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Inference & Implications

Reading Comprehension

WRITE-UP

CSAT PROGRAMS

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Inference

- Making inferences is the process of **figuring out missing information** from information that is included.
- An inference is a **guess** that a reader makes by **combining details from a text and personal knowledge**. A reader makes an inference about what is happening.

Example:

Facts: The sky is cloudy, the ground is wet, and the umbrella is inverted.

Inference: It is a rainy and windy day

The facts indicate that it's rainy because the ground's wet and because she has an umbrella. We can infer that it is windy based on the fact that the man is holding on to the woman and because the umbrella is inverted.

Common Questions for Inference

- The passage implies that which of the following was true of x
- It can be inferred from the passage that
- The passage suggests which of the following about x
- The author implies that x occurred because
- Which one of the following statements best reflects the most critical inference that can be made from the passage given above

Tips for Solving Inference Questions

- In inference questions, the answer lies directly in the text and requires a very small logical step (e.g., if the text says that "all the cups in the room are red", an inference would be that "there are no green cups in the room").
- Knock out answers with extreme wording.
- The correct answer to Inference questions is usually an obvious logical consequence of a sentence in the text.
- Stay away from answer choices that do not directly and closely follow from a statement in the passage, even if this statement seems plausible based upon the general idea of the passage or commonly accepted knowledge.

Implications

- Implication is more in the **nature of cause-effect**.
- **Cause:** The **cause or some situation or some problem** will be described in the passage, and you will be asked to tell its effect/result.
- **Effect:** The effect can also be in the nature of the steps that you will take to solve the given problem.
- Hence, if the question asks to provide the best practical implication(s), it means you are supposed to provide **solution(s)/suggestion(s) to the problem/challenge stated in the passage**
- In Implication questions, **the focus is more on the future-** The **effects will be felt in the future**. Similarly, any **suggestions will only be implemented in the future**.

Example: Say, there have been **excessive rain in some region (cause)**, then it's immediate implication will be that there might be floods. However, it's **practical implication (in the form of suggestion) will be to build dams**, take measures to mitigate the impact of floods etc.

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