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不會提供時鐘報時。因此，考生若要有效地分配作答時間，一定要自備最普通的手錶，以作計時用途。

另外，英文運用測試在每年的 6 月和 10 月舉行，時值夏天，然而香港的室外、室內溫差甚大，許多商業場地冷氣開很大，體感溫度甚低。每年都收到不少考生反映，參加 CRE 及 BLNST 時，試場很冷，甚至影響到應考狀態。

若單單只是考一份英文運用測驗，45 分鐘還可以忍耐；但如果考生要應考 CRE 全卷，包括中、英文運用測試、能力傾向測試，再加上《基本法及香港國安法》測試，數小時恍如置身於雪櫃中作戰，恐怕會影響應試表現，故奉勸大家可多帶一件外套，以備不時之需。

## Chapter 02

# Comprehension 題型解析

Comprehension 亦即是閱讀理解，顧名思義就是要求考生基於文章內容回答相關的題目，文章內容有機會是跟日常生活或工作有關。自小在香港讀書的考生應該對這類題型不感陌生，但由於涉及較多字數，故這部分往往在作答上較為耗時，必須配搭一些小技巧來加速處理。

## 2.1 檢視閱讀理解力的試題

在整份 CRE 英文運用測試中，本地考生可能只對 Comprehension 這部分的題目有熟悉感，畢竟香港學校的中、英文科教育課程，一向都要求學生應付大量的閱讀理解練習。既然這麼熟悉，應該優先解決了吧？非也，筆者反而建議考生將這部分的題目放到測試的最後才處理。因所謂閱讀理解，必須先閱讀才能理解，而閱讀文章可能已經要花費考生不少時間，所以宜先處其他三部分較不耗時的「辨錯」類試題。

另一方面，Comprehension 試題的難度高低，除了取決於題目所要求的分析深度、引用文章的主題取材和詞彙深淺之外，更關鍵的是考生對文章的理解能力！姑勿論英語能力，每個考生背景各異，肯定會有自己的專長或興趣（反之，也有弱點），所認識的英文詞彙自然有各自擅長的領域。舉例說，兩個英文能力水平同樣普通的考生，一位是在科技產業工作，另一位則在辦公室負責一般文書工作，前者很大機會比後者更容易理解一篇有關人工智能 (Artificial Intelligence) 發展的文章。

### 宜放到最後才作答

或許會有考生質疑，公務員事務局的官方答題指引不是已列明，Comprehension 試題引用的文章不會要求考生有 Technical background 嗎？但任何文章都一定會有主題取向，如前述例子，

考生的工作背景剛好跟文章所屬領域接近，他認識的詞彙量亦一定會較廣泛、佔優。既然難以避免這種先天分野，那麼何不先處理比較不受考生背景知識影響的另外三部分試題？

為應付 Comprehension 試題，假如考生在閱讀本書時，距離 CRE 英文運用測試的日期仍有較長時間，筆者建議考生有空時可多閱讀不同類型、題材的文章，藉此增進英文閱讀能力，增加對不同領域的英文詞彙認識量，同時亦可提高辨識英文語法結構和文字表達之細微差別的能力，針對上述目標多閱讀英文文章，對於應付這份試卷肯定有百利而無一害。

公務員事務局未有在其網站提供 Comprehension 類的例題，以下是筆者參照過往試卷難度所模擬的題目。而為了方便設題，文章引用的數據、日期等資料可能會有刪改，未必與現實相符。請考生記着，在回答問題時只應該基於文章提供的內容作答，而非考生本人的知識；換言之，假如文章中寫莎士比亞 (William Shakespeare) 是一個科學家，那麼儘管我們按現實常識知道莎士比亞是一個劇作家、文學家，並非科學家，但在作答時也要接受莎士比亞的身份是一個科學家。

## 2.2 模擬練習及分析

### Passage 1

Pet healthcare has become an increasingly vital part of our society, reflecting the growing bond between humans and their animal companions. According to the American Pet Products Association, in 2023, Americans spent an estimated \$44.8 billion on veterinary care and products. This staggering figure represents not only the value placed on the well-being of pets but also the advancements in veterinary medicine that provide a wider range of treatments for various ailments.

