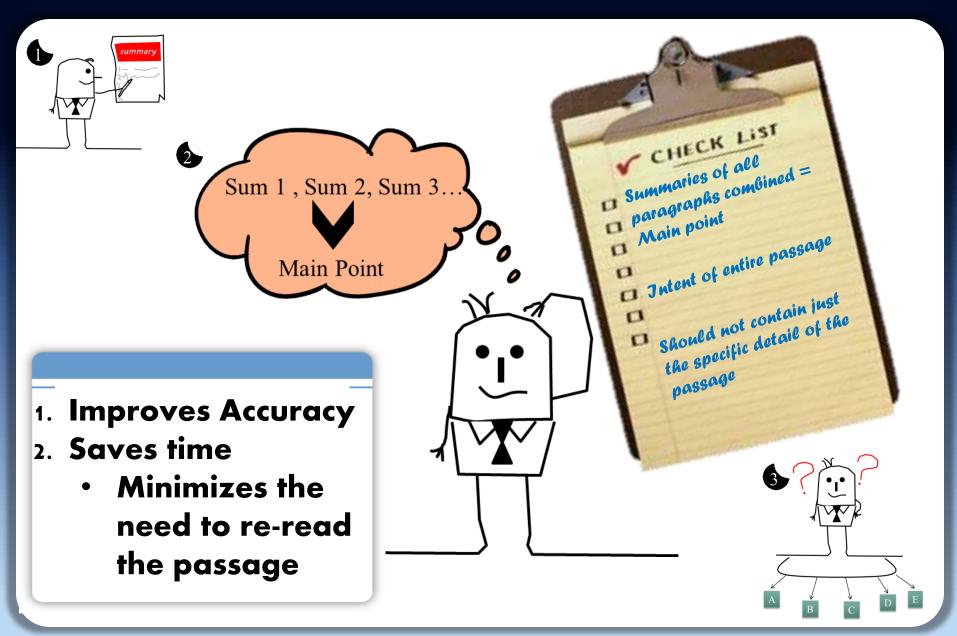




PROCESS TO ARRIVE AT MAIN POINT



WHY PRE-THINK?



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The reason why the author has written this passage is that he wants to:

Main Point



Comprehend & Pre-Think Choice Analysi

Through experiments, author shows that conscious mind can take best decision of complex nature if decision making requires application of strict rules on limited parameters. If larger amount of information is needed to be processed, then unconscious mind takes optimal decision.



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Inconsistent

Author clearly says that unconscious mind is also capable of taking complex decision.

Out of Scope

- Author presents ability of two minds, not functions.
- Me doesn't say one is better than the other.

Inconsistent

There is no debate. The author talks about the abilities of both the minds equally.

Correct answer - This is what we pre-thought.

Partial Scope

Author says that complex decision can be taken by conscious mind as well.





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According to the passage, when one is an environment where one can get easily distracted one should

- put the unconscious mind to rest and let the Cerebral Cortex take over
- not make any decisions that could have a major financial or economic impact
- put the conscious mind to rest and let the unconscious mind take over
- not expect the unconscious mind to work as efficiently as when one is in high spirits.
- if faced with a complex decision, one should prefer using the unconscious mind.

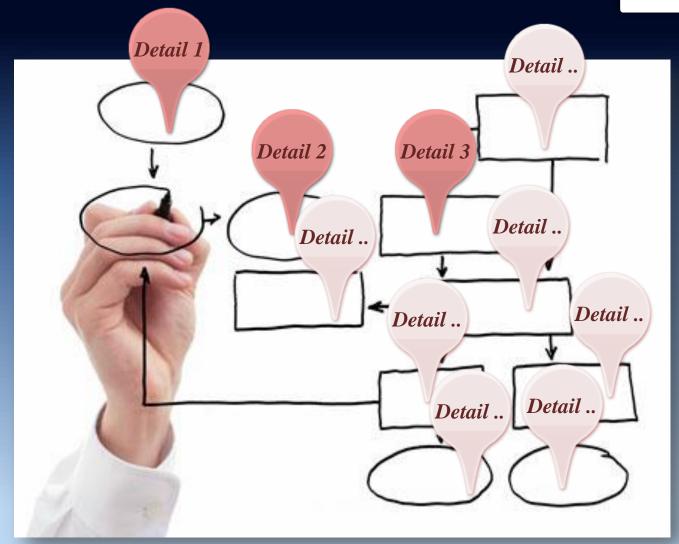


Choice Analysis

RC Passage conveys a MAIN POINT

DETAIL QUESTION

Asks "WHAT" about the "detail"







DETAIL QUESTIONS

What do these questions test?

