**CHUYÊN ĐỀ 22**

**KỸ NĂNG ĐỌC (READING SKILLS)**

**A. CLOZE TESTS**

A cloze test consists a text passage with some certain word removed (cloze text), test taker must replace the missing words from the given options. Usually students are given four choices. One choice is the best answer. The second is almost as good. The third is off the point. The fourth is the opposite of the correct answer.

• First, slowly read all the text ***without*** filling any of the gaps. Read it two or three times until you have a clear understanding of what the text is about.

• Then ***only*** complete the gaps you are absolutely sure of.

• Next try and find out what the missing words in the remaining gaps are. See which ***part of speech*** may fit in each gap (article?, pronoun?, noun?, adverb?, adjective?, preposition?, conjunction?, verb?) and pay special attention to the ***grammar*** around the words in each gap.

Many of the gaps may include the following:

- *preposition* following a noun, adjective or verb. (Example: good *at* languages)

- *prepositional phrase.* (Example: in spite *of* )

- *adverb. (* Example: He moved to London two years *ago* )

- *connector.* (Example: First, he arrives; *then* he sits down; finally, he leaves.)

- *conjunction.* (Example: *Although* he is five, he can speak five languages.

- *auxiliary verb* . (Example: He *has* won 2 matches)

- an *article* or some other kind of determiner. (Example: I have *no* time)

- a *relative* . (Example: Bob, *who* I met two years ago, is my best friend)

- a *pronoun* , either subject or object. (Example *: it* is difficult to know)

- is there a *comparative* or *superlative* involved? (Example: she's taller *than* me)

• Some sentences may seem to be complete and contain gaps that appear to be unnecessary. If you find gaps like this, you will probably need the following:

- *an adverb.* (Example: He is *always* late)

- *a modal verb* . (Example: They *can* swim very well)

- a word to change the *emphasis* of the sentence: She's good *enough* to be queen

- The problems are *too* difficult

• A few gaps may demand a ***vocabulary item*** consistent with the topic of the text; or a word which is part of an idiomatic expression (example: *Good* heavens!); or a word which collocates with another one (example: *do* a job); or a word which is part of a phrasal verb (example: I was *held* up by traffic).

**SKILL I: ANSWER MAIN IDEA QUESTIONS CORRECTLY**

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| **MAIN IDEA QUESTIONS** | |
| HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION | What is the **topic** of the passage?  What is the **subject** of the passage?  What is the **main idea** of the passage?  What is the author’s **main point** in the passage?  With what is the author **primarily concerned**?  Which of the following would be the **best title**? |
| WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER | The answers to this type of question can generally be determined by looking at the first sentence of each paragraph. |
| HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION | 1. Read the first line of each paragraph. 2. Look for a common theme or idea in the first lines. 3. Pass your eyes quickly over the rest of the passage to check that you have really found the topic sentence(s). 4. Eliminate any definitely wrong answers and choose the best answer from the remaining choices. |

**SKILL 2: RECOGNIZE THE ORGANIZATION OF IDEAS**

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| **ORGANIZATION OF IDEAS** | |
| HOW TO IDENTIFY THE  QUESTION | How is the information in the passage **organized**?  How is the information in the second paragraph related to the information in the first paragraph? |
| WHERE TO FIND THE  ANSWER | The answer to this type of question can generally be determined by looking at the first sentence of the appropriate paragraphs |
| HOW TO ANSWER THE  QUESTION | 1. Read the first line of each paragraph 2. Look for words that show the relationship between the paragraphsp 3. Choose the answer that best expresses the relationship |

**SKILL 3: ANSWER STATED DETAIL QUESTIONS CORRECTLY**

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| **STATED DETAIL QUESTIONS** | |
| HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION | **According to** the passage…  It is **stated** in the passage…  The passage **indicates** that…  Which of the following is **true**..? |
| WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER | The answers to these questions are found in the passage. |
| HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION | 1. Choose a key word in the question. 2. Skim in the appropriate part of the passage for the key word or idea. 3. Read the sentence that contains the key word or idea carefully. 4. Eliminate the definitely wrong answers and choose the best answer from the remaining choices. |

**SKILL 4: FIND “UNSTATED” DETAILS**

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| **“UNSTATED” DETAIL QUESTIONS** | |
| HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION | Which of the following is **not stated**…?  Which of the following is **not mentioned**…?  Which of the following is **not discussed**…?  All of the following are true **except**… |
| WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER | The answers to these questions are found in order in the passage. |
| HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION | 1. Choose a key word in the question. 2. Scan the appropriate place in the passage for the key word (or related idea). 3. Read the sentence that contains the key word or idea carefully. 4. Look for the answers that are definitely true according to the passage. Eliminate those answers. 5. Choose the answer that is not true or not discussed in the passage. |

**SKILL 5: FIND PRONOUN REFERENTS**

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| **PRONOUN REFERENTS** | |
| HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION | The pronoun “…” in line X refers to which of the following? |
| WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER | The line where the pronoun is located is given in the question. The noun that the pronoun refers to is generally found before the pronoun. |
| HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION | 1. Locate the pronoun in the passage. 2. Look before the pronoun for nouns that agree with the pronoun. 3. Try each of the nouns in the context in place of the pronoun. 4. Eliminate any definitely wrong answers and choose the best answer from the remaining choices. |

