

Comprehension 1: The Desert Bloom

The Arabian Desert is often viewed as a vast stretch of sand with very little life. However, after seasonal rainfall, parts of the desert undergo a remarkable transformation. Tiny seeds that have remained dormant beneath the sand for months suddenly begin to sprout. Within a short period, patches of colourful flowers appear across the landscape.

These plants have adapted to survive harsh conditions. Their life cycle is brief, allowing them to grow, flower, and produce seeds before the intense heat returns. Many insects and birds depend on these plants for food during this period. As a result, the blooming season plays an important role in maintaining the desert ecosystem.

Scientists study these plants to understand how living organisms adapt to extreme environments. Their findings may help researchers develop crops that require less water, which could be valuable in regions facing water shortages.

The desert bloom reminds people that even the harshest environments can support life when conditions become favourable.

1. What transformation takes place in the desert after seasonal rainfall?
2. Where do the seeds remain before they begin to grow?
3. Why is the life cycle of desert plants brief?
4. Name two creatures that depend on these plants.
5. What role does the blooming season play in the desert ecosystem?
6. Why do scientists study desert plants?
7. How might these studies help agriculture?
8. What challenge is mentioned that some regions face?
9. What does the desert bloom teach people?
10. Find a word from the passage that means “inactive but alive.

Comprehension 2: The Student Volunteer

During the school holidays, fifteen-year-old Kareem decided to spend his free time volunteering at a community library. His responsibilities included arranging books, helping visitors locate materials, and assisting younger children during reading sessions.

At first, Kareem believed the work would be repetitive and uninteresting. However, he soon discovered that every day brought new experiences. He met people from different backgrounds and listened to stories about their interests and professions. These interactions helped him develop confidence and communication skills.

One of Kareem’s favourite activities was reading to young children. He noticed that many of them became more enthusiastic about books after attending the sessions

regularly. Their progress gave him a sense of satisfaction and encouraged him to continue volunteering.

By the end of the holidays, Kareem realised that volunteering was not only a way to help others but also an opportunity for personal growth. The experience taught him responsibility, patience, and the importance of contributing to the community.

1. Where did Kareem volunteer during the holidays?
2. Mention any two of his responsibilities.
3. What did Kareem initially think about the work?
4. What changed his opinion about volunteering?
5. How did interacting with different people help him?
6. Which activity did Kareem enjoy the most?
7. What effect did the reading sessions have on the children?
8. What feeling did their progress give Kareem?
9. What did Kareem learn from volunteering?
10. Find a word from the passage that means “**eager and interested.**”

Comprehension-3 The Price of Convenience

Technology has transformed modern life in countless ways. Tasks that once required considerable time and effort can now be completed within seconds. Online shopping, food delivery services, and digital payment systems have made daily life more convenient than ever before. While these innovations offer undeniable benefits, some experts argue that society has become overly dependent on convenience.

One concern is that people may gradually lose certain practical skills. For instance, many individuals rely heavily on navigation applications and struggle to find their way without digital assistance. Similarly, the availability of instant information has reduced the need to memorise facts or conduct in-depth research. Critics believe that excessive dependence on technology may weaken problem-solving abilities and independent thinking.

Another issue is the environmental impact of convenience-based services. The increasing demand for rapid deliveries often leads to excessive packaging and higher fuel consumption. As a result, the carbon footprint associated with these services continues to grow. Although companies are exploring eco-friendly alternatives, meaningful change will require both corporate responsibility and consumer awareness.

Nevertheless, convenience itself is not the problem. The challenge lies in finding a balance between embracing technological advancements and preserving essential skills and values. By using technology thoughtfully rather than relying on it unquestioningly, individuals can enjoy its benefits while minimising its drawbacks.

A. Answer the following questions.

1. How has technology changed daily life according to the passage?
2. What concern do experts have about society’s dependence on convenience?

3. Give one example from the passage of people relying heavily on technology.
4. How has instant access to information affected learning habits?
5. What effect might excessive dependence on technology have on individuals?
6. Why do convenience-based services have an environmental impact?
7. What is meant by the term “carbon footprint” in the context of the passage?
8. What does the author suggest is the real challenge regarding technology?
9. How can individuals benefit from technology while reducing its negative effects?
10. Do you think technology makes people more efficient or more dependent? Give a reason for your answer.

B. Vocabulary

11. Find a word from the passage that means “**clear and unquestionable.**”
13. Find a word from the passage that means “**to accept or adopt willingly.**”
14. What does the word “**these innovations**” (paragraph 1) refer to?
15. What does the word “**it**” in the sentence “*Nevertheless, convenience itself is not the problem*” refer to? ANSWERS^^^^^

1. Colourful flowers bloom across parts of the desert. (COMPREHENSION-1)
2. Beneath the sand.
3. To complete growth and seed production before intense heat returns.
4. Insects and birds.
5. It helps maintain the desert ecosystem.
6. To understand adaptation to extreme environments.
7. It may help develop crops that require less water.
8. Water shortages.
9. Even harsh environments can support life when conditions are favourable.
10. **Dormant**

1. At a community library. (COMPREHENSION-2)
2. Arranging books, helping visitors, assisting children during reading sessions. (Any two)
3. He thought it would be repetitive and uninteresting.
4. The new experiences and interactions with different people.
5. It developed his confidence and communication skills.
6. Reading to young children.
7. The children became more enthusiastic about books.
8. A sense of satisfaction.
9. Responsibility, patience, and the importance of contributing to the community.
10. enthusiastic

1. It has made tasks quicker and easier to complete. (COMPREHENSION-3)
2. Society may become overly dependent on convenience and technology.
3. People relying on navigation applications to find their way.
4. It has reduced the need to memorise facts or conduct detailed research.
5. It may weaken problem-solving abilities and independent thinking.
6. Because rapid deliveries require more packaging and fuel consumption.
7. The amount of carbon emissions produced by activities or services.
8. Finding a balance between technological advancement and preserving essential skills.
9. By using technology thoughtfully rather than depending on it blindly.
10. Answers may vary. (Example: *Technology makes people more efficient because it saves time and improves productivity.*)

B. Vocabulary 11. **Undeniable** 12. **Embracing** 13. Online shopping, food delivery services, and digital payment systems.