

Advance Reading Guide

THE CEREALS

Locating Central Ideas:

1. A thesis statement is the sentence that states the central idea of an essay. Locate the thesis statement of the whole chapter.
2. The main idea is central thought meaning or gist of a passage. Identify the main idea of each section.
3. A topic sentence is a sentence intended to express the main idea in a paragraph or passage. Identify the topic sentence in the last two paragraphs of each section.

Text Structure:

In this chapter, you will be introduced to the first method of development. Methods of development are the ways in which a paragraph or extended piece of writing is developed. A number of methods are often used, either individually, or sometimes within other methods of development. In this chapter, the author uses the classification method. In the classification method, the writer groups people, things, objects or ideas, abstractions into sets or categories with common features, as dates by centuries, words by grammatical function and houses by type of construction. In this way both classifying and describing them.

After reading the chapter, identify the feature, category, or scheme according to which the author organized the whole chapter, each section and each subsection.

Sentence Comprehension:

A. Anaphora:

A process where a word or phrase refers back to another word or phrase which was used earlier in the text, e.g. *Tom likes ice cream but Bill can't eat it.*

It refers back to ice cream: it is a substitute for ice cream, which is called the antecedent of it. Some verbs may be anaphoric, such as the verb do in: *Mary works hard and so does Doris.* ***does*** is anaphoric and is a substitute for works.

Find the antecedent for each underlined word in the following sentences:

1. The climate of the Mediterranean regions satisfies these conditions, and so does that of the central areas of continents in the temperate zone. In the latter the rain comes mainly in the summer, and falls in the growing period of the early summer months.

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2. The less developed and less densely populated countries of Eastern and south-eastern Europe. In these lands wheat is grown by small peasants farmers primarily to satisfy their needs.
3. The 'new' lands, such as Canada, Argentina, Australia, and Central United States, where cultivation is of the extensive type on farms of very large area.
4. The failure of Russia's ploughing up of steppel and in the late 1950's, several disastrous crop failures in China, and shortages in India and elsewhere has resulted in much of the carry-over being disposed of.
5. Maize or Indian wheat, was originally grown in America, whence its cultivation has spread to most of the countries of the old World. It is more prolific than wheat, the latest hybrids yielding twice as much grain by weight. The grain is used as human food in Mexico, as 'mealies' it is the staple food grain of the damper parts of Africa.
6. The bulk of the maize of this region is used for feeding animals.
7. All the states of Central America and the Andean states of south America grow maize for use as native food.
8. Although Argentina produces so much maize than the United states, the former country was the leading world exporter until 1939.
9. Russian production of maize as of other cereals, has greatly increased during the last few years and she is now starting to export appreciable quantities.
10. Most of the rice grown is of the lowland or swamp type, which requires the above condition, but another variety, known as upland rice, is grown in hilly districts with their drier soil conditions.

B. Ellipsis:

Ellipsis is the omission of words or phrases from sentences where they are unnecessary because they have already been referred to or mentioned, e.g.: I don't want to go, but you can [go] if you want to [go].

Supply the ellipted part in each of the following sentences:

1. Rubber would not flourish in England, nor the olive in the Amazon Basin.
2. The distribution of, and the conditions for the successful cultivation of, the chief products, both food and raw materials, will be outlined.

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3. Wheat is the most important of all the cereals, and has been cultivated for several thousand years.
4. The climate of the Mediterranean regions satisfies these conditions, and so does that of the central areas of continents in the temperate zone.
5. Hence, wheat can be sown at the end of the monsoon rains and harvested in the winter months.
6. Wheat yields have risen in most countries in recent years, owing to more scientific methods of farming and the increased use of fertilisers.
7. Oats flourishes in the in the wheat lands, but has a short growing season and will ripen in regions too moist and too cool for wheat.
8. Unlike oats, it will grow in the warmer and drier lands of the temperate zone, and is therefore an important crop in Mediterranean lands, such as Morocco and the countries of south-west Asia.

C. Definition:

A statement of meaning; a precise explanation or example of the meaning of a word or phrase. Underline the defined word in the following sentences, then identify the method that the author used to define the word and show its meaning.

1. The 'corn belt' of the united states, i.e. the central states of U.S.A. between the Canadian border and the latitude of St Louis.
2. Some maize is grown in the southern states of the United states, i.e. in the Cotton Belt.
3. A moderately stiff loam, or a clayley soil.
4. Maize or Indian corn, was originally grown in America.

