


ENGLISH COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS MODEL 1862021640

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Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

COMPREHENSION:

How to dress to impress, how to communicate to invoke trust, how to posture to exude confidence,

how to stand out as the best above the rest are all challenges that we persistently face when we compete for jobs, positions and even social acceptance.

We live in a society that judges us primarily by our physical appearance and ability to advance our propositions. Those who have the gift of garbs, the skill in creating an impression and the art of swag tend to make it further in the path of life as compared to those who sit pretty waiting for manna to fall and for ability to be recognized.

Quite philosophically, we can postulate that every time we step out into the world, we face intense scrutiny and vetting from all those around us. Our neighbours scrutinize our behavior to determine whether the home front is pleasant or tumultuous, colleagues examine our demeanor to gauge our propensity to win or lose clients assess our conduct to deliver on promises and strangers create an impression of whether our persona is repulsive or attractive just from the first glance.

In fact, everywhere we turn, there's sure to be someone judging whether or not we are who they think we are. Due to this persistent societal inspection we learn that image is everything and invest heavily in our outward appearance. And for those who understand just how pivotal it all is, they invest even more heavily in the 'inward' appearance that provides the zest, zeal and gusto to face with enthusiasm no matter what. While image is everything, it's nothing void of intricate preparation. As we venture for job interviews, business pitches or even social engagements, we are tasked with anticipating all technical questions that could be posed, preempting all personal issues that could be raised and predicting any historical sensitive occurrences that could be revisited.

Even more critically we are expected to conduct background and emotional intelligence on those we shall come face to face with in the judging panel. Most panels tend to consist of three types of people; the neutral, the balanced and the biased. Those who are neutral are often fence-sitters keen on taking the safe middle ground. Where they could make a decisive choice, they make generalized conclusions; they make more decisive ones often rationalizing why. Those who are biased unashamedly take a stance based on their predispositions and values. They are often inclined towards a candidate who is their tribe, gender, schoolmate or friend. They have no qualms going out of their way to defend their preference.

Without doubt we have all been victims of the three personalities, seldom to our pleasure and frequently to our dismay. The vetting you and I undergo in our daily endeavours is not at all easy. Yet in the success and failures we learn to improve for the next encounter.

As we face the realities of constant scrutiny and vetting, it must have been interesting to watch our Cabinet Secretaries during the recently concluded vetting exercise. The kid-glove approach that was applied with many of the candidates suggested that the exercise was more of a rubber stamp for the nominations made. The lukewarm manner in which technical competence was established, personal character was unearthed and historical scandals or grey areas were clarified made us realize that what the candidates had undergone was a field day in comparison to the grilling sessions we endure in our quests for jobs. Indeed, watching the events unfold made me wonder whether we currently have a constitution whose tenets are ahead of its time. Whatever the case, it's refreshing that we have embarked on the journey.

Moving forward, as our new executive starts its mission to help us all fulfill our dreams, let's hope they will work with honesty, dignity and utmost professionalism. Let's pray that they will endeavour to exceed our expectations, proving that despite neutrality and bias witnessed in select cases, they were worth every penny. Finally, start the week more balanced than neutral, won't you!

(Angela Ambitho, Standard on Sunday, May 19, 2013)

Questions.

1. Which challenges do people face when competing for jobs, positions and even social acceptance? (2mks)
2. According to the writer, what should one do if one wants to succeed in our society? (3mks)
3. Identify the writer's attitude towards the neutral panelists. (2mks)
4. In note form outline the various forms of societal inspection as outlined in the passage. (3mks)
5. In your opinion, what could be some of the historical sensitive occurrences that could be revisited in a job interview? (2mks)
6. Citing examples from the passage explain what emotional intelligence is. (2mks)
7. Without doubt we have all been victims of three personalities, seldom to our pleasure and frequently to our dismay. (Replace the underlined word with a synonym). (2mks)
8. The kid-glove approach that was applied with many of the candidates suggested that the exercise was more of a rubber stamp for nominations made. (Explain the meaning of the underlined expression). (1mk)
9. Whatever the case, it's refreshing that we have embarked on the journey (Put a question tag). (1mk)
10. Give the meaning of the following word and expression as used in the passage. (2mks)
 - (a) Lukewarm

- (b) Grey areas.

ANSWERS

COMPREHENSION

1. - *How to dress to impress.*
- *How to communicate to invoke confidence.*
- *How to posture to exude confidence.*
- *How to stand out as the best above the rest. (@ 1/2 mks = 2mks)*
 2. - *One should have the gift of the grip.*
- *The skill in creating an impression.*
- *The art of swag.*
 3. - *Scornful.*
- *He refers to them as fence sitters keen on taking the middle ground.*
- *Where they could make a decisive choice, they make generalized.*
(1mk for identification, 1mk for illustration)
 4.
- *Our neighbours scrutinize our behaviour to determine whether the home front is pleasant or tumultuous.*
- *Colleagues examine our demeanor to gauge our propensity to win or lose.*
- *Clients assess our conduct to deliver on promises.*
- *Strangers create an impression of whether our persona is repulsive or attractive just from the first glance.*
(Should be in note form, deduct 50% of the total score if in continuous prose = 4mks)
 5. *Scandals like corruption, nepotism, high handedness etc.*
(accept any logical answer = 1mk)
 6. *This refers to temperaments / attitudes / biases / prejudices etc.*
 7. *Rarely*
 8. *Without proper consideration (1mk)*
 9. *haven't we? ('h' must be small) (Must put question mark if not award 0 = 1mk)*
 10.
(a) *Lukewarm – Lightly, lacking in seriousness.*
(b) *Grey areas – 'dirty' areas - contentious.*
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