**SKILL 6- ANSWER IMPLIED DETAIL QUESTIONS CORRECTLY**

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| **IMPLIED DETAIL QUESTIONS** | |
| HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION | It is **implied** in the passage that …..  It can be **inferred** from the passage that ….  It is most **likely** that ….  What **probably** happened ….? |
| WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER | The answers to these questions are generally found in order in the passage. |
| HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION | 1. Choose a key word in the question 2. Scan the passage for the key word (or a related idea) 3. Carefully read the sentence that contains the key word 4. Look for an answer that could be true, according to that sentence |

**SKILL 7: ANSWER TRANSITION QUESTIONS CORRECTLY**

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| **TRANSITION QUESTIONS** | |
| HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION | The paragraph **preceding** the passage probably …  What is the most likely in the paragraph **following** the passage? |
| WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER | The answers can generally be found in the first line of the passage for a preceding question. The answer can generally be found in the last line for a following question. |
| HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION | 1. Read the first line for a *preceding* question. 2. Read the last line for a *following* question. 3. Draw a conclusion about what comes before or after. 4. Choose the answer that is reflected in the first or last line of the passage. |

**SKILL 8: FIND DEFINITIONS FROM STRUCTURAL CLUES**

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| **STRUCTURAL CLUES** | | |
| HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION | What is the **meaning** of “X” in line Y?  The word “X” in line Y is **closest in meaning** to…  The word “X” in line Y **could best to replaced** by… | |
| TYPES OF CLUES | Punctuation | comma, parentheses, dashes |
| Restatement | or, that is, in other words, i.e. |
| Examples | such as, for example, e.g. |
| WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER | Information to help you determine what something means will generally be found the punctuation clue, the restatement clue, or the example clue. | |
| HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION | 1. Find the word in the passage. 2. Locate any structural clues. 3. Read the part of the passage after the structural clue carefully. 4. Eliminate any definitely wrong answers and choose the best answer from the remaining choices. | |

**SKILL 9: DETERMINE MEANINGS FROM WORD PARTS**

When you are asked to determine the meaning of a long word that you do not know in the reading sec The following chart contains a few word parts that you will need to know.

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| **A SHORT LIST OF WORD PARTS** | | | | | |
| **PART** | **MEANING** | **EXAMPLE** | **PART** | **MEANING** | **EXAMPLE** |
| CONTRA | (against) | *contra*st | DIC | (say) | *dic*tate |
| MAL | (bad) | *mal*content | DOMIN | (master) | *domin*ant |
| MIS | (error) | *mis*take | JUD | (judge) | *jud*gment |
| SUB | (under) | *sub*way | MOR | (death) | *mor*tal |
| DEC | (ten) | *dec*ade | SPEC | (see) | *spec*tator |
| MULTI | (many) | *multi*ple | TERR | (earth) | *terr*itory |
| SOL | (one) | *sol*o | VER | (turn) | di*ver*t |
| TRI | (three) | *tri*ple | VIV | (live) | re*viv*e |

**SKILL 10: USE CONTEXT TO DETERMINE MEANINGS OF DIFFICULT WORDS**

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| VOCABULARY QUESTIONS CONTAINING DIFFICULT WORDS | |
| HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION | What is the **meaning** of “X” in line Y?  The word “X” in line Y is **closest in meaning** to…. |
| WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER | Information to help you understand the meaning of an unknown word can often be found in the context surrounding the unknown word. |
| HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION | 1. Find the word in the passage. 2. Read the sentence that contains the word carefully. 3. Look for context clues to help you understand the meaning. 4. Choose the answer that the context indicates. |

**SKILL 11: USE CONTEXT TO DETERMINE MEANINGS OF SIMPLE WORDS**

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| VOCABULARY QUESTIONS CONTAINING SIMPLE WORDS | |
| HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION | What is the **meaning** of “X” in line Y?  The word “X” in line Y **could best to replaced by**…. |
| WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER | Information to help you understand the secondary meaning of a simple word can often be found in the context surrounding the word. |
| HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION | 1. Find the word in the passage. 2. Read the sentence that contains the word carefully. 3. Look for context clues to help you understand the meaning. 4. Choose the answer that the context indicates. |

**SKILL 12: DETERMINE WHERE SPECIFIC INFORMATION IS FOUND**

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| **QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE IN THE PASSAGE** | |
| HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION | **Where** in the passage…..? |
| WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER | The answer can be in any of the lines listed in the answers to the question. |
| HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION | 1. Choose a key word or idea in the question. 2. Skim the appropriate part(s) of the passage looking for the key word or idea. 3. Choose the answer that contains the key word or idea. |

**SKILL 13: DETERMINE THE TONE, PURPOSE, OR COURSE**

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| **TONE, PURPOSE, OR COURSE** | | |
| HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION | What is the **tone** of the passage?  What is the author’s **purpose** in this passage?  In which **course** would this reading be assigned | |
| WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER | tone | Look for clues throughout the passage that show if the author is showing some emotion rather than just pressing facts. |
| purpose | Draw a conclusion about the purpose from the main idea and supporting ideas. |
| course | Draw a conclusion about the course from the topic of the passage and the supporting ideas. |
| HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION | Tone | 1. Skim the passage looking for clues that the author is showing some emotion. 2. Choose the answer that identifies the emotion. |
| Purpose | 1. Study the main idea in the topic sentence and the details used to support the main idea. 2. Draw a conclusion about the purpose. |
| course | 1. Study the main idea in the topic sentence and the details used to support the main idea. 2. Draw a conclusion about the course. |