Ability to comprehend and reproduce the detail information.

How much is this tested?

- Key question type
- 2. 30% of all RC questions
- 3. May see 3-4 questions/test

How are the questions worded?

- 1. According to the passage...
- 2. The author mentions which...
- 3. The passage mentions...

These questions may ask about

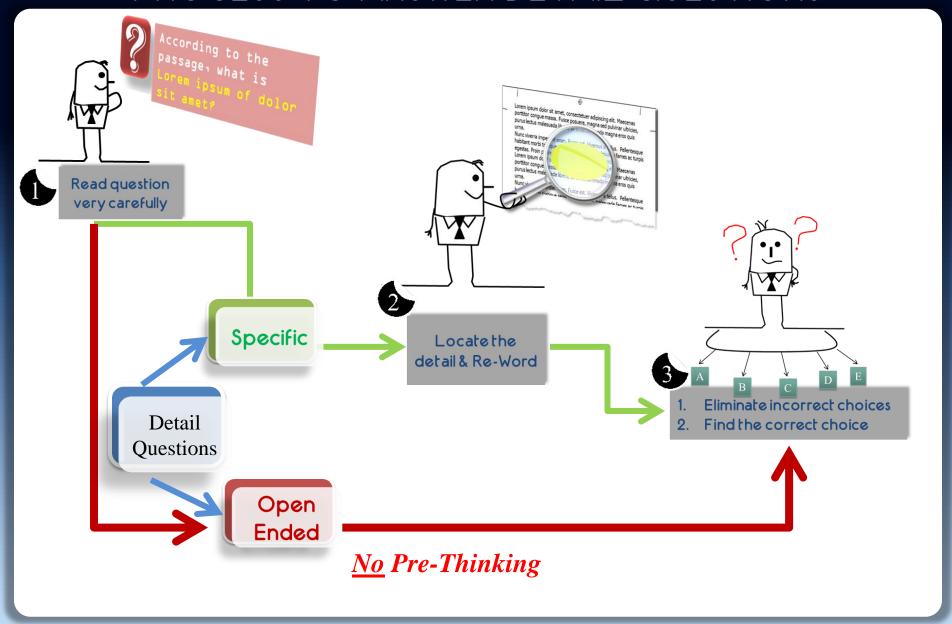
- ☐ Facts cited in the passage
- Specific content of argument cited in the passage
- ☐ Information about any other descriptive detail in the passage.

What skills are needed?

- 1. Ability to understand the passage
- 2. Ability to identify & locate detail
- 3. Ability to articulate/reword the detail



PROCESS TO ANSWER DETAIL QUESTIONS





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Several experiments that incorporated several combinations of plethora of specifications revealed the workings of the brain stem and the Cerebral Cortex. In one such experiment, the participants were asked to choose a car from 10 leading brands of automobiles. The researchers gave them just four parameters to consider for their choice - mileage, cost, reliability, and re-sale value, asking them to take instantaneous decision. The participants came up with the second-to-none decision in this scenario, proving that the conscious mind was super-efficient in processing limited amount of data. Keeping all the other conditions fixed the researchers this time asked the participants to sleep on the choice and declare their decision later. The resulting choices that participants made were not as optimal.

In another set of similar experimade when they conducted to such features to consider as the Cerebral cortex could not make ever, the decisions made by a choice were much more worth processed fewer parameters.

Pre-thought detail

If faced with a complex decision we use the subconscious mind when we are easily distracted.

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According to the passage, when one is an environment where one can get easily distracted one should







The author recommends that if faced with a complex decision we use the subconscious mind when we are easily distracted.



put the unconscious mind to rest and let the Cerebral Cortex take over.



not make any decisions that could have a major financial or economic impact.



put the conscious mind to rest and let the unconscious mind take over.



not expect the unconscious mind to work as efficiently as when one is in high spirits.



in taking important decisions involving stringent logic by letting the conscious mind relax a bit.

Opposite

The author recommends the opposite.

Out of Scope

The author does not mention anything about decisions that have major financial or economic impact.

Close

The passage suggests this only when faces with a complex decision, not always.

Inconsistent

Situations of high energy are not related to the situations when one is easily distracted.

Correct answer - The author recommends using the unconscious mind when faced with complex situation and in scenarios when one is easily distracted.