The field of pet healthcare encompasses routine check-ups, emergency services, and even specialized care such as oncology for pets with cancer. A survey by the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention found that in 2022, approximately 56% of dogs and 60% of cats were classified as overweight or obese. These statistics highlight the need for regular veterinary attention to prevent and manage weight-related health issues, which can lead to more serious conditions like diabetes or heart disease.

Moreover, beyond the physical health of pets, their mental well-being is also gaining recognition. Treatments for anxiety and depression in animals are being developed, as veterinarians

acknowledge that pets can experience emotional distress similar to humans. For example, the use of pheromone diffusers to calm anxious pets is becoming a common recommendation by animal health professionals. This shift towards a more holistic approach to pet healthcare shows a deeper understanding of the complex needs of our animal friends.

1. What does the estimated expenditure on veterinary care and products in 2023 suggest about society's view on pets?
  - A It indicates the rising price of veterinary medicine.
  - B It reflects the significant value placed on pets' well-being.
  - C It shows an increase in spending on pet healthcare.
  - D It shows a decrease in spending on pet toys.
  - E It suggests that pet healthcare is of the top priority in society.

答案

B.

It reflects the significant value placed on pets' well-being.

答案分析

應付閱讀理解類問題，首要技巧是搜尋關鍵字詞，尤其是當題目中出現數字或年份時，已經為考生縮小了文章的搜尋範圍——文中提到「2023年」的只有第一段的「According to the American Pet Products Association, in 2023, Americans spent an estimated \$44.8 billion on veterinary care and products.」隨後的一句更以「staggering figure」（驚人的金額）來形容人們非常重視寵物健康的狀況（the value placed on the well-being of pets），所以選項 B 最適合。

至於選項 A、D 及 E 都是文章中完全未有提及、無中生有的內容。而選項 C 按常理推斷似乎也合理，惟文中沒有寫明美國人以往的相關花費水平，故不能妄自推測其有否增加。

2. What percentage of cats were found to be overweight or obese according to the 2022 survey?

- A 33.6%
- B 44.8%
- C 50%
- D 56%
- E 60%

<b>答案</b>	E. 60%
<b>答案分析</b>	<p>這是較簡單的熱身題，首先按題目中的關鍵字眼「overweight or obese」，尋找文章中的相關內容，亦即第二段的「A survey by the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention found that in 2022, approximately 56% of dogs and 60% of cats were classified as overweight or obese.」答案已呼之欲出。</p> <p>順帶一提，上一章最後有提到應考 CRE 時須攜帶的裝備。但有很多考生都會問到底應否攜帶計數機？以這條題目為例，英文運用測試的確會在文章內容問到關於數字的題目，卻不會要求考生計算複雜的數式。假如考生在作答英文運用測試卷時，覺得需要用到計數機，大概是已經誤解了題目的問法或原意。</p> <p>不過，假如考生認為攜帶計數機可帶來安全感，請即管帶着，求個心安。若試場人員指示不能使用計數機，屆時才收起來吧。</p>

3. Which of the following statements is factually correct, according to the passage.

- A Overweight pets do not require veterinary care.
- B Pet obesity is not a significant issue.
- C Pet healthcare centre should provide specialized care for pets.
- D Mental health in pets is as important as their physical health.
- E All anxious pets will benefit from pheromone diffusers.

<b>答案</b>	D. Mental health in pets is as important as their physical health.
<b>答案分析</b>	<p>第三段第一句即言明：「beyond the physical health of pets, their mental well-being is also gaining recognition.」反映寵物的生理和心理健康是同等重要。</p> <p>選項 A、B 都明顯有違這篇引文的整體方向，肯定不正確。而 C 和 E 均是無中生有的說法。</p>

4. The author mentions oncology as an example of:

- A A routine check-up.
- B A weight-related health issue.
- C A specialized care service for pets.
- D An outdated veterinary service.
- E A survey question.

