AILET

How to Master English for CLAT UG [Part 8]

Adtiya Aryan · 04 Feb 2026

Preparing for the English section of CLAT UG is not about memorizing complex words or rushing through passages. It is about learning how to think like a reader and, more importantly, how to think like a writer.

The moment you start approaching passages from the author's perspective rather than your own, the entire section becomes more logical and less complicated. CLAT does not test how fast you can read.

It tests how deeply you can understand, interpret, and align yourself with the way a passage is written. Once you understand this idea, your accuracy and confidence naturally improve.

1. Step Into the Author's Mindset

The very first and most important habit you need to build is this: read the passage from the author's perspective, not from a general point of view. You are not just reading words, you are entering into the mental space of the person who wrote them. Ask yourself while reading:

Why did the author write this passage? What emotion, concern, or motivation is driving this piece? Is the tone critical, neutral, persuasive, or reflective? Try to imagine what the author might have been thinking before writing. Were they reacting to a social issue? Were they trying to explain a complex idea?

This shift in mindset changes the way you approach questions. Instead of picking answers that sound right to you, you start choosing options that the author would agree with. Most CLAT questions are designed to test your understanding of the author's intent, logic, and tone. When you answer from within the author's view of thinking, the correct option looks more natural and relatable.

1. Vocabulary

For vocabulary, one of the most effective and practical sources is reading a newspaper . Reading it every day should not be optional, it should become a habit you follow religiously, especially the editorial pages.

Editorials expose you to formal language, structured arguments, and opinion-based writing, which is very similar to the tone and style of CLAT passages.

Follow a simple and disciplined routine:

- Every day, write down at least 10 new words.
- Do not stop at their meanings.
- Try to use these words in your daily conversations or writing.

For example, if you learn a word like “ambiguous,” use it in a sentence when talking to a friend or writing a message: “The instructions were quite ambiguous.” This practice helps you move words from passive recognition to active usage. Vocabulary grows strongest when it becomes part of your real-life language rather than something limited to your notebook or exam practice.

1. Read the Questions First: The Game-Changer

One of the most effective techniques for improving both speed and accuracy is this, read the questions before reading the passage. When you do this, your brain already knows what it needs to look for.

Here you are reading with a clear purpose. Your focus becomes sharper. You start noticing relevant arguments, specific paras, and important shifts in tone because you already know what the questions are asking.

This method prevents you from wasting your time and mental energy on details that are not required and helps you stay aligned with what actually matters for scoring. Over time, this approach trains your mind to read strategically rather than emotionally/ casually.

1. Why Aeon Essays Matter

If you want to practice high-quality passages, Aeon Essays are highly recommended. These essays cover a wide range of genres, such as psychology, philosophy, technology, economics, ethics, culture, and social issues. This diversity is important because CLAT is an unpredictable exam.

You might get a passage on finance even if you have never studied commerce. You might face a passage on artificial intelligence even if you are not from a science background. The challenge in such cases is unfamiliarity.

When you practice Aeon Essays once or twice a week, you slowly develop comfort with different writing styles and subject areas. Over time, even unfamiliar topics begin to feel manageable

because you recognize the structure, tone, and pattern of arguments. This familiarity builds confidence and significantly improves comprehension during the actual exam.

1. Skimming

You need to learn how to skim passages effectively considering time is limited in CLAT. Skimming does not mean randomly skipping lines. It means reading selectively and strategically.

A practical way to skim is:

- Read the introduction carefully to understand the theme
- Move quickly through examples and background explanations
- Slow down when the author presents opinions, arguments, or conclusions

If you are familiar with a topic, such as psychology or sociology, you can move slightly faster because you already understand the context. This allows you to save time without losing the essence of the passage.

Skimming is a skill that improves with practice. The more you read, the better you become at identifying which parts of a passage deserve your full attention.

1. Learn the Art of Comprehension

Comprehension is not about reading more but understanding better. Your goal should be to identify:

- The central idea of the passage
- The key arguments supporting that idea
- The tone and attitude of the author
- The overall direction in which the passage is moving

At every stage, return to the author’s point of view. Ask yourself what the author is trying to establish, defend, or question. The more you read newspapers, essays, and long-form articles, the more naturally your brain begins to recognize writing patterns.

Over time, you will start predicting the flow of a passage and understanding its structure even before reaching the end.

Conclusion

Mastering English for CLAT UG is ultimately about learning how to see beyond the surface of words and into the structure that holds a passage together. Every paragraph, example and argument exists for a reason, and recognizing how these parts connect, helps you answer the questions correctly.

When you train yourself to notice how an author builds an idea or probably how a claim is introduced, supported, and finally interpreted in the passage, you stop reading the passage and start engaging with it.

Over time, this method turns the questions and the passage – more approachable, more logical, and way less intimidating. With regular practice of reading thoroughly, the English section becomes far easier.