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ANDREW BETSIS ELT



Practice Test 1

TEST 1

Reading Section Directions

The reading section measures your ability to read and understand passages in English. You will read three passages and answer questions about them.

For each question, you will choose the one best answer of the four possible answers. These questions are worth one point each. The last question in each set is worth more than one point. The directions for this question indicate how many points you can receive.

Some passages have one or more words in bold type. For these bolded words, you will see a definition or explanation in a glossary at the end of the passage.

Answer all the questions about a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.

You have 60 minutes to read the passages and answer all of the questions. Allow approximately 20 minutes to work on each passage.

TEXT 1

Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, neurodegenerative disease characterized by chronic plaques of amyloid and bundles of tau protein in the brain. It is the most common cause of dementia in the elderly. The disease is named after the German psychiatrist and neuropathologist, Alois Alzheimer, who first described the disease in 1907.

While age seems to be the most important risk factor for Alzheimer's, research has revealed that in some early sufferers, the disease is genetically based. Research into families with early symptoms of the disease has revealed at least three genes which increase the risk of developing the disease. This research also suggests, however, that the majority of Alzheimer's cases are not genetically based.

Symptoms of the disease include a progressive decline in cognitive ability which results in memory loss, language deterioration, impaired ability to recognize visual information, mood swings, and confusion. These symptoms are not unique to Alzheimer's disease. Personality disorders are also common and include irritability, increased vigilance and mood swings. The combination of these disorders eventually destroys cognitive personality, and the ability to function socially.

Because of their resemblance to natural signs of aging, early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease such as forgetfulness and loss of concentration, are often misinterpreted by relatives and sometimes even misdiagnosed by professional healthcare providers. Moreover, the early warning signs of Alzheimer's are often recognized because of the slow pace the disease sets in. As a result, it is often difficult to determine exactly when someone contracts Alzheimer's disease.

Statistically, most Alzheimer's patients are diagnosed in the later stages, approximately 2 and a half years after symptoms appear. The time between the appearance of initial symptoms and death varies from patient to patient, typically depending on the category of Alzheimer's and the age at which the onset of symptoms. However, the disease may progress for a period of 8 to 10 years.

Sufferers of Alzheimer's disease progress through different yet progressively declining stages of the disease. Eventually their body begins to lose its ability to function and they often die from complications.

Although early stages of Alzheimer's disease may include memory impairment and even personality change, many affected people continue to carry on their daily routines, albeit with gradual but increasing difficulty. As the disease progresses into the middle to severe stages, short-term memory and the ability to recall events becomes seriously compromised. Physical and cognitive decline and the ability to conduct simple routines like making purchases, handling money, making beds or setting a table, are eventually affected and growingly become difficult. In the later stages, official assistance eventually is required in order to be able to carry out even the most basic of daily activities. In some severe cases, victims become candidates for palliative nursing care or placement in nursing homes. In the later stages, a prominent concern for caregivers and supporters of Alzheimer's patients is to provide a safe environment for the patient's cognitive function, as well as both of their verbal and physical safety. Psychological research into late stage Alzheimer's patients has shown that these behaviors may stem from the patient's perception with active but memories from early in life.

In the later stages of the disease, incontinence also becomes a common reason for considering nursing home placement. Patients fail to associate the bodily sensation of needing to go to the bathroom with the knowledge of what they should do. Finally, there is total dependency on caregivers in the most advanced stages of the disease. As language and comprehension deteriorate to the point of muteness and detachment from reality, the brain eventually loses its ability to regulate body functions. Bedridden patients generally fall victim to diseases that might include pneumonia, respiratory pneumonia, urinary tract and other organ-related infections and heart failure.

TOEFL Practice Test 1

- According to the text, what happens to the brain of Alzheimer's victims?
 - a. It gets smaller.
 - b. It requires more protein.
 - c. It begins to physically break down.
 - d. Its function becomes impaired.
- The author discusses research in order to illustrate what point?
 - a. Age is rarely a factor for Alzheimer's disease.
 - b. There are two forms of the disease.
 - c. Alzheimer's is primarily a genetic disease.
 - d. Statistics are useful in diagnosing the disease.
- Which sentence below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 3? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.
 - a. Loss of personality prevents a person from being socially active.
 - b. Alzheimer's symptoms can destroy social and functional skills.
 - c. Problems in society often stem from a combination of Alzheimer's diseases.
 - d. Symptoms of Alzheimer's result in the loss of personal identity.
- Why does the author discuss natural signs of aging in paragraph 4?
 - a. To show that Alzheimer's symptoms are similar to those of aging.
 - b. To refer to explain why the disease is rarely misdiagnosed.
 - c. To give an example of how Alzheimer's disease progresses.
 - d. To focus on the identifying the age of Alzheimer's victims.
- The phrase "healthcare providers" in paragraph 4 refers to:
 - a. those in the medical field
 - b. relatives of the victims
 - c. hospital staff
 - d. diagnosed social acquaintances
- Look at the four squares, and , which indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage. Where would the sentence best fit?

