

READING COMPREHENSIONS_21

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are given in the bold to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

One day, the king came to the court and began attending to the routine matters people had brought to him. He happened to be in a bad mood that day. Just then, a messenger arrived out of breath, with a message that the queen wanted to see the king in her palace. The king **rose** immediately and all the courtiers respectfully got to their feet. The jester however remained seated unaware that the king was departing. He belatedly got to his feet but while doing so, he was noticed by the king, who perceived this behaviour as an insult. He ordered the jester to leave his kingdom with immediate effect and not set foot on its soil under penalty of death.

The courtiers were upset and protested. The jester was amusing and well liked. But the jester obeyed the king's commands and left the palace **promptly**. Several months passed after the king had ordered the jester to leave his court. The king's anger had **subsided**. He decided to invite the jester to return to his court. Messengers were sent to neighbouring kingdoms to search for the jester and bring him before the king. However the very next day, when the king was standing in one of the palace balconies, he saw a horse carriage pass outside the palace. He glanced at the carriage out of curiosity and **spied** the jester sitting inside. The carriage was stopped. The king asked the jester angrily, "Why have you come back to the kingdom without my permission?" "Your Majesty" the jester replied politely, "I left for China the day you drove me out of your court. I returned only after I had covered the floor of my carriage with the soil of the neighbouring country. I have thus not set my foot on your soil," The king found the jester's answer **pleasing**. He smiled and asked him to come to court from the next morning.

1. Why did the king leave the court suddenly one day?

- a) He was bored as the work was routine
- b) He realised that he had forgotten to meet the queen that day
- c) He was upset that day

d) None of these

2. Why did the king himself ask the jester to return to his court?

- a) He missed the jester's wit and humour
- b) The jester did not need the request, the king had sent through his messengers
- c) The courtiers thought the king was foolish for throwing out the jester
- d) The king appreciated the jester's cleverness in interpreting his orders

3. Why did the jester remain seated, while the king was leaving?

- a) To show he was unhappy with king's decision to leave early
- b) To get the king's attention
- c) To show the king that leaving early was insulting to those, who had come to the court
- d) He did not realise that the king was leaving

4. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?

- a) The king was stubborn and never listened to his courtiers' advice
- b) The jester was quick-witted
- c) The king's messengers did not try very hard to find the jester
- d) The jester did not return to the court till the king had asked for forgiveness

5. Choose the word which is most similar in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Spied

- a) Watched b) Followed c) Stared
- d) Noticed

6. Choose the word which is most similar in meaning to the wordprinted in bold as used in the passage.

Subsided

- a) Lessened
- b) Failed
- c) Collapse
- d) Calm

7. Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning to the wordprinted in bold as used in the passage.

Promptly

- a) Later
- b) Behind
- c) Relaxed
- d) Lately

8. Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning to the wordprinted in bold as used in the passage.

Pleasing

- a) Sorrow
- b) Disliking
- c) Worsening
- d) Hating

Answer:-

1. Answer: D
2. Answer: D
3. Answer: D
4. Answer: B
5. Answer: D
6. Answer: A
7. Answer: A
8. Answer: D