D. Examples:

Explanatory examples provide details, particulars, specific instances to explain statements made by the author to help the reader fully understand the point being made.

Identify the supporting examples in the following sentences, the point they illustrate and the devices that help in locating them.

1. The densely-populated countries of Western Europe, viz. France, Britain, Belgium,

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Holland, Germany, etc.

2. In 'new' lands, such as Canada, Argentina, Australia, and Central United States, where cultivation is of the extensive type on farms of very large area.
3. Unlike oats, it will grow in the warmer and drier lands of the temperate zone, and is therefore an important crop in Mediterranean lands, such as Morocco and the countries of south-west Asia.
4. The dried leaves and stems are used for paper making, and in parts of America, e.g. the lower St Lawrence Valley, the young green shoots are stored in silos for the winter feeding of cattle.
5. Before the war of 1939-45 rice production was increasing in such countries as Korea, Siam, Indonesia, and Japan.

E. Cause-effect relationships:

A stated or implied association between some outcome and the conditions which brought it about. The author describes why things are the way they are or why something happened by describing causes and effects.

Read each sentence, underline the device that signals a cause-effect relationship, then identify the effect (outcome) and the cause (condition) that brought it about in each.

e.g.: *Because of the high price of land and the relatively dense population, farmers cultivate the land intensively, in order to obtain a high yield*

cause

outcome

(a) high price of land

(1) farmers cultivate the land intensively

(b) dense population

(a) farmers cultivate the land intensively

(2) farmers will obtain a high yield

1. Wheat yields have risen in most countries in recent years, owing to more scientific methods of farming and the increased use of fertilisers.
2. The area sown to wheat has increased by nearly one quarter in the last twenty-five years and owing to improved types of wheat and more scientific methods of cultivation production increased by nearly one half.
3. But the failure of Russia's ploughing up of steppe land in the late nineteen-fifties, several disastrous crop failures in China, and shortages in India and elsewhere has resulted in much of the carry-over being disposed of wheat.

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4. Those countries which have a large production and at the same time a very dense population, so that there is no surplus for export.
5. Those countries which have an appreciably lower production but a much smaller population, so that there are large supplies for export
6. The continued rapid increase in population and the dislocation due to war resulted in an alarming shortage of rice.
7. Unlike oats, it (barley) will grow in the warmer and drier lands of the temperate zone, and is therefore an important crop in Mediterranean lands, such as Morocco and the countries of south-west Asia.
8. Rye is still another cereal of the temperate zone. Its outstanding characteristic is that it will thrive in very poor soils, though it does not grow so far north as wheat and barley because it is injured by frost.
9. In these lands wheat is grown by small peasant farmers primarily to satisfy their own needs.

F. Comparison-contrast:

Read each sentence, then underline the devices that are used to signal the placement of unlike ideas, situations, or characters together.

e.g.: Those countries that have a very large production and at the same time a very dense population have no surplus for export. Such countries, in spite of being the chief rice producers, often import rice.

contrasting ideas:

(a) such countries being the chief rice producers

(b) often import rice

1. Those countries which have an appreciably lower production but a much smaller population, so that there are large supplies for export.
2. The continued rapid increase in population and the dislocation due to war resulted in an alarming shortage of rice. By 1962-3, however, world production of unhusked rice reached a record figure of about 250 million tons, more than sufficient to meet the demand.
3. Oats flourishes in the in the wheat lands, but has a short growing season and will ripen in regions too moist and too cool for wheat.

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4. This is another temperate zone cereal which grows well in the wheat areas, but it has a much greater range than wheat.
5. It will grow, like oats, in cooler climates, and extends into more northerly latitudes than any other cereal.
6. Unlike oats, it will grow in the warmer and drier lands of the temperate zone, and is therefore an important crop in Mediterranean lands, such as Morocco and the countries of south-west Asia.
7. Rye is still another cereal of the temperate zone. Its outstanding characteristic is that it will thrive in very poor soils, though it does not grow so far north as wheat and barley because it is injured by frost.
8. As 'mealies' it is the staple food grain of the damper parts of Africa.