Repeated experiencing socially embarrassing situations, Alzheimer's sufferers at more advanced stages can fall victim to higher related infections.
- In the later stages of the disease, incontinence also becomes a common reason for considering nursing home placement. Patients fail to associate the bodily sensation of needing to go to the bathroom with the knowledge of what they should do. As language and comprehension deteriorate to the point of muteness and detachment from reality, the brain eventually loses its ability to regulate body functions. Bedridden patients generally fall victim to diseases that might include pneumonia, respiratory pneumonia, urinary tract and other organ-related infections and heart failure.
13. Use introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage in provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not express the main ideas and are therefore not relevant to the passage. This question is worth 2 points.

Alzheimer's disease progresses through different yet progressively declining stages of the disease. Eventually their body begins to lose its ability to function and they often die from complications.

 - a. The brain is damaged by an abnormal build up of plaques and tangled protein-based fibers.
 - b. People with Alzheimer's rarely become confused or lost.
 - c. The disease is a disease of cognitive and social factors as well as changes in personality.
 - d. Each stage of Alzheimer's disease leads to a total dependency on caregivers in the most advanced stages of the disease.
 - e. Because brain weakness follows the onset of symptoms, solid nursing care is a must at all stages of the disease.
 - f. The effects of the disease on the brain eventually lead to a breakdown in the regulation of body organs and systems.
14. The word "contracts" in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to:
 - a. diagnoses
 - b. treats
 - c. gets
 - d. demonstrates
15. The word "stages" in paragraph 6 is closest in meaning to:
 - a. levels
 - b. symptoms
 - c. elements
 - d. situations
16. Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph 4 about death from Alzheimer's?
 - a. Alzheimer's is a fatal disease in most cases.
 - b. Alzheimer's disease can be found in other organs besides the brain.
 - c. Organ failure is not a symptom of Alzheimer's disease.
 - d. The disease's effects on the body ultimately result in death.
17. The word "emphasis" in paragraph 7 is closest in meaning to:
 - a. multiplication
 - b. distinction
 - c. pain
 - d. rarity
18. According to the text, which of the following statements is true of Alzheimer's patients?
 - a. They need help covering money in the early stages of the disease.
 - b. Many of patients can become physically aggressive.
 - c. A lack of communicative ability is common among medical professionals.
 - d. Alzheimer's patients believe they are children again.
19. All of the following describe conditions of end stage Alzheimer's EXCEPT:
 - a. Total dependency on caregivers
 - b. The ability to walk
 - c. The ability to go to the bathroom
 - d. Lack of incontinence

Practice Test 1

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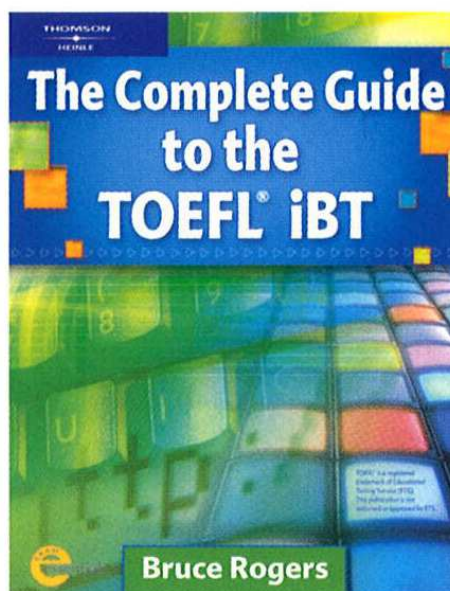
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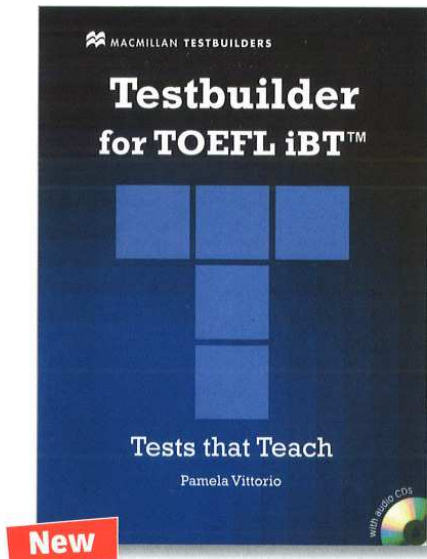
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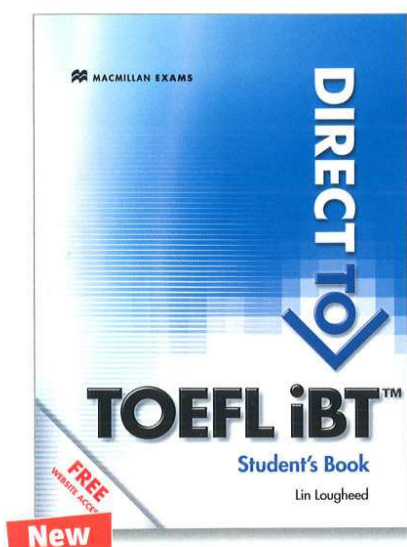


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