
Subject: English Language Arts

Level: Standard Four

Strand: Reading – Comprehension Skills

Topic: **Applying Reading Comprehension Skills and Strategies to Gain Understanding From Text**

Key Point: For some questions, the answer is ‘*right there*’ in the text. **(literal)**

Some questions require you to *use information from the text* in addition to your *previous knowledge* in order to work out the answer. **(inferential)**

INSTRUCTIONS: **Read the passage below and answer questions that follow. Write your answers in complete sentences.**

Many of the diseases suffered by the poor are preventable. This means a sickness can be stopped by improving people’s living conditions. A clean water supply and a good vaccination programme are very important to preventing ill health. People also need advice on growing, storing and eating healthy foods.

Additionally, there are simple ways of preventing ill health which do not require many doctors or modern hospitals. Also, expensive equipment and drugs may not be needed. Medical personnel can do a great deal with simple equipment. All that is required are workers who are willing to go into remote villages and shanty towns.

In places like Ethiopia and Afghanistan, most people live in the countryside. Many suffer from preventable diseases. Hence the reason that money is being spent on setting up many small clinics and health posts throughout the country.

The nurses at the health posts can deal with all the common complaints of the patients. However, one of their most important jobs is teaching the mothers how to improve their living conditions. In so doing, they can prevent their families from becoming ill.

Now answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Why are some diseases described as preventable? (1 mark)

2. According to the first paragraph, what are THREE actions that can be taken to prevent ill-health? (3 marks)

3. According to the second paragraph, which of the following statements is TRUE? Select your answer. (1 mark)

- (a) To prevent disease, you need lots of doctors, modern medical facilities and drugs.
- (b) Dedicated health workers with simple equipment among the poor do much to prevent disease.
- (c) There is need for more doctors in hospitals.
- (d) Health workers find it difficult to work in remote villages and in shanty towns.

4. What are the best medical facilities for people in places like Ethiopia and Afghanistan? Why? (2 marks)

5. Which sentence in the last paragraph suggests that education is an important tool in treating preventable diseases? (1 mark)

6. Write a word **from the passage** that means the same as “*inoculation with a vaccine to protect against disease.*” (1 mark)

7. What is a suitable title for this passage? (2 marks)

8. Do you think health care workers are important persons in a community? Give a reason for your answer. (2 marks)

ANSWER KEY

1. Some diseases are described as preventable because they can be stopped if living conditions are improved. **(1 mark)**
2. According to the first paragraph, we can prevent ill-health by having a clean water supply / using clean water, taking vaccination / a good vaccination programme and eating the right foods / growing, storing and eating the right foods. **(3 marks)**
3. In the second paragraph, the correct answer is **(b)**. Dedicated health workers with simple equipment among the poor do much to prevent disease. **(1 mark)**
4. The best medical facilities for people in places like Ethiopia and Afghanistan are small clinics and health posts because the nurses at the health posts can deal with all the common complaints of the patients. **(2 marks)**
5. “However, one of their most important jobs is teaching the mothers how to improve their living conditions.” **(1 mark)**
6. The word is ‘vaccination’. **(1 mark)**
7. A suitable title is “Treating Preventable Diseases Can Be Simple” / “Some Diseases Can be prevented” or any suitable response. **(2 marks)**
8. Yes. They help to save lives. / The teach people how to stay healthy. / They care for the sick. **(2 marks)**