

VERBAL TIPS (RC)

Every passage has two main parts:

→ Content

→ Intent

Passage structure ~ Always break down the passage into these 4 parts.

Identify the 4 parts as described below:

① Introduction to the subject

② Author's stance

③ Corroboration of the stance

④ Summary / Conclusion

Target ② and ④ for finding out the 'intent.'

Target ① and ③ for finding out the 'content.'

'Primary concern' ~ intent

To understand what primary concern, or intent is, focus on the question:

'What is the author doing?'

rather than,

'What is the author saying? (literally)'

→ This will lead you astray, hence avoid.

Places to look at for the stance

- ⇒ First 2-3 lines
- ⇒ Last line of 1st para
- ⇒ 1st line of 2nd para
- ⇒ Last few lines of last para.
- ⇒ A few lines after starting, in the 1st para.

IMPORTANT TIPS:

Don't emphasise on understanding and retaining the bulk of the passage. Key phrases / words will suffice.

GENERAL POINTERS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- ①
 - ⇒ Do not begin with reading the passage right off the bat. Read question number 1 first and THEN read the passage.
 - ⇒ Use the techniques mentioned for each type of question till you can answer Q. No. 1.
 - ⇒ Once answered, stop reading, go back to Q. No. 2 and then resume reading, if required.
 - ⇒ So on, and so forth.
 - ②
 - ⇒ Extreme* answer choices are almost always wrong.
- * extreme ~ quantifiers that leave no scope

for exceptions.

~ qualifiers and intensifiers that leave no scope for exceptions.

~ modals that misinterpret the mood of structure of the sentence.

Examples:

'All' ~ quantifier; extreme in nature

each	never	all
every	only	none
always	exclusively	

- ③ Correct answers are most often paraphrases of a sentence in the passage rather than direct quotes. Look for keywords / key phrases.

Paraphrases ~ ✓

Quotes ~ ✗

#

DIFFERENT QUESTION TYPES:

① 'Primary purpose' strategy

~ Here we need to identify the author's stance

~ Use the tips mentioned previously for this

→ When confused between choosing an idea from introduction or ~~or~~ conclusion, choose the one aligning with the conclusion.

→ Signal words of author's stance:

however, rather, but, yet, ...

→ Process of elimination:

① understated answer choices ~

This is taken from CONTENT (i.e., the examples that are used by the author in the passage to strengthen/weaken the argument).

We need INTENT! Examples are for corroboration of CONTENT, not INTENT.

② Look for a repeated phrase that represents the idea.

②

'Tone based' strategy

→ Locate the subject of the question and identify the ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS and VERBS that the author uses for this subject.

Look ~~for~~ for words that appreciate/condemn and so on.

⇒ Process of elimination:

① If stuck between two answer choices that almost mean the same but differ in degree, always prefer the milder of the two options.

Example: 'admiration' & 'adulation'
choose 'admiration' as it is milder in degree compared to 'adulation'.

② Avoid extreme answer choices.

③

'Organisation (of passage)' type Q strategy

⇒ Consider the answer choices one by one and try to superimpose them phrase by phrase on to the passage and validate one.

④

'Acc. to the passage ...'

⑤

'Inference' based

} strategy

⇒ Locate the root (keyword / key phrase) of the question.

⇒ Locate the root in the passages. Read $\pm 2-3$ lines around the root.

⇒ The paraphrase in these lines will be the answer.

⑥

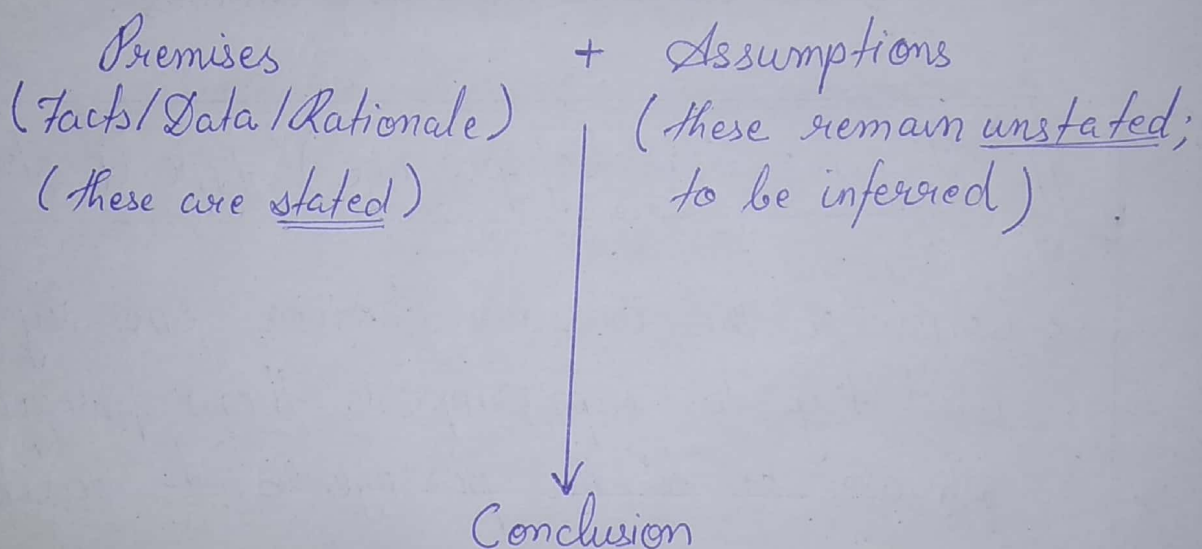
Critical reasoning question

⇒ These are of three kinds

- * Assumption
- * Strengthen the argument
- * Weaken the argument

⇒ Argument = Premises + Conclusion.

