

TOEFL Prep

Reading Session 3



Reading Session 3

PASSAGE 1

The Veneration of Trees

In *The Golden Bough*, his classic catalog of mythologies, Sir James George Frazer extensively documents the significance of trees in world religion. His chapters on tree spirits roam from Northern Europe to the Eastern Seaboard of what is now the United States to the islands of the Pacific. Despite the lack of contact among these regions, the veneration of trees united them. The woods that covered large areas of Europe and North America, in particular, were difficult to penetrate and dangerous to cross. It was not a great mental leap for people to see the trees that populated them as embodiments of the natural forces that governed their lives.

On the basis of Frazer's classification, one can derive three loose stages of tree worship. In the first, a society sees the tree as the physical body of the spirit that inhabits it, much as the human body can be seen as housing the mind. It is known that both the Celtic and the Germanic tribes that inhabited ancient Northern Europe regarded certain trees as sacred, setting them apart by species (as the Druids worshipped oaks) or by location (the way certain natural groves were regarded as natural temples or sacred spaces in what is now Germany). Early on, each of these trees was regarded as an animate being with both spirit and body. It had a distinct identity, like an individual person. This suggests that it was believed to have the same impulses and reactions as the people who venerated it.



Reading Session 3

Accordingly, ancient peoples had elaborate taboos designed to avoid causing offense to trees. These taboos were taken very seriously. In some places, one could be punished severely for injuring the bark of a tree or stealing its fruit. Before a tree was felled for human use, woodcutters in many world cultures would offer it both apologies and thanks for the resources it was about to provide them. This was necessary to avoid insulting the tree and inviting bad fortune. It was also the case, however, that injuries were said to cause suffering to trees as they did to people. In some societies, it was claimed that trees cry out in pain when struck or cut into. A tree's spirit and body are considered inseparable in this first stage.



Reading Session 3

A society makes a leap in sophistication and reaches Frazer's second stage when it begins to regard them as separate. That is, the spirit exists independently of the physical tree, even if it chooses to dwell there most of the time. The same spirit may thus take up residence in any tree of a forest, it is not killed when an individual tree is cut down. It is not bound to a single tree but rather stands for a group. The distinction may seem small, but it is a significant first step toward symbolic thinking. A forest, after all, is more than the sum of its parts. It encompasses not only its trees but also the animals and brush that flourish among them. The dangers of the forest are hidden; a traveler may or may not encounter them on a given journey. To think about a tree spirit identified with the forest as a whole, therefore, people had to think about phenomena that were removed from them in time and space - ideas rather than things. Such a tree spirit represented the potential and abstract rather than the concrete and immediate.



Reading Session 3

That transition is completed in the third stage. Liberated from each other, trees and their spirits can begin to be seen as symbols and embodiments of other natural processes of significance to primitive life: the power of weather and seasons to produce good or bad harvests, the mysteries of childbirth and disease. At that point, the veneration of trees reaches its stage of greatest complexity. Societies in both Eastern Europe and the South Pacific presented ceremonial offerings to trees in the hopes that they would **furnish** rain and sunshine, Women who hoped to bear children might be instructed to embrace special trees thought to give fertility. The appearance of these beliefs, in which the fruitfulness of trees suggests the fruitfulness of harvests and family building, indicates that a society has made its first steps toward symbolic and abstract thinking.



Reading Session 3

In *The Golden Bough*, his classic catalog of mythologies, Sir James George Frazer extensively documents the significance of trees in world religion. His chapters on tree spirits roam from Northern Europe to the Eastern Seaboard of what is now the United States to the islands of the Pacific. Despite the lack of contact among these regions, the veneration of trees united them. The woods that covered large areas of Europe and North America, in particular, were difficult to **penetrate** and dangerous to cross. It was not a great mental leap for people to see the trees that populated them as embodiments of the natural forces that governed their lives.

