

Reading Part C - Comprehension

Useful Language

- **This means** – introduce a result of the event/ action in the previous sentence
- **Unmet clinical need** – a medical need that has not been treated satisfactorily
- **Outweighed by** – one thing is smaller/fewer or less than another
- **Justification** – good explanation / reason

On the 1st November 2018, the UK government changed cannabis based products for medical use from a scheduled 1 to a scheduled 2 drug. This means that cannabis based products can be prescribed medicinally where there is an unmet clinical need. UK guidelines currently recommend that cannabis can be used with three conditions: treatment resistant epilepsy, chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting and MS-related muscle spasticity. The Royal College of Physicians' current guidelines do not recommend the use of cannabis for chronic pain. One reason for this recommendation was because of findings from a recent Cochrane review by Mucke et al, which concluded that "the potential benefits of cannabis-based medicine in chronic neuropathic pain might be outweighed by their potential harms". A wide range of groups dispute this outcome and there's no doubt that some justification can be found for this.

Comprehension questions:

1. What happened in sentence 1?
2. What is the consequence mentioned in sentence 2?
3. What do UK Guidelines do in the 3rd sentence?
4. What is the stance of the RCP in the 4th sentence?
5. What is the RCP stance based on?
6. What do we learn in the last sentence?

1) The writer suggests that

- a) The issue of cannabis usage for chronic pain has been satisfactorily decided.
- b) It is arguable that the scope of usage for cannabis should be widened.
- c) The recommendations made by the UK government do not reflect public opinion.
- d) You can successfully treat a number of conditions with cannabis.

Useful language:

- **Ground-breaking** – changes things forever / new discovery / breakthrough
- **While** – contrast linker
- **Profound** – deeply meaningful / serious
- **This** – the situation/event in previous sentence

Penicillin, the first true antibiotic, was discovered in 1928. The introduction of antibiotics was groundbreaking. Infections that would have normally been fatal became curable. While this profound discovery went on to undoubtedly change the world of medicine and science, as well as save millions of individuals, it did not come without consequence. Mother nature has taken its course and now resistance to antibiotics is rising to dangerously high levels in all parts of the world. This puts the achievements of modern medicine at risk. Understanding how antibiotics work as well as what the leading causes of resistance are is crucial in finding effective solutions to this global health crisis.

2) The writer says that

- a) Antibiotics are no longer useful against infections.
- b) The reckless use of penicillin is to blame for the global health crisis.
- c) Modern medicine's greatest achievement will be to tackle the resistance problem.
- d) The risk of a global health crisis is high now due to earlier medical innovation.

Answers

Comprehension

1. What happened in sentence 1?
2. What is the consequence mentioned in sentence 2?
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Part C

- 1) B
- 2) D