答案

C.

A specialized care service for pets.

答案分析

這次開宗明義從關鍵字「oncology」（腫瘤科）入手，第二段第一句已經提及「...and even specialized care such as oncology for pets with cancer.」因此選項 C 正確。

5. Which of the following statements is a fact rather than an assumption?

- A The society has strong bonding with their pets.
- B More pet owners are paying attention to prevent weight-related health issues for their pets.
- C Approximately 56% of dogs were classified as overweight or obese in 2020.
- D Treatments for anxiety and depression in animals are growing more effectively.
- E The use of pheromone diffusers is able to calm anxious pets.

答案

C.

Approximately 56% of dogs were classified as overweight or obese in 2020.

答案分析

只有 C 這個選項是事實 (fact)，而又有數據支撐 (文章第二段寫到：A survey by the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention found that in 2022, approximately 56% of dogs were classified as overweight or obese.)。

值得注意的是，選項 D 和 E 均是這一題的陷阱位。關於選項 D，文中有提到「Treatments for anxiety and depression in animals are being developed」，而前提必須是往好的方向 develop 才能達到 more effectively 的結果，但文中沒有言明這個前提，故無法選 D。

至於選項 E，文中是說「...the use of pheromone diffusers to calm anxious pets is becoming a common recommendation by animal health professionals」，即是基於對動物健康專家的信任，但選項的意思需要假設他們只是因為 use of pheromone diffusers 有效，而非基於其他原因 (如副作用較少或醫療成本較低) 作出建議。顯而易見，D 和 E 的說法都建基於不存在的假設 (assumption)，欠事實支持。

6. What is the key message of the second paragraph?

- A Specialized care for pets is expensive.
- B Veterinary care is expensive.
- C The field of pet healthcare encompasses many different services.
- D Pet obesity can lead to serious health conditions.
- E Regular veterinary attention is vital to keep pets healthy.

<b>答案</b>	D. Pet obesity can lead to serious health conditions.
<b>答案分析</b>	第二段主要討論了寵物超重和肥胖可能導致的健康問題 (like diabetes or heart disease) 。 選項 A、B 所用的字眼只可能跟第一段有關，而且是無中生有之說。而選項 C 及 E 則是陷阱——雖然在第二段有提及相關內容，卻稱不上是「key message」。

7. What is the purpose of using pheromone diffusers?

- A To address pets' mental health.
- B To conduct check-ups for pets.
- C To improve the situation of diabetes.
- D To reduce of cost of veterinary care.
- E To feed the pets.

<b>答案</b>	A. To address pets' mental health.
<b>答案分析</b>	搜尋關鍵字「pheromone diffusers」，馬上發現第三段直接提到「利用費洛蒙擴香座來安撫焦慮的寵物」(the use of pheromone diffusers to calm anxious pets)，這顯然屬於寵物心理健康方面 (pets' mental health) 的治療，故只有選項 A 適合。

8. What is the holistic approach to pet healthcare mentioned in the passage?

- A Paying attention to pet's mental health.
- B Seeking assistance from the animal health professionals.
- C Spending more money on pet healthcare.
- D Understanding the complex needs of pets.
- E Arranging regular check-ups for pets.

<b>答案</b>	D. Understanding the complex needs of pets.
<b>答案分析</b>	Holistic 的意思是 Dealing with or treating the whole of something or someone and not just a part (即是全面的)。Holistic approach 一詞常用於醫療方案，亦見於文章最後一句，提到「更全面的寵物醫療方法反映人們對動物的複雜需求有更深入理解」(This shift towards a more holistic approach to pet healthcare shows a deeper understanding of the complex needs of our animal friends.)，選項 D 完全符合。  而所謂複雜需求 (complex needs)，根據文理推斷是動物的身理和心理問題，選項 A 和 E 只是各表一端，不完全正確。  而選項 B 和 C 根本不是 Holistic approach 的方向，而是寵物主人的態度，也可撇除。

9. Which of the following statements could be concluded from the passage?
- A Pet healthcare industry has become one of the pillar industries in America.
- B Pet healthcare industry has been one of the popular industries among universities.
- C Pet healthcare industry has a high profit margin.
- D Americans accord high priority for their pets.
- E Americans love to spend money for their pets.