1. It can be inferred from paragraph 1 of the passage that the people of Europe and North America associated trees with
 - A. travel to distant places
 - B. the religions of older tribes
 - C. dangerous forces of nature
 - D. the common culture of humanity
2. The word **penetrate** in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - A. enter
 - B. locate
 - C. survive
 - D. consider



Reading Session 3

On the basis of Frazer's classification, one can derive three loose stages of tree worship. In the first, a society sees the tree as the physical body of the spirit that inhabits it, much as the human body can be seen as housing the mind. It is known that both the Celtic and the Germanic tribes that inhabited ancient Northern Europe regarded certain trees as sacred, setting them apart by species (as the Druids worshipped oaks) or by location (the way certain natural groves were regarded as natural temples or sacred spaces in what is now Germany). Early on, each of these trees was regarded as an animate being with both spirit and body. It had a distinct identity, like an individual person. This suggests that it was believed to have the same impulses and reactions as the people who venerated it.

3. The author mentions the Druids in paragraph 2 as an example of a people that
- A. exhibited all three stages of tree worship
 - B. punished people for stealing fruit
 - C. worshipped a particular species of tree
 - D. cut down many trees as its civilization expanded



Reading Session 3

Accordingly, ancient peoples had elaborate taboos designed to avoid causing offense to trees. These taboos were taken very seriously. In some places, one could be punished severely for injuring the bark of a tree or stealing its fruit. Before a tree was felled for human use, woodcutters in many world cultures would offer it both apologies and thanks for the resources it was about to provide them. This was necessary to avoid insulting the tree and inviting bad fortune. It was also the case, however, that injuries were said to cause suffering to trees as they did to people. In some societies, it was claimed that trees cry out in pain when struck or cut into. A tree's spirit and body are considered inseparable in this first stage.

4. Which of the following is **NOT** mentioned as evidence that ancient people believed trees had individual spirits?
- A. They apologized to a tree before cutting it down.
 - B. They had rules against injuring tree bark.
 - C. They thought trees could express pain.
 - D. They gave each tree a personal name.



Reading Session 3

A society makes a leap in sophistication and reaches Frazer's second stage when it begins to regard them as separate. That is, the spirit exists independently of the physical tree, even if it chooses to dwell there most of the time. The same spirit may thus take up residence in any tree of a forest, it is not killed when an individual tree is cut down. It is not **bound to** a single tree but rather stands for a group. The distinction may seem small, but it is a significant first step toward symbolic thinking. A forest, after all, is more than the sum of its parts. It encompasses not only its trees but also the animals and brush that flourish among them. The dangers of the forest are hidden; a traveler may or may not encounter them on a given journey. To think about a tree spirit identified with the forest as a whole, therefore, people had to think about phenomena that were removed from them in time and space - ideas rather than things. Such a tree spirit represented the potential and abstract rather than the concrete and immediate.

5. The second stage of tree worship discussed in the passage involves a distinction between
 - A. sacred trees and ordinary trees
 - B. the spirit and the body of a tree
 - C. trees with and without spirits
 - D. single trees and trees in forests
6. The phrase **bound to** in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - A. limited to
 - B. hidden within
 - C. regarded as
 - D. venerated as



Reading Session 3

A society makes a leap in sophistication and reaches Frazer's second stage when it begins to regard them as separate. That is, the spirit exists independently of the physical tree, even if it chooses to dwell there most of the time. The same spirit may thus take up residence in any tree of a forest, it is not killed when an individual tree is cut down. It is not bound to a single tree but rather stands for a group. The distinction may seem small, but it is a significant first step toward symbolic thinking. A forest, after all, is more than the sum of its parts. It encompasses not only its trees but also the animals and brush that flourish among them. The dangers of the forest are hidden; a traveler may or may not encounter them on a given journey.

To think about a tree spirit identified with the forest as a whole, therefore, people had to think about phenomena that were removed from them in time and space - **ideas rather than things**. Such a tree spirit represented the potential and abstract rather than the concrete and immediate.

