

## GRADE 11 STUDY GUIDE | 2024

# Comprehension and Language Skills

English Home Language

## 1. Approaching a Comprehension Passage

- Read the QUESTIONS first -- this tells you what to look for
- Read the passage once for gist (overall meaning)
- Read again more carefully, annotating key ideas
- Match your answer length to the mark allocation: 1 mark = 1 key point
- Use EVIDENCE from the text: quote directly or paraphrase with reference to the text

## 2. Types of Questions

### Literal (factual)

Answer is directly stated in the text. "According to the passage..." or "State TWO reasons..."

### Inferential

Answer is implied, not stated. "What does the writer suggest about..." or "Why does the writer..."

### Critical / Evaluative

Your opinion, supported by evidence. "Do you agree with the writer's view? Give reasons from the text AND your own knowledge."

### Language / Literary

Identify and explain language devices. Name the device, quote the example, explain its EFFECT.

## 3. Common Language Devices

- Simile: direct comparison using "like" or "as" -- "as brave as a lion" -- creates vivid image
- Metaphor: direct comparison WITHOUT "like" or "as" -- "He is a lion in battle" -- implies identity
- Personification: giving human qualities to non-human things -- "The wind whispered"
- Hyperbole: deliberate exaggeration for effect -- "I have told you a million times"
- Alliteration: repetition of initial consonant sounds -- "Peter Piper picked..." -- creates rhythm/emphasis
- Onomatopoeia: words that sound like what they describe -- "buzz", "crash", "sizzle"
- Irony: saying the opposite of what is meant; creates contrast between appearance and reality
- Oxymoron: contradictory terms placed together -- "deafening silence", "bittersweet"
- Rhetorical question: question asked for effect, not answer -- "How could anyone be so cruel?"

#### 4. Summary Writing

- Read the passage carefully; identify the specific topic/aspect required
- Select ONLY points relevant to that aspect -- do not include everything
- Use your OWN WORDS as far as possible (rewording shows understanding)
- Write in full sentences; no bullet points in the answer
- Count your words and stay within the limit (usually 60-80 words)
- Do NOT add your own opinions or information not in the passage

#### 5. Vocabulary in Context

When asked for meaning of a word or phrase IN CONTEXT: check how it is used in that specific sentence, not just its dictionary definition.

- Look for clues in surrounding text (context clues)
- Consider tone: is the sentence positive, negative, ironic?
- Give the meaning as it applies to THAT particular context