

READING SKILLS 2



TEST 1

The food we eat seems to have profound effects on our health. Although science has made enormous steps in making food more **fit** to eat, it has, at the same time, made many foods unfit to eat. Some research has shown that perhaps eighty percent of all human illnesses are related to diet and forty percent of cancer is related to the diet as well., especially cancer of the colon. People of different cultures are more **prone** to contract certain illnesses because of the characteristic foods they consume.

That food is related to illness is not a new discovery. In 1945, government researchers realized that nitrates and nitrites (commonly used to preserve color in meat) as well as other food additives caused cancer. Yet, **these carcinogenic** additives remain in our food, and it becomes more difficult all the time to know which ingredients on the packaging labels of processed food are helpful or harmful.

The additives that we eat are not all so direct. Farmers often give penicillin to cattle and poultry, and because of this, penicillin has been found in the milk of treated cows.

Sometimes similar drugs are administered to animals not for medicinal purposes, but for financial reasons. The farmers are simply trying to fatten the animals in order to obtain a higher price on the market. Although the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has tried repeatedly to control these procedures, the practices continue.

A healthy diet is directly related to good health. Often we are unaware of detrimental substances we ingest. Sometimes well-meaning farmers or others who do not realize the consequences add these substances to food without our knowledge.

1. How has science done a disservice to people?
 - A. Because of science, disease caused by contaminated food has been virtually eradicated.
 - B. It caused a lack of information concerning the value of food.
 - C. As a result of scientific intervention, some potentially harmful substances have been added to our food.
 - D. The scientists have preserved the color of meats, but not of vegetables.
2. The word "**prone**" is nearest in meaning to _____.
 - A. supine
 - B. unlikely
 - C. healthy
 - D. predisposed
3. What are nitrates used for?
 - A. They preserve flavor in packaged foods.
 - B. They preserve the colour of meat.
 - C. They are the objects of research.
 - D. They cause the animals to become fatter.
4. FDA means _____.
 - A. Food Direct Additives
 - B. Final Difficult Analysis
 - C. Food and Drug Administration
 - D. Federal Dairy Additives
5. The word "**these**" refers to _____.
 - A. meats
 - B. colors
 - C. researchers
 - D. nitrates and nitrites
6. The word "**carcinogenic**" is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. trouble-making
 - B. color-retaining
 - C. money-making
 - D. cancer-causing
7. All of the following statements are TRUE except _____.
 - A. Drugs are always given to animals for medical reasons
 - B. Some of the additives in our food are added to the food itself and some are given to the living animals
 - C. Researchers have known about the potential hazards of food additives for more than forty-five years
 - D. Food may cause forty percent of the cancer in the world
8. The word "**additives**" is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. added substances
 - B. dangerous substances
 - C. natural substances
 - D. benign substances
9. What is the best title for this passage?
 - A. Harmful and Harmless Substances in Food.
 - B. Improving Health through a Natural Diet.
 - C. The Food You Eat Can Affect Your Health.
 - D. Avoiding Injurious Substances in Food.
10. The word "**fit**" is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. athletic
 - B. suitable
 - C. tasty
 - D. adaptable

TEST 2

The Moon has been worshipped by primitive peoples and has inspired humans to create everything from lunar calendars to love sonnets, but what do we really know about it? The most accepted theory about the origin of the Moon is that it was formed of the debris from a **massive** collision with the young Earth about 4.6 billion years ago. A huge body, perhaps the size of Mars, struck the Earth, throwing out an immense amount of **debris** that coalesced and cooled in orbit around the Earth.

The development of Earth is inextricably linked to the moon; the Moon's gravitational influence upon the Earth is the primary cause of ocean tides. In fact, the Moon has more than twice the effect upon the tides than the Sun does. The Moon makes one rotation and completes a revolution around the Earth every 27 days, 7 hours, and 43 minutes. This synchronous rotation is caused by an **uneven** distribution of mass in the Moon (essentially, it is heavier on one side than the other) and has allowed the Earth's gravity to keep one side of the Moon permanently facing Earth. It is an average distance from Earth of 384,403 km.

The Moon has no atmosphere; without an atmosphere, the Moon has nothing to protect it from meteorite impacts, and thus the surface of the Moon is covered with **impact craters**, both large and small. The Moon also has no active tectonic or volcanic activity, so the erosive effects of atmospheric weathering, tectonic shifts, and volcanic upheavals that tend to **erase** and reform the Earth's surface features are not at work on the Moon. In fact, even tiny surface features such as the footprint left by an astronaut in the lunar soil are likely to last for millions of years, unless obliterated by a chance meteorite strike. The surface gravity of the Moon is about one-sixth that of the Earth's. Therefore, a man weighing 82 kilograms on Earth would only weigh 14 kilograms on the Moon.

The geographical features of the Earth most like that of the Moon are, in fact, places such as the Hawaiian volcanic craters and the huge meteor crater in Arizona. The climate of the Moon is very unlike either Hawaii or Arizona, however; in fact the temperature on the Moon ranges between 123 degrees C. to -233 degrees C.

1. What is the passage primarily about?
 - A. the Moon's effect upon the Earth.
 - B. the origin of the Moon.
 - C. a comparison of the Moon and the Earth.
 - D. what we know about the Moon and its differences to Earth.
2. The word "**massive**" is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. unavoidable
 - B. dense
 - C. huge
 - D. impressive
3. The word "**debris**" is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. rubbish
 - B. satellites
 - C. moons
 - D. earth
4. According to the passage, the Moon is _____.
 - A. older than the Earth
 - B. protected by a dense atmosphere
 - C. composed of a few active volcanoes
 - D. the primary cause of Earth's ocean tides
5. The word "**uneven**" is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. heavier
 - B. orderly
 - C. equally distributed
 - D. not uniform
6. Why does the author mention "**impact craters**"?
 - A. to show the result of the Moon not having an atmosphere.
 - B. to show the result of the Moon not having active tectonic or volcanic activity.
 - C. to explain why the Moon has no plant life because of meteorites.
 - D. to explain the corrosive effects of atmospheric weathering.
7. The word "**erase**" is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. change
 - B. impact
 - C. obliterate
 - D. erupt
8. A person on the Moon would weigh less than on the Earth because _____.
 - A. of the composition of lunar soil
 - B. the surface gravity of the Moon is less
 - C. the Moon has no atmosphere
 - D. the Moon has no active tectonic or volcanic activity
9. All of the following are true about the Moon **EXCEPT** _____.
 - A. it has a wide range of temperatures
 - B. it is heavier on one side than the other
 - C. it has less effect upon the tides than the Sun
 - D. it is unable to protect itself from meteorite attacks
10. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
 - A. The Moon is not able to support human life.
 - B. If the Moon had no gravitational influence, the Earth would not have tides.
 - C. People living in Hawaii and Arizona would feel at home on the Moon.
 - D. Mars could have been formed in a similar way to the Moon.

TEST 1: 51C 52D 53B 54C 55D 56D 57A 58A 59C 60B
TEST 2: 71D 72C 73A 74D 75D 76A 77C 78B 79C 80A