7. The author of the passage uses the phrase **ideas rather than things** to indicate that
- A. the forest was actually much less dangerous than people thought it to be
 - B. people stopped fearing the forest at the second stage of tree worship
 - C. some aspects of the forest can be imagined but not seen
 - D. many travellers were seriously hurt in the forest



Reading Session 3

That transition is completed in the third stage. Liberated from each other, trees and their spirits can begin to be seen as symbols and embodiments of other natural processes of significance to primitive life: the power of weather and seasons to produce good or bad harvests, the mysteries of childbirth and disease. At that point, the veneration of trees reaches its stage of greatest complexity. Societies in both Eastern Europe and the South Pacific presented ceremonial offerings to trees in the hopes that they would furnish rain and sunshine, Women who hoped to bear children might be instructed to embrace special trees thought to give fertility. The appearance of these beliefs, in which the fruitfulness of trees suggests the fruitfulness of harvests and family building, indicates that a society has made its first steps toward symbolic and abstract thinking.

8. The author implies that the most complex phase of tree worship involves
- A. the belief that all trees are sacred
 - B. distinguishing between male and female tree spirits
 - C. different ceremonies for different seasons
 - D. the use of trees as symbols
9. According to paragraph 5 of the passage, ancient people saw special meaning in
- A. the ability of trees to bear fruit
 - B. the three stages in the life cycle of a tree
 - C. trees that required little rain and sun
 - D. the raising of trees by women



Reading Session 3

10. Directions: An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the **THREE** answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. This question is worth 2 points.

Three basic levels of tree worship can be observed in The Golden Bough.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Answer Choices

- A. It was forbidden to cut down certain trees because they would be seriously offended by an injury.
- B. Certain people came to believe that tree spirits were independent of individual trees and instead represented a whole forest
- C. More is known about the ceremonies of Europe than about the ceremonies of North America and the South Pacific
- D. Ancient Germans believed certain groves were sacred and used them as temples, but Druids venerated the oak tree in particular
- E. Some societies believed each tree had an individual spirit, the way a human being has a distinct mind.
- F. A basis for abstract thinking was achieved when tree spirits were believed to control natural forces such as crops and human fertility



Reading Session 3

PASSAGE 2

Daguerreotypes

Only a small number of professional photographers ever had any practical experience as daguerreotypists, those technicians who made photographs through the daguerreotype process. By its strictest definition, the daguerreotype process was common for not more than 20 years in the mid-1800s. Other ways of making photographic images on metal plates, such as tintypes and ferrotypes, were developed rapidly after the advent of the daguerreotype. They quickly eclipsed it in popularity. Today, the surviving photographs produced by these methods are often referred to as daguerreotypes, but that designation is incorrect.

It is not surprising that photography enthusiasts began looking for alternatives to the daguerreotype almost immediately. The materials it required were both - expensive the plates contained silver and one of the developing solutions contained gold - and extremely risky. Strict adherence to proper laboratory procedure was necessary in order to avoid poisoning by noxious gases.



Reading Session 3

The steps involved in preparing and exposing a daguerreotype were as laborious and frustrating as they were hazardous. Images were recorded on copper plates to which several thin coats of silver had been applied. After being fastened to wooden blocks, the plates were scoured with alcohol and squares of soft flannel. Since even one speck of dust could easily create a deep enough groove to render the final image worthless, they had to be perfectly buffed. The plates were then bathed in solutions of bromine and iodine. The thin layer of bromo-iodine that formed on them made them sensitive to light, at which point they were ready for exposure.

After exposure, the plates were dipped alternately in heated mercury and freezing-cold water. The mercury vapours helped fix the images to the plates and developed them. The chilled water kept the plates from breaking up during this critical step. The daguerreotypists next applied hydrosulphate soda to the plate surfaces to dissolve any bromo-iodine that had not been exposed to light and brushed them with a solution of gold and chlorine to brighten the images and sharpen their black-white contrast.