Whenever we come across an argument, we must first identify the conclusion.



@ ~~Assay~~ 'Assumption' identification

In such a question, that which is stated in the passage is rejected because it is a premise and we know that assumptions remain unstated.

Consider the example below:

It is often believed that children eat the most ice cream. A recent research, however, shows that most buyers of ice-cream are middle aged. Therefore, the popular perception is wrong.

METHOD-1

Now follow these steps as mentioned below:

i) ~~First~~ First, identify the conclusion.

Here, it is \rightarrow children do not eat the most ice cream.

ii) Make a table (or not) like this,

Conclusion	Premise
Children do not eat most ice cream.	

iii) Now identify and note down the premise.

Conclusion	Premise
Children do not eat the most ice cream.	Most buyers of ice cream are middle aged.

(iv) Now, the difference or the jump in the idea here between the conclusion and premise gives the underlying ASSUMPTION.
Assumption: 'Buyers are consumers.'

- (i) First, negate all the answer choices provided.
- (ii) The negated answer choice ~~that~~ in (i) that negates the conclusion is the answer.

(b) 'Strengthen the argument'
 = ~~Reinforce~~ Reinforce the conclusion.

There are two ways to do this:

- (i) Add evidence to prove conclusion.
- (ii) Validate the assumption.

Note: The unstated assumption is necessary for conclusion.

Hence, validate the assumption to prove the conclusion.

(c) 'Weaken the argument'

- (i) Invalidate the assumption.
- (ii) Even when the author does not assume anything, he still assumes that his conclusion is the only one.

Hence, provide an ALTERNATIVE cause/solution that is,

Author: Reason 1 \longrightarrow Conclusion 1

(do this) { else: Reason 1 \longrightarrow Conclusion 2
 OR,
 else: Reason 2 \longrightarrow Conclusion 1

do any choice that introduces possibility of either new reason for conclusion or possibility of new conclusion with old reason.

⑦

Hypothetical type question

① Superimpose, phrase by phrase, the key pieces of information from the passage on to the different ~~and~~ answer choices and validate one.

It is converse to the organisation type question.

② PAPER MAPPING METHOD:

Map out key words / phrases / characters based on conditions (derivative, chronological, relation, et cetera) based on your own understanding of the passage to get an idea of how individual elements are related.

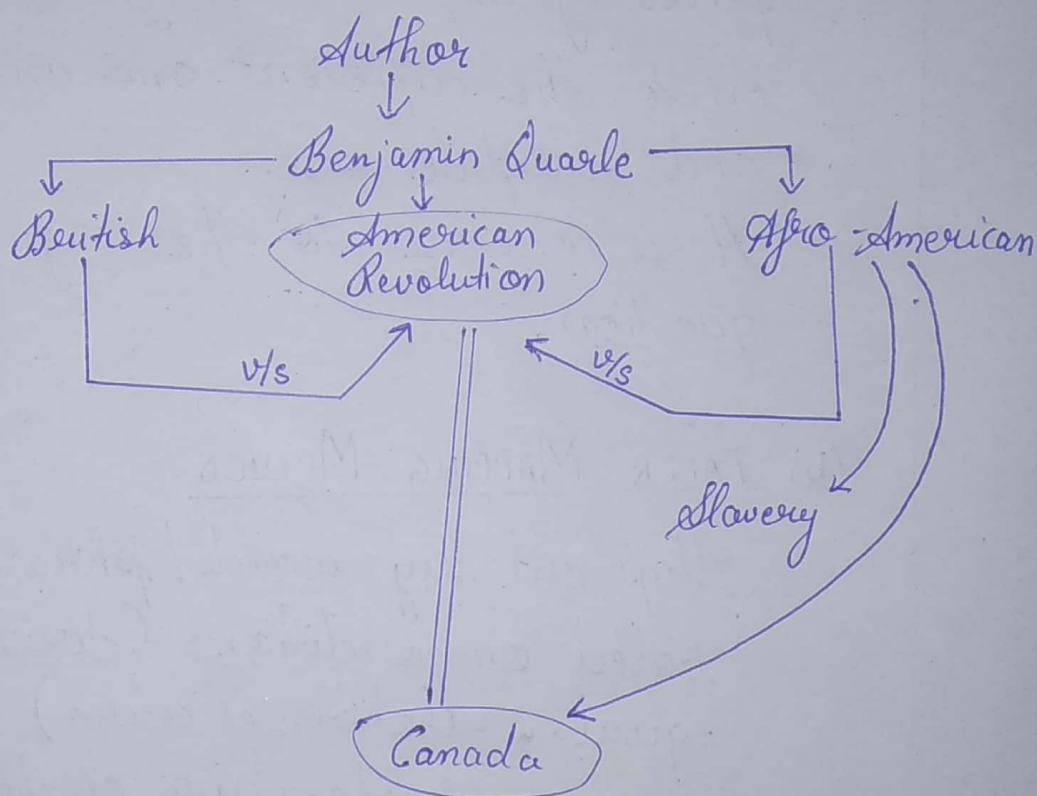
They make look something like the following two examples of paper mapping for two different passages (not included in these notes) for indicative purposes.

Example 1:

Davis → North America = Puritan + South Am.

Author → North Am. = South Am. + Puritan

↓ changing into
N.A = S.A = Puritan

Example 2:

The above are just two random examples of paper mapping techniques used on two different passages.

Final note: Stick to the literal meanings of the passage and do not add your own interpretations.
Example: Josh is not 6 ft tall.
This means Josh could either be taller or shorter

than 6 ft. It is not necessary that our usual perception that he is shorter than 6 ft. will hold true. Do not get sentimental about the choices and think in a rational and abstract manner.