# COMPREHENSION

**By the end of this lesson you should be able to:**

1. Understand the techniques used when answering questions based on a text.
2. Make use of the information that you were taught in previous lesson plans to write sentences.

**Introduction**

This lesson plan is designed to help you apply all that you’ve learnt in your previous lessons – from how to use commas, to pronouns, to adjectives etc. In answering the questions try to incorporate the rules that you’ve learnt into your lesson plan accordingly. Also, as you read the paragraph, try to identify some of the rules that you’ve learnt and see the ways in which they’ve been applied.

**Exercise**

The Police and Politics

The police force, like the military, is part of the coercive state. However, whereas the principal function of the military is to uphold national defence, the central purpose of a police force is to maintain domestic order. Police forces came into existence in the nineteenth century, largely as a result of the higher levels of social unrest and political discontent that industrialization unleashed. For instance, in the UK, a paid, uniformed, full-time and specially trained police force was established by Robert Peel in London in 1829 following the Peterloo Massacre of 1819 in Manchester, when cavalry had been used to break up a large but peaceful working-class demonstration. This type of police system was introduced throughout the UK in 1856 and was later adopted by many other countries. Although police forces and militaries are similar in that they are both disciplined, uniformed and armed bodies, important differences can be identified.

In the first place, whereas the military’s essentially external orientation means that it is called into action only rarely, for example, in times of war, national emergency and national disaster, the police force’s concern with domestic order means that it has a routine and everyday involvement in public life. The police force is also more closely integrated into society than is the military: its members and their families usually live in the communities in which they work. Furthermore, the police typically use non-military tactics: because of their reliance on at least a measure of consent and legitimacy, they are either usually unarmed (as in the UK), or their arms are primarily a form of self-defence. To some extent, however, modern developments have tended to blur the distinction between the police and the military. Not only have armed forces been called in to deal with domestic disorder, as during the Los Angeles riots of 1992, but police forces have also tended to develop an increasingly paramilitary character. This is reflected in their access to progressively more sophisticated weaponry and, in many states, in their adoption of a quasi-military mode of operation.

(Heywood, 2007: 413-414).

Full reference: Heywood, A. 2007. Politics (3rd ed), Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

**Activity 1**

Answer the following questions based on the passage above.

1. Why was industrialization an important factor in the establishment of the police force?

*Industrialization brought with it a new wave of social inequality and protests became increasingly violent. Initially, those in power responded with cavalry but this was unsustainable as riots and protests continued. This, therefore, motivated leadership to establish a police force.*

1. What led to the establishment of the police force in the UK

*‘For instance, in the UK, a paid, uniformed, full-time and specially trained police force was established by Robert Peel in London in 1829 following the Peterloo Massacre of 1819 in Manchester, when cavalry had been used to break up a large but peaceful working-class demonstration.’*

1. What are some of the commonalities between the military and the police?

*They’re both uniformed, disciplined and armed bodies tasked with protecting society.*

1. What are the differences between the military and the police force?

*The police are concerned with every day public life, they stay among the community and they rely on non-military violence (such as carrying pepper-spray and not guns) to maintain safety.*

1. What factors explain the greater involvement and integration of the police force into society?

*Modern developments in technology have blurred the line between the police and the army. For example, the police have far more sophisticated weaponry than they initially had and they resort to paramilitary tactics to solve crimes.*

1. Under what circumstances do the police use arms?

*The police use arms for self-defence.*

**Activity 2**

In your own words, write a summary of the main points of this passage.

*Since the industrialization of the western world, police have played an increasingly important role in maintaining stability in society. Similar to the army, the police are a uniformed, disciplined and armed force tasked with protecting society. But regardless of their similarities, there are a number of differences between the two: unlike the military, the police stay with community, are concerned with everyday life and do not use military means to achieve their goals. For example, weapons are used as a form of self-defence and not to gain territory or intentionally hurt others. But modern technology has blurred the lines between the police and the army as they begin to employ similar tactics to achieve their goals. This can largely be explained by the police using increasingly paramilitary techniques.*