Reading Session 3

There were difficulties for the daguerreotypists' customers too. The expense of materials and labour was passed on to them in the form of very high prices. Only the rich could easily afford to sit for a daguerreotype portrait. For those of more limited means, a daguerreotype was a once-in-a-lifetime treat. Additionally, daguerreotype plates required long exposures, from 8 to 20 minutes, in order to yield high-quality images. Chairs and tables with special support were designed to help those posing for portraits to remain absolutely still throughout the exposure time. If they did not, the resulting image would be blurred. Not even the cleverest such design, of course, could compensate for the need of the human eye to blink periodically.

For all the disadvantages involved in making daguerreotypes, no one could argue with the finished product when things went well. The process recorded textural detail with a realism that still seems shocking. The sheen of satin and the dull, heavy nap of flannel are easily distinguished. Those posing for daguerreotypes tired after trying to maintain the same facial expression for minutes at a time; the result was that their features often relaxed into an attractive thoughtfulness.



Reading Session 3

The incentive to develop a photographic process that retained the advantages of the daguerreotype without the disadvantages was thus powerful. The substitute with the most lasting popularity was the ferrotype, or tintype, which used an enamel-coated iron plate. Ferrotypes became popular with photographers who set up stalls at street fairs and inexpensive resorts because they could be exposed and developed very quickly. Iron plates were also much less expensive than copper plates, and the resulting photographs were less fragile than daguerreotypes. On the other hand, iron, unlike copper, could rust if not properly stored. Many old ferrotypes were destroyed by long-term display in hot and moist environments.



Reading Session 3

Only a small number of professional photographers ever had any practical experience as daguerreotypists, those technicians who made photographs through the daguerreotype process. By its strictest definition, the daguerreotype process was common for **not more than** 20 years in the mid 1800s. Other ways of making photographic images on metal plates, such as tintypes and ferrotypes, were developed rapidly after the advent of the daguerreotype. They quickly eclipsed it in popularity. Today, the surviving photographs produced by these methods are often referred to as daguerreotypes, but that designation is incorrect.

11. Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph 1 of the passage?
- A. Some photographs are called daguerreotypes inaccurately.
 - B. Daguerreotypes were popular for most of the 1800s.
 - C. Not all daguerreotypes were made by technicians.
 - D. Tintypes and ferrotypes were the first kinds of photographs.
12. The phrase **not more than** in the passage is closest in meaning to
- A. at first
 - B. additionally
 - C. at most
 - D. historically



Reading Session 3

It is not surprising that photography enthusiasts began looking for alternatives to the daguerreotype almost immediately. The materials it required were both - expensive the plates contained silver and one of the developing solutions contained gold - and extremely risky. Strict adherence to **proper laboratory procedure** was necessary in order to avoid poisoning by noxious gases.

After exposure, the plates were dipped alternately in heated mercury and freezing-cold water. The mercury vapours helped fix the images to the plates and developed them. The chilled water kept the plates from breaking up during **this critical step**. The daguerreotypists next applied hydrosulphate soda to the plate surfaces to dissolve any bromo-iodine that had not been exposed to light and brushed them with a solution of gold and chlorine to brighten the images and sharpen their black white contrast.

13. Why does the author mention **proper laboratory procedures**?

- A. To contrast daguerreotypists with true scientists
- B. To argue that daguerreotypists influenced other fields
- C. To give an example of an expensive material
- D. To indicate how dangerous daguerreotype making was

14. The phrase **this critical step** in the passage refers to

- A. exposing the plates
- B. fixing and developing the images
- C. making sure the water was cold enough
- D. applying hydrosulphate soda



Reading Session 3

After exposure, the plates were dipped alternately in heated mercury and freezing-cold water. The mercury vapours helped fix the images to the plates and developed them. The chilled water kept the plates from breaking up during this critical step. The daguerreotypists next applied hydrosulphate soda to the plate surfaces to dissolve any bromo-iodine that had not been exposed to light and brushed them with a solution of gold and chlorine to brighten the images and sharpen their black white contrast.

