BLOGS

# Passage-based Questions for CLAT English Section- PART II

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## Passage

It was the year 1866, and the world was abuzz with rumors of a mysterious creature haunting the seas. Ships reported sightings of a long, luminous object moving at incredible speeds, sometimes glowing with a strange light beneath the waves.

Some believed it was a gigantic narwhal, others thought it was a sea monster unknown to science. Newspapers published wild stories, and the public imagination was captured by the mystery.

Professor Pierre Aronnax, a French scientist and expert on marine life, was invited to join an expedition to find and identify the creature. Accompanied by his faithful servant Conseil and the Canadian harpooner Ned Land, Professor Aronnax boarded the American frigate Abraham Lincoln, which set sail in pursuit of the beast.

For weeks, the ship scoured the oceans, chasing rumors and following reports from other vessels. The crew grew restless, and some began to doubt the creature even existed. But one night, as the ship sailed through the Pacific, a cry went up from the lookout. There, in the moonlight, was the mysterious object—long, glowing, and moving with astonishing speed.

The Abraham Lincoln gave chase, and Ned Land prepared his harpoon. Suddenly, the creature turned and struck the ship with a tremendous blow, throwing Professor Aronnax, Conseil, and Ned Land into the sea. They clung to a floating object, which they soon realized was not a living creature at all, but a metal vessel shaped like a giant fish.

They were rescued by the crew of this strange craft and brought aboard. To their astonishment, they found themselves inside a marvelous submarine, the Nautilus, commanded by the enigmatic Captain Nemo.

The Nautilus was a technological wonder, powered by electricity and capable of traveling great distances beneath the sea. Its walls were lined with books and treasures from the ocean floor, and

its windows offered views of the underwater world.

Captain Nemo explained that he had built the Nautilus to escape from the world above, which he saw as corrupt and violent. He and his crew lived apart from society, exploring the wonders of the deep and collecting knowledge and art. Professor Aronnax was fascinated by the scientific marvels of the Nautilus and the mysteries of the ocean, but Ned Land longed for freedom and plotted escape.

As the Nautilus journeyed through the world's oceans, the three companions witnessed extraordinary sights—sunken ships, coral forests, and strange sea creatures. They visited the ruins of Atlantis, fought off giant squids, and traveled under the polar ice. All the while, they wondered if they would ever return to the surface and to their former lives.

**Source: From "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" by Jules Verne**

1. **What is the primary theme explored in this passage?**

A. Human greed and exploitation of the oceans
B. The clash between science and religion
C. Exploration and the quest for knowledge
D. The inevitability of war and destruction

**Correct Answer:** C

**Explanation:** The passage emphasizes scientific discovery, curiosity, and the exploration of unknown realms like the deep sea. Professor Aronnax's fascination with the Nautilus and underwater life underscores the theme of humanity's thirst for knowledge.

2. **Which narrative perspective is used in this passage?**

A. First-person from Captain Nemo's point of view
B. Third-person omniscient
C. First-person from Professor Aronnax's perspective
D. Second-person narration

**Correct Answer:** C

**Explanation:** The original novel is narrated by Professor Aronnax in the first person. While this excerpt doesn't include "I," it summarizes events from his point of view and centers on his experiences.

3. **How does the setting of the Nautilus contribute to the story's tone?**

A. It emphasizes the violence and unpredictability of life at sea.

B. It reinforces a sense of confinement and despair.

C. It creates a mood of wonder and intellectual fascination.

D. It presents a bleak, utilitarian lifestyle devoid of pleasure.

**Correct Answer:** C

**Explanation:** The description of the Nautilus includes treasures, books, and stunning views of the sea, creating a mood of awe and fascination with technology and nature.

4. **What does Captain Nemo's retreat to the sea suggest about his character?**

A. He is a coward fleeing justice.

B. He is disillusioned with human society and seeks isolation.

C. He wants to dominate the oceans for power.

D. He suffers from a fear of the outside world.

**Correct Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Captain Nemo explicitly states he has turned away from the corrupt and violent world above, suggesting he is deeply disillusioned and prefers a self-imposed exile beneath the sea.

5. **What role does Ned Land play in the story's central conflict?**

A. He provides comic relief to an otherwise dark narrative.

B. He represents the emotional core of the Nautilus crew.

C. He embodies resistance to confinement and yearns for freedom.

D. He is Captain Nemo's loyal second-in-command.

**Correct Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Unlike Professor Aronnax, who is intrigued by the submarine, Ned Land desires freedom and plots escape, representing a human need for liberty over intellectual curiosity.

6. **What literary device is most clearly used in the depiction of the Nautilus?**

A. Hyperbole

B. Symbolism

C. Irony

D. Satire

**Correct Answer:** B

**Explanation:** The Nautilus is symbolic of human ingenuity, technological advancement, and a utopia removed from societal flaws. It also represents both freedom (exploration) and confinement (isolation).

7. **Which of the following best describes the structure of the passage?**

A. Chronological recounting of events leading up to life on the Nautilus

B. Non-linear flashbacks interwoven with present-day narrative

C. A conversation between Nemo and Aronnax interspersed with historical exposition

D. An introspective diary entry focused on Nemo's personal views

**Correct Answer:** A

**Explanation:** The passage moves in chronological order from the rumors of the sea creature to the discovery of the Nautilus and the beginning of life aboard it.

8. **How does the author build suspense leading up to the discovery of the Nautilus?**

A. By describing strange storms and superstitions

B. By emphasizing delays and slow progress of the ship

C. Through sightings of a mysterious glowing object and the sudden attack

D. Through emotional conversations among the crew

**Correct Answer:** C

**Explanation:** The mysterious glowing creature, the sudden appearance at sea, and the dramatic attack all serve to heighten suspense before revealing the Nautilus.

9. **What can be inferred about Conseil's role based on the passage?**

A. He serves as a foil to Captain Nemo's darkness.

B. He is a passive character who follows Aronnax loyally.

C. He challenges the scientific ideas presented on the Nautilus.

D. He acts as the comic relief in tense situations.

**Correct Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Conseil is described as Aronnax's "faithful servant" and does not appear to make independent choices, suggesting a supporting, obedient role.

10. **What deeper philosophical question does the existence of the Nautilus raise?**

A. Is it ethical to use sea creatures as a power source?
B. Should humanity explore forbidden territories?
C. Can one truly escape society, or does isolation create new prisons?
D. Is there a scientific explanation for every mystery?

**Correct Answer:** C
**Explanation:** Captain Nemo's withdrawal from society creates a self-sustained world, yet the ongoing tension among his guests suggests that isolation might not provide true freedom or peace.