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In another set of similar experiments, the researchers were baffled by the appalling choices that the test group made when they conducted the same experiment with 10 leading brands, but doubled the parameters, adding such features to consider as brand appeal, durability, safety, and off-road capability. The researchers argued that Cerebral cortex could not make sense of the expanded information set that led to poor decision making. However, the decisions made by another test group that was allowed to sleep on the decision before declaring their choice were much more worthy, even though not as good as the decision produced by the conscious mind that processed fewer parameters. This led the researchers to conclude that our unconscious mind can process larger amounts of information — as long as we give it time to do so. Another suitable situation, according to researchers, to employ the goal-dependent, deliberative process in the absence of conscious attention is when we are low on energy or easily distracted at the time when we are faced with a complex decision to make. Similarly, when in high spirits, it may be better to invoke the conscious mind to arrive at a much more optimal solution.

What does the author mean by "in high spirits"?

In the influence of alcohol.

- Happy to be faced with a daunting situation.
- Teeming with positive energy to face a tough decision.
- Ready with creative ideas to tackle almost every situation.
- Fresh and energetic.





Information in Passage....

in-fer ◁) [in-fur] ? Show IPA verb, -ferred, -fer-ring. verb (used with object)

to derive by reasoning; conclude or judge from premises or

evidence: They inferred his displeasure from his cool tone of voice.

EXAMPLE PASSAGE

Ford T1 was the most popular car in 1930. It came only in black color.



- Logical Extension of stated information
- Not explicitly stated in the passage

INFERENCE

EXAMPLE INFERENCE

The most popular car in 1930 came in black color.





Inference

Intended Meaning Extension of Statement

Combination

Simple

Generic to Specific

Specific to Generic



HOW TO PRE-THINK FOR INFERENCE QUESTIONS



The passage implies which of the following as Lorem ipsum of dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit.



Combination Simple

Intended Meaning

Combination Generic → Specific

Combination Specific → Generic



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An inference





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"in high spirits" means High in energy

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What does the author mean by "in high spirits"

Inference



Comprehend & Pre-Think Choice Analysis Summarize

Intended Meaning Inference – "in high spirits" means "high in energy"



In the influence of alcohol.



Happy to be faced with a daunting situation.



Teeming with positive energy to face a tough decision.



Ready with creative ideas to tackle almost every situation.



Fresh and energetic.

Incorrect

This is not the intended meaning.

Correct answer - This is the intended meaning.



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What can be deduced by "rationality comes on the way of making a rational decision"?

Conscious efforts do not necessarily yield best results.

- Thinking with attention always results in the best judgment.
- Rational people always prefer sleeping on a decision to make important choices.
- Unconscious mind cannot be dependent upon for making optimal choices.
- There is no place for rationality when unconscious mind starts working.

Choice Analysis



Researchers argue that the brain stem comprising the medulla oblongata, the pons and the mid brain is better at handling a large amount of information. On the other hand, the Cerebral Cortex that is responsible for rational decision making is better at applying very strict, mathematical rules on fewer variables involving well-defined parameters. Consequently, researchers agree that it is better to "sleep on" certain complex decision rather than burn midnight oil to arrive at rationale solution. They believe that in these situations, rationality comes on the way of making a rational decision and that the brain stem is better equipped to handle them than the Cerebral Cortex, arguing that it's better to leave such decisions on unconscious thought process – thinking without paying attention. There are decisions where, the researchers believe, conscious thought outperforms unconscious thought. For example, when a decision requires application of very strict, mathematical rules, conscious thought is beneficial.

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Pre-thought inference

Thinking consciously hinders optimal decision in situations when best decision can be taken by unconscious mind.

In another set of similar can be taken by unconscious mind.

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What can be deduced by "rationality comes on the way of making a rational decision"?



Inference



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s that participants made

Pre-thought Inference - Putting conscious effort actually hinders taking the best decision in certain situations.



Conscious efforts do not necessarily yield best results.



Thinking with attention always results in the best judgment.



Rational people always prefer sleeping on a decision to make important choices.



Unconscious mind cannot be dependent upon for making optimal choices.



There is no place for rationality when unconscious mind starts working.

Correct answer - This is the intended meaning.

Opposite

This choice means just the opposite.

Out of Scope

This is the generic meaning applicable for all & not a specific group.

Opposite

The clause does mean that unconscious mind helps in making optimal decision.

Out of Scope

This meaning has no causality about it.





Summary & Post Session Exercises

Summary

- 1. Reading effectively and comprehending the passage are the keys to efficiently solving RC passages.
- 2. Summarize each and every paragraph not only to solve Main Point Questions but to understand the passage well.
- 3. Pre-thinking is a very important step in solving all question types in RC.
- 4. Select the correct answer and eliminate the wrong ones for correct reasons.

Post Session Exercises

- 1. Log in to your e-GMAT account and navigate to Reading Comprehension course
- 2. Attempt the diagnostic file
- 3. Attempt the Level 2 Quiz2 file
- 4. Try out the Main point Concept and Practice files