15. It can be inferred from paragraph 4 that mercury vapors
- A. dissolved any remaining bromo-iodine
 - B. could cause the plates to break up
 - C. were not noxious
 - D. were used before the plates were exposed



Reading Session 3

There were difficulties for the daguerreotypists' customers too. The expense of materials and labour was passed on to them in the form of very high prices. Only the rich could easily afford to sit for a daguerreotype portrait. For those of **more limited means**, a daguerreotype was a once-in-a-lifetime treat. Additionally, daguerreotype plates required long exposures, from 8 to 20 minutes, in order to yield high-quality images. Chairs and tables with special support were designed to help those posing for portraits to remain absolutely still throughout the exposure time. If they did not, the resulting image would be blurred. Not even the cleverest such design, of course, could compensate for the need of the human eye to blink periodically.

16. In using the phrase **more limited means**, the author of the passage is referring to people who
- A. did not have a great deal of money
 - B. used inferior photographic equipment
 - C. lived far from a daguerreotypist
 - D. were satisfied with low-quality images



Reading Session 3

There were difficulties for the daguerreotypists' customers too. The expense of materials and labour was passed on to them in the form of very high prices. Only the rich could easily afford to sit for a daguerreotype portrait. For those of more limited means, a daguerreotype was a once-in-a-lifetime treat. Additionally, daguerreotype plates required long exposures, from 8 to 20 minutes, in order to yield high-quality images. Chairs and tables with special support were designed to help those posing for portraits to remain absolutely still throughout the exposure time. If they did not, the resulting image would be blurred. Not even the cleverest such design, of course, could compensate for the need of the human eye to blink periodically.

17. According to paragraph 5, how did daguerreotypists prevent the production of blurred images during exposure?
- A. They exposed the plates for shorter lengths of time.
 - B. They instructed their customers not to blink.
 - C. They had special furniture for their customers to use.
 - D. They allowed their customers to take short breaks.



Reading Session 3

The incentive to develop a photographic process that retained the advantages of the daguerreotype without the disadvantages was thus powerful. The substitute with the most lasting popularity was the ferrotype, or tintype, which used an enamel-coated iron plate. Ferrotypes became popular with photographers who set up stalls at street fairs and inexpensive resorts because they could be exposed and developed very quickly. Iron plates were also much less expensive than copper plates, and the resulting photographs were less fragile than daguerreotypes. On the other hand, iron, unlike copper, could rust if not properly stored. Many old ferrotypes were destroyed by long-term display in hot and moist environments.

18. Paragraph 7 mentions each of the following as an advantage of ferrotypes **EXCEPT**
- A. durability of the images
 - B. low cost
 - C. speed of developing.
 - D. resistance to rusting
19. It can be inferred from paragraph 7 that storage space for ferrotypes should be
- A. cleaned frequently
 - B. cool and dry
 - C. brightly lit
 - D. coated with enamel



Reading Session 3

20. Directions: An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the **THREE** answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage.

This question is worth 2 points

The daguerreotype was a kind of photography that was briefly popular before being replaced by other methods.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Answer Choices

- A. Some daguerreotypes have lasted long enough to be enjoyed today.
- B. Daguerreotypes had to be brushed with gold and chlorine to make the images brighter than they would otherwise be.
- C. The images in daguerreotypes were realistic and detailed, so people looked for easier ways to produce them.
- D. The ferrotype was less expensive and more durable than the daguerreotype and became a popular substitute
- E. The daguerreotype process used dangerous chemicals and inconvenienced people posing for pictures
- F. Many photographers preferred to continue using the daguerreotype process even after alternatives were introduced.



