

25th April – Reading Part C

Text 2: The Common Cold

Paragraph 1 – Vocab:

- Subdue
- Stymie
- Master key

Polio, smallpox, hepatitis A and B are all serious viruses that humanity learned to subdue with effective solutions. Even influenza, which can shift and mutate each year, has a vaccine. And yet, there's no remedy for the lowly cold. That's not for lack of trying, though. The hunt for a cure began in the 1950s, shortly after scientists discovered the primary group of pathogens, known as rhinoviruses, behind the condition. Together it accounts for up to 75 percent of colds in adults. But scientists quickly ran into an issue that still utterly stymies researchers today, says Peter Barlow, an immunologist at Edinburgh Napier University in Scotland, who is working on a cure for the cold. 'There are at least 160 different strains, or serotypes, of rhinovirus,' Barlow says. 'That means cracking the cold isn't so much looking for one solution to one problem; it's more like trying to design a master key to open hundreds of different locks at once,' Barlow says.

15. In the first paragraph, the word 'stymies' reflects common cold researchers' noun

- (A) sense of frustration at the scale of the task which they face.
- (B) respect for the ability of rhinoviruses to survive any treatments.
- (C) surprise at finding themselves faced with such a complex virus.
- (D) continuing lack of understanding of the causes of the condition.

Paragraph 2 – Vocab:

- A blow to...
- Impractical
- Drain

The discovery of these strains, made through the 1990s, was a blow to vaccine development. While the early work done in the mid-20th century showed simple vaccines could immunize people against one strain, the concept of developing dozens or even hundreds of vaccines for one illness, let alone a single individual requiring so many shots, is