



ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAM READING COMPREHENSION

HEALTH SCIENCES

1st. version

Prepared by União Cultural

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- A. The complete proficiency exam consists of 50 questions.
- B. The time limit for the test is 75 minutes.
- C. After you have read the directions, begin work on section 1.

SECTION 1**READING COMPREHENSION****ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAM****Reading Comprehension**

Directions: In this section you will read five passages. Each one is followed by ten questions about it. You are to choose the one best answer, **A, B, C** or **D**, to each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen. (Each question = 1 point – Total 50 questions = 50 points)

**PASSAGE 1****New Nerve Drugs May Finally Prevent Migraine Headaches**

By David Noonan | Nov 17, 2015

The cause of migraine headaches has eluded scientists for centuries. Now a theory blaming one nerve has led to drugs that prevent attacks.

The 63-year-old chief executive couldn't do his job. He had been crippled by migraine headaches throughout his adult life and was in the middle of a new string of attacks. "I have but a little moment in the morning in which I can either read, write or think," he wrote to a friend. After that, he had to shut himself up in a dark room until night. So President Thomas Jefferson, in the early spring of 1807, during his second term in office, was incapacitated every afternoon by the most common neurological disability in the world.

The co-author of the Declaration of Independence never vanquished what he called his "periodical head-ach," although his attacks appear to have lessened after 1808. Two centuries later 36 million American migraine sufferers **grapple** with the pain the president felt. Like Jefferson, who often treated himself with a concoction brewed from tree bark that contained quinine, they try different therapies, ranging from heart drugs to yoga to herbal remedies.

Their quest goes on because modern medicine, repeatedly baffled in attempts to find the cause of migraine, has struggled to provide reliable relief.

Now a new chapter in the long and often curious history of migraine is being written. Neurologists believe they have identified a hypersensitive nerve system that triggers the pain and are in the final stages of testing medicines that soothe its overly active cells. These are the first ever drugs specifically designed to prevent the crippling headaches before they start, and they could be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration next year. If they deliver on the promise they have shown in studies conducted so far, which have involved around 1,300 patients, millions of headaches may never happen.

Migraine attacks, which affect almost 730 million people worldwide, typically last from four to 72 hours. Most sufferers have sporadic migraines and are laid low during 14 or fewer days a month. Those with a chronic form—almost 8 percent of the migraine population—suffer 15 or more monthly “headache days.” Attacks are often preceded by fatigue, mood changes, nausea and other symptoms. About 30 percent of migraine patients experience visual disturbances, called auras, before headaches hit. The total economic burden of migraine in the U.S., including direct medical costs and indirect costs such as lost workdays, is estimated at \$17 billion annually.

Taken from: Scientific American

1. All of the following are mentioned in the passage about the President Thomas Jefferson **EXCEPT**

- A. He had been unable to walk
- B. He had regular headaches
- C. He felt good in the morning
- D. His attacks never got better

2. According to the passage, what is grapple?

- A. suffer
- B. struggle
- C. care
- D. live

3. According to the passage, migraine is a _____ disability.

- A. nutritional
- B. physical
- C. neurological
- D. physiological

4. According to the passage, what causes the pain to happen is _____ .
- A. a hypersensitive nerve system
 - B. heart drugs
 - C. mood changes
 - D. Fatigue
5. According to the passage millions of Americans, _____ .
- A. have tried different therapies
 - B. have only taken quinine
 - C. have only tried yoga
 - D. have only tried herbal remedies
6. How many patients have participated in the study?
- A. 1808
 - B. 1807
 - C. 1,300
 - D. 13,00
7. Migraine attacks typically last from _____ to _____ .
- A. 3 to 72 hours
 - B. 4 to 62 hours
 - C. 4 to 82 hours
 - D. 4 to 72 hours
8. How many people in the world had migraine attacks?
- A. 730 million
 - B. 17 billion
 - C. 1,300
 - D. 15,000
9. According to the passage, what percent of migraine patients experience visual disturbances?
- A. 15%
 - B. 10%
 - C. 30%
 - D. 25%

10. All of the following are mentioned in the passage as symptoms before the attacks **EXCEPT**

- A. fatigue
- B. mood changes
- C. nausea
- D. cough

- 1. A
- 2. B
- 3. C
- 4. A
- 5. A
- 6. C
- 7. D
- 8. A
- 9. C
- 10. D