

Reading Comprehension Question Type Quick Reference

Strategic Approaches for Every RC Question Format

Primary Purpose

- **What it tests:** Author's main objective
- **Strategy:** Identify thesis, consider overall structure
- **Watch for:** Too narrow (single detail) or too broad answers

Specific Detail

- **What it tests:** Explicitly stated information
- **Strategy:** Return to passage, verify exact match
- **Watch for:** Familiar wording with subtle distortions

Inference

- **What it tests:** Logically supported conclusions
- **Strategy:** Find textual evidence making inference necessary
- **Watch for:** Possible but unsupported claims

Logical Structure

- **What it tests:** Passage organization and relationships
- **Strategy:** Track paragraph functions, note transitions
- **Watch for:** Content focus instead of structural analysis

Author's Attitude

- **What it tests:** Tone and perspective
- **Strategy:** Note evaluative language and qualifiers
- **Watch for:** Extreme emotions (rarely in academic passages)

Strengthen/Weaken

- **What it tests:** What evidence would support/undermine
- **Strategy:** Identify argument assumptions and gaps
- **Watch for:** Affecting different aspects than passage addresses

Select-in-Passage

- **What it tests:** Sentence serving specific function
- **Strategy:** Understand function, evaluate sentence purpose
- **Watch for:** Relevant content but wrong structural function