G. Parenthetical Expressions:

1. The principal importers of wheat are the United Kingdom, India, Japan, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Brazil, and, recently on quite a large scale, China, and the USSR.
2. The dried leaves and stems are used for paper making , and in parts of America, e.g. the lower St Lawrence Valley, the young green shoots are stored in silos for the winter feeding of cattle.
3. Russian production of maize, as of other cereals, has greatly increased during the last few years and she is now starting to export appreciable quantities.
4. Those countries which have a large production and at the same time a very dense population, so that there is no surplus for export.
5. Those countries which have an appreciably lower production but a much smaller population, so that there are large supplies for export.
6. before their recent industrialization, Romania and Hungary, with large fertile plains, had considerable export surpluses, despite low yields.

H. Compound Sentences:

Underline the conjunction in each sentence and then identify the conjoined parts:

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1. Unlike oats, it will grow in the warmer and drier lands of the temperate zone, and is therefore an important crop in Mediterranean lands, such as Morocco and the countries of south-west Asia.
2. But the failure of Russia's ploughing up of steppe land in the late nineteen-fifties, several disastrous crop failures in China, and shortages in India and elsewhere has resulted in much of the carry-over being disposed of wheat.
3. The area sown to wheat has increased by nearly one quarter in the last twenty-five years and owing to improved types of wheat and more scientific methods of cultivation production increased by nearly one half.
4. But the failure of Russia's ploughing up of steppe land in the late nineteen-fifties, several disastrous crop failures in China, and shortages in India and elsewhere has resulted in much of the carry-over being disposed of wheat.

Locating Information:

1. Which areas of the world are densely-populated ?
2. Which natural vegetation regions of the world are mentioned in the text?
3. Which agricultural regions of the world are mentioned in the text?
4. Which land types of the world are mentioned in the text?
5. Which climates of the worlds are mentioned in the text?
6. Which areas of the world have a heavy rainfall as mentioned in the text.

Interpretive Questions:

1. Why do the USSR., USA. India, Australia, China, Argentina, Pakistan, Italy, Turkey, and Britain differ in their production of wheat, rice, maize, rice, oats, barley, rye, and millet?
2. Which factors affect the production of cereals in general?
3. In India, Ceylon and Japan there is a tendency to substitute wheat for rice as a food grain. Why?
4. In your opinion, which cereal would flourish in Saudi Arabia? Why?(p. 253).

Comprehension Question:

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1. Which is the oldest of all the cereals?
2. What is the growing season for wheat, maize and rice?
3. In Canada the yield per acre has nearly doubled in the last fifteen years. why? (p. 248).
4. a few years ago the main wheat-exporting countries had accumulated in aggregate a carry-over of unsold wheat equivalent to about four years' normal export. Why? (p. 248).
5. The USSR is now by far the world's largest producer of wheat. Why? (p.249).
6. The United Kingdom crop, about 3.5 million tons, is 2.5 times as large as 30 years ago, and now accounts for almost half of our requirements. Why? How much wheat did the UK produce 30 years ago? How much wheat does the UK consume?
7. The maize is the basis of the American meat packing. Why? (p. 250).
8. Why is corn grown in the Corn Belt and the Cotton Belt? (p. 250).
9. The total world production has increased by about one-fifth in the last twenty years. Why? (p. 251).
10. The USSR, Poland and Germany are by far the largest producers of rye, with about sixteen, eight, and three million tons respectively. How much rye does each country produce?
11. From Figure 135, find out the country with the least increase in the production of wheat over the 30-year period specified.
12. From Figure 135, What is the expected wheat production for China will be in the year 2000?

Word Meaning:

Read the passage, then find words and phrases that have the same meaning as the following words and phrases:

The growing period, monsoon rains, cultivate, requirements, farming, yield, prolific, home consumption, leading exporter, moisture, morainic soils, rice culture, large supplies for export, a much greater range than wheat, northerly latitudes,

II. Give the meaning of the following:

1. farmers cultivate the land intensively (p. 247)
2. in order to obtain a high yield (p. 247)

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3. Britain grows only 45% of her requirements (p. 247)
4. considerable export surpluses (248)
5. cultivation of the extensive type (248)
6. has resulted in much of the carry-over disposed of (p. 249)
7. maize is more prolific than wheat, the latest hybrids yielding twice as much as much grain by weight (p. 249).
8. She is now starting to export appreciable quantities (p. 251).
9. The transplantation of young seedlings in the flooded water (p. 252)
10. These countries have an appreciably lower production (p. 252)
11. alarming shortage of rice (p. 253)
12. world rice production of unhusked rice reached a record figure of about 250 million tons (p. 253)
13. substitute wheat for rice (p. 253)