

Reading Comprehension Masterclass Cheat Sheet

Elite Strategies for Standardized Tests & Advanced Analysis

1. Core Passage Architectures

how a passage is built is the key to predicting questions.

- **The Thesis-Driven Passage:** The author states a claim early, then provides supporting evidence.
- **The Comparative/Counter-Premise:** Introduces a common belief, then refutes it with new evidence.
- **The Chronological/Historical:** Traces an evolution of an idea or event over time.

2. Question Typologies

- **Global:** Main idea, primary purpose, overall tone. (Look to introduction and conclusion).
- **Local:** Specific detail, line reference, direct re-statement.

- **Inference:** What must be true based *only* on the text. Avoid outside knowledge!
- **Vocab-in-Context:** Substitute words to test meaning *in the specific sentence*.

3. Common Trap Answers

these classic distractors to eliminate incorrect choices instantly:

- **Out of Scope (OOS):** Introduces plausible outside facts not in text.
- **Extreme Language:** Uses words like *always, never, all, none* (unless text supports it).
- **Half-Right / Half-Wrong:** Starts correct, finishes with a flawed clause.
- **Direct Contradiction:** States the exact opposite of the passage claim.

4. Active Reading Framework

1. **Preview:** Read the first and last paragraphs first.
2. **Map:** Jot down a 3-word summary for each paragraph.
3. **Interrogate:** Ask *Why did the author include this example?*

5. Tone & Attitude Indicators

- **Positive:** Laudatory, approving, objective, analytical.
- **Negative:** Critical, skeptical, dismissive, cautionary.
- **Neutral:** Informative, detached, descriptive.