

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

# Exam Prep- Comprehension

## READING STEPS

1. Study the short **extract** at the top of the passage and **highlight the keywords**
2. **Skim** through the **questions**, followed by the **passage**
3. Read and **analyse** the passage

## Text 2: Narrative

*The text below describes the daily frisking of political prisoners in a forced labour camp. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5 – 15 in the Question Paper Booklet.*

- 1 Now, Shukhov was on the point of being frisked. Today he had nothing to conceal. He would step forward fearlessly. He slowly unbuttoned his coat and undid the canvas belt round his wadded jacket and although he could not remember having anything forbidden, eight years in camp had given him the habit of caution. He thrust a hand into his knee-pocket to make sure it was empty. 5
- 2 However, there lay a small piece of broken hacksaw-blade, the tiny length of steel that he had picked up in his thriftiness at the building-site without any intention of bringing it to camp. He had not meant to bring it but now, what a pity to throw it away. Why, he could make a little knife out of it, very handy for cobbling or tailoring! If he had intended to bring it with him, he would have thought hard about where to conceal it. However, now the guards were only two rows ahead and the first of these rows was already stepping forward to be searched. His choice had to be as swift as the wind. 10
- 3 Should he take cover behind the row in front of him and toss the bit of metal in the snow (it would be noticed but they would not know who the culprit was) or keep it on him? For that strip of hacksaw he could get ten days in the cells, if they classed it as a knife. However, a cobbling knife was money, it was bread. It would be a pity to throw it away. 15
- 4 He slipped it into his left mitten. At that moment, the next row was ordered to step forward and be searched. Now the last three men stood in full view – Shukhov and two other prisoners. 20

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- 5 Due to the fact that they were three and the guards facing them were five, Shukhov could try a ruse. He could choose which of the two guards on the right to present himself to. He decided against a young ruddy-faced one and went for an older man with a grey moustache. The older one, of course, was experienced and would find the blade easily if he wanted to, but because of his age, he must have gotten fed up with the work. It must stink in his nostrils by now like burning sulphur. 25
- 6 Meanwhile, Shukhov had removed both mittens, the empty one and the one with the hacksaw, and held them in one hand (the empty one in front) together with the untied rope-belt. He fully unbuttoned his jacket, lifted high the edges of his coat and jacket (never had he been so servile at the search but now he wanted to show he was innocent – Come on, frisk me!), and at the word of command stepped forward. 30
- 7 The guard slapped Shukhov's sides and back and outside of his knee-pocket. Nothing there. He kneaded the edges of his coat and jacket. Nothing there either. He was about to pass him through when, for safety's sake, he crushed the mitten that Shukhov held out to him – the empty one. 35
- 8 The guard crushed it in his hand and Shukhov felt as though pincers of iron were crushing everything inside him. One such squeeze on the other mitten and he would be sunk. He imagined how weak he would grow, how difficult he would find it to get back to his present condition, neither fed nor starving and an urgent prayer rose to his heart, "Oh Lord, save me! Don't let them send me back to the cells." 40
- 9 While all this raced through his mind, the guard, after finishing with the right-hand mitten, stretched a hand out to deal with the other (he would have squeezed them at the same moment if Shukhov had not held them in separate hands). Just then the guard heard his chief who was in a hurry to get on and shouted to the escort, "Come along, bring up the machine-works column." Thus, instead of examining the other mitten, the old guard waved Shukhov on. He was through. 45

Adapted from *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn

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**ANSWERING STEPS**

1. Read the **question**, **underline the keywords** and figure out the **question type**
2. Find the relevant **answers, clues, or context**, underline them and number them
3. Answer the question in the most read the question once more and **structure an answer** that complies perfectly with the question requirement (Think **ACS- Accurate, Complete and Specific**)

5.

QNS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

QT: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

ANS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6.

QNS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

QT: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

ANS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

7.  
QNS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

QT: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

ANS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8.  
QNS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

QT: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

ANS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9.  
QNS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

QT: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

ANS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

10.  
QNS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

QT: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

ANS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11(a)  
QNS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

QT: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

ANS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11 (b)  
QNS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

QT: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

ANS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

12.  
QNS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

QT: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

ANS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13 (a)  
QNS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

QT: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

ANS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13 (b)  
QNS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

QT: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

ANS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

14.

QNS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

QT: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

ANS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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15.

QNS: The structure of the text reflects

Complete the flowchart by choosing one phrase from the box to summarise

There are some extra phrases in the box you do not need to use.

QT: \_\_\_\_\_

( )

**Main focus**

a thorough search	unpleasant experience	a desperate situation
inviting trouble	breaking the rules	working at building-site
calculating the risk		

**Flow chart**