<b>答案</b>	D. Americans accord high priority for their pets.
<b>答案分析</b>	<p>選項 A、B 和 C 都是文章完全沒有提過，而且需要有數據比較的情況下才可以得出的結論，顯然並非正確答案。</p> <p>而 D 可以從第一段的「Pet healthcare has become an increasingly vital part of our society, reflecting the growing bond between humans and their animal companions」中，推斷出美國人愈來愈重視寵物 (animal companions)。</p> <p>E 的說法則太籠統，因為文章提到的寵物開銷都關乎醫療服務，而非玩樂或享受，讀者實在以此難以推斷美國人是否為了寵物而「love to spend money」。</p>

10. Which of the following serves the best title for the passage?
- A Pet healthcare
- B Emerging pet healthcare need
- C Understanding the needs of your pet
- D Surging demand for pet healthcare services
- E Treatments for pet depression

<b>答案</b>	C. Understanding the needs of your pet
<b>答案分析</b>	<p>選項 A 作為標題太籠統，不符合「best title」的要求；B 和 D 的用字則稍為偏重經濟的意味，容易誤導讀者以為本文是財經分析，但整篇文章的走向顯然不是以此為中心；E 則只是文章第三段的一個例子，那充其量為段落重點，不足以成為文章題目。</p> <p>餘下只有 C 是最正確的答案，強調人們對於寵物需求的理解和關愛日漸增加。</p>

## Passage 2

The scourge of illegal mining carves a dark silhouette against the backdrop of global industry. It's estimated that over 20% of the world's gold production stems from such operations, which are often tucked away in the remote corners of developing nations. This unregulated industry not only evades taxes but also wreaks havoc on the environment, with over 40 million tons of mercury released into the waters every year.



The human toll is equally staggering; approximately 1 million children work in these hazardous conditions, their futures clouded by the immediate need for survival. They toil alongside adults in an underworld of labor, where safety measures are missing and rights are a forgotten whisper. In these pits, the workers excavate earth's riches while earning less than \$2 a day, a stark contrast to the millions earned by the syndicates running these covert operations.

Environments suffer irreparable damage due to these practices. Amazonian landscapes, once lush and vibrant, now lie barren, scarred by the relentless pursuit of minerals. The statistics are grim: around 50,000 square kilometres of tropical forest, an area equivalent to the size of Costa Rica, have been decimated. Rivers run with the poison of progress, their waters a murky testament to the cost of greed.

Global efforts to curtail illegal mining face numerous challenges, including corruption and the sheer scale of the problem. However, international initiatives are underway, aiming to enforce regulations and promote sustainable practices. The road ahead is long, but the fight against this shadowy industry is a candle in the night, a flicker of hope for a cleaner, more ethical mining future.

1. How many percentage of the world's gold production is attributed to illegal mining?

- A Less than 10%
- B Around 20%
- C More than 20%
- D Approximately 30%
- E 2%

<b>答案</b>	C. More than 20%
<b>答案分析</b>	這是第二篇模擬練習的熱身題，文章首段已寫明「It's estimated that over 20% of the world's gold production stems from such operations.」考生應可馬上選對答案。 這一道題的設計重點是把原文的 over 20% 重新演繹為 more than，檢視考生對英文同義字詞的理解力。不過這也是基本的數據表達，考生只要仔細看清楚題目即可解決。

2. Approximately, how many children are working in illegal mining?

- A 50,000
- B 1 million
- C 2 million
- D 4 million
- E Can't tell