Reading Session 3

PASSAGE 3

Hormones in the Body

Until the beginning of the twentieth century, the nervous system was thought to control all communication within the body and the resulting integration of behaviour. Scientists had determined that nerves ran, essentially, on electrical impulses. These impulses were thought to be the engine for thought, emotion, movement, and internal processes such as digestion. However, experiments by William Bayliss and Ernest Starling on the chemical secretin, which is produced in the small intestine where food enters the stomach, eventually challenged that view. From the small intestine, secretin travels through the bloodstream to the pancreas. There, it stimulates the release of digestive chemicals. In this fashion, the intestinal cells that produce secretin ultimately regulate the production of different chemicals in a different organ, the pancreas.

Such a co-ordination of processes had been thought to require control by the nervous system; Bayliss and Starling showed that it could occur through chemicals alone. This discovery spurred Starling to coin the term hormone to refer to secretin, taking it from the Greek word *hormon*, meaning "to excite" or "to set in motion." A hormone is a chemical produced by one tissue to make things happen elsewhere.



Reading Session 3

As more hormones were discovered, they were categorized, primarily according to the process by which they operated on the body. Some glands (which make up the endocrine system) secrete hormones directly into the bloodstream. Such glands include the thyroid and the pituitary. The exocrine system consists of organs and glands that produce substances that are used outside the bloodstream, primarily for digestion. The pancreas is one such organ, although it secretes some chemicals into the blood and thus is also part of the endocrine system.

Much has been learned about hormones since their discovery. Some play such key roles in regulating bodily processes or behavior that their absence would cause immediate death. The most abundant hormones have effects that are less obviously urgent but can be more far-reaching and difficult to track: They modify moods and affect human behavior, even some behavior we normally think of as voluntary. Hormonal systems are very intricate. Even minute amounts of the right chemicals can suppress appetite, calm aggression, and change the attitude of a parent toward a child. Certain hormones accelerate the development of the body, regulating growth and form; others may even define an individual's personality characteristics. The quantities and proportions of hormones produced change with age, so scientists have given a great deal of study to shifts in the endocrine system over time in the hopes of alleviating ailments associated with aging.



Reading Session 3

In fact, some hormone therapies are already very common. A combination of estrogen and progesterone has been prescribed for decades to women who want to reduce mood swings, sudden changes in body temperature, and other discomforts caused by lower natural levels of those hormones as they enter middle age. Known as hormone replacement therapy (HRT), the treatment was also believed to prevent the weakening of the bones. At least one study has linked HRT with a heightened risk of heart disease and certain types of cancer. HRT may also increase the likelihood of blood clots being formed which may prove dangerous because they could travel through the bloodstream and block major blood vessels. Some proponents of HRT have tempered their enthusiasm in the face of this new evidence, recommending it only to patients whose symptoms interfere with their abilities to live normal lives.

Human growth hormone may also be given to patients who are secreting abnormally low amounts on their own. Because of the complicated effects growth hormone has on the body, such treatments are generally restricted to children who would be pathologically small in stature without it. Growth hormone affects not just physical size but also the digestion of food and the aging process. Researchers and family physicians tend to agree that it is foolhardy to dispense it in cases in which the risks are not clearly outweighed by the benefits.



Reading Session 3

Until the beginning of the twentieth century, the nervous system was thought to control all communication within the body and the resulting integration of behaviour. Scientists had determined that nerves ran, essentially, on electrical impulses. These impulses were thought to be the engine for thought, emotion, movement, and internal processes such as digestion. However, experiments by William Bayliss and Ernest Starling on the chemical secretin, which is produced in the small intestine where food enters the stomach, eventually challenged that view. From the small intestine, secretin travels through the bloodstream to the pancreas. There, **it** stimulates the release of digestive chemicals. In this fashion, the intestinal cells that produce secretin ultimately regulate the production of different chemicals in a different organ, the pancreas.

21. The word **it** in the passage refers to

- A. secretin
- B. small intestine
- C. bloodstream
- D. pancreas



Reading Session 3

Such a coordination of processes had been thought to require control by the nervous system; Bayliss and Starling showed that it could occur through chemicals alone. This discovery **spurred** Starling to coin the term hormone to refer to secretin, taking it from the Greek word *hormon*, meaning "to excite" or "to set in motion." A hormone is a chemical produced by one tissue to make things happen elsewhere.

22. The word **spurred** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. remembered
- B. surprised
- C. invented
- D. motivated



Reading Session 3

Such a coordination of processes had been thought to require control by the nervous system; Bayliss and Starling showed that it could occur through chemicals alone. This discovery spurred Starling to coin the term hormone to refer to secretin, taking it from the Greek word *hormon*, meaning "to excite" or "to set in motion." A hormone is a chemical produced by one tissue to make things happen elsewhere.

23. To be considered a hormone, a chemical produced in the body must
- A. be part of the digestive process
 - B. influence the operations of the nervous system
 - C. affect processes in a different part of the body
 - D. regulate attitudes and behaviour.



Reading Session 3

As more hormones were discovered, they were categorized, primarily according to the process by which they operated on the body. Some glands (which make up the endocrine system) secrete hormones directly into the bloodstream. Such glands include the thyroid and the pituitary. The exocrine system consists of organs and glands that produce substances that are used outside the bloodstream, primarily for digestion. The pancreas is one such organ, although it secretes some chemicals into the blood and thus is also part of the endocrine system.

24. The glands and organs mentioned in paragraph 3 are categorized according to
- A. whether scientists understand their function
 - B. how frequently they release hormones into the body
 - C. whether the hormones they secrete influence the aging process
 - D. whether they secrete chemicals into the blood



Reading Session 3

Much has been learned about hormones since their discovery. Some play such **key** roles in regulating bodily processes or behaviour that their absence would cause immediate death. The most abundant hormones have effects that are less obviously urgent but can be more far-reaching and difficult to track: They modify moods and affect human behaviour, even some behaviour we normally think of as voluntary.

Hormonal systems are very intricate. Even minute amounts of the right chemicals can suppress appetite, calm aggression, and change the attitude of a parent toward a child. Certain hormones accelerate the development of the body, regulating growth and form; others may even define an individual's personality characteristics.

The quantities and proportions of hormones produced change with age, so scientists have given a great deal of study to shifts in the endocrine system over time in the hopes of alleviating ailments associated with aging.

25. The word **key** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. misunderstood
- B. precise
- C. significant
- D. simple



Reading Session 3

Much has been learned about hormones since their discovery. Some play such key roles in regulating bodily processes or behaviour that their absence would cause immediate death. **The most abundant hormones have effects that are less obviously urgent but can be more far-reaching and difficult to track: They modify moods and affect human behaviour, even some behaviour we normally think of as voluntary.** Hormonal systems are very intricate. Even minute amounts of the right chemicals can suppress appetite, calm aggression, and change the attitude of a parent toward a child. Certain hormones accelerate the development of the body, regulating growth and form; others may even define an individual's personality characteristics. The quantities and proportions of hormones produced change with age, so scientists have given a great deal of study to shifts in the endocrine system over time in the hopes of alleviating ailments associated with aging.

26. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence of the passage? Incorrect answer choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.
- A. Most moods and actions are not voluntary because they are actually produced by the production of hormones in the body.
 - B. Because the effects of hormones are difficult to measure, scientists remain unsure how far-reaching the effects on moods and actions are.
 - C. When the body is not producing enough hormones, urgent treatment may be necessary to avoid psychological damage.
 - D. The influence of many hormones is not easy to measure, but they can affect both people's psychology and actions extensively.



Reading Session 3

Human growth hormone may also be given to patients who are secreting abnormally low amounts on their own. Because of the complicated effects growth hormone has on the body, such treatments are generally restricted to children who would be pathologically small in stature without it. Growth hormone affects not just physical size but also the digestion of food and the aging process. Researchers and family physicians tend to agree that it is foolhardy to dispense it in cases in which the risks are not clearly outweighed by the benefits.

27. Which patients are usually treated with growth hormones?
- A. Adults of smaller stature than normal
 - B. Adults with strong digestive systems
 - C. Children who are not at risk from the treatment
 - D. Children who may remain abnormally small



Reading Session 3

Much has been learned about hormones since their discovery. Some play such key roles in regulating bodily processes or behavior that their absence would cause immediate death.

28. Click the sentence in paragraph 4 or 5 where the author explains the primary goal of hormone replacement therapy.

The most abundant hormones have effects that are less obviously urgent but can be more far-reaching and difficult to track: They modify moods and affect human behavior, even some behavior we normally think of as voluntary. Hormonal systems are very intricate. Even minute amounts of the right chemicals can suppress appetite, calm aggression, and change the attitude of a parent toward a child. Certain hormones accelerate the development of the body, regulating growth and form; others may even define an individual's personality characteristics. The quantities and proportions of hormones produced change with age, so scientists have given a great deal of study to shifts in the endocrine system over time in the hopes of alleviating ailments associated with aging.



Reading Session 3

In fact, some hormone therapies are already very common. A combination of estrogen and progesterone has been prescribed for decades to women who want to reduce mood swings, sudden changes in body temperature, and other discomforts caused by lower natural levels of those hormones as they enter middle age. Known as hormone replacement therapy (HRT), the treatment was also believed to prevent the weakening of the bones. At least one study has linked HRT with a heightened risk of heart disease and certain types of cancer. HRT may also increase the likelihood of blood clots being formed which may prove dangerous because they could travel through the bloodstream and block major blood vessels. Some proponents of HRT have tempered their enthusiasm in the face of this new evidence, recommending it only to patients whose symptoms interfere with their abilities to live normal lives.

28. Click the sentence in paragraph 4 or 5 where the author explains the primary goal of hormone replacement therapy.



Reading Session 3

29. Look at the four squares [] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage.

The body is a complex machine, however, and recent studies have called into question the wisdom of essentially trying to fool its systems into believing they aren't aging.

Where would the sentence best fit?

Choose the letter of the square that shows where the sentence should be added.

In fact, some hormone therapies are already very common. [A] A combination of estrogen and progesterone has been prescribed for decades to women who want to reduce mood swings, sudden changes in body temperature, and other discomforts caused by lower natural levels of those hormones as they enter middle age. [B] Known as hormone replacement therapy (HRT), the treatment was also believed to prevent weakening of the bones. [C] At least one study has linked HRT with a heightened risk of heart disease and certain types of cancer. HRT may also increase the likelihood that blood clots - dangerous because they could travel through the bloodstream and block major blood vessels - will form. Some proponents of HRT have tempered their enthusiasm in the face of this new evidence, recommending it only to patients whose symptoms interfere with their abilities to live normal lives. [D]



Reading Session 3

30. Directions: An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the **THREE** answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. **This question is worth 2 points.**

The class of chemicals called hormones was discovered by two researchers studying a substance produced in the small intestine.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Answer Choices

- A. The term hormone is based on a Greek word that means "to excite" or "to set in motion."
- B. Hormones can be given artificially, but such treatments have risks and must be used carefully.
- C. Scientists have discovered that not only the nervous system but also certain chemicals can affect bodily processes far from their points of origin
- D. Researchers are looking for ways to decrease the dangers of treatments with growth hormone so that more patients can benefit from it
- E. Hormones can affect not only life processes such as growth but also behavior and emotion.
- F. Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) may increase the risk of blood clots and heart disease in middle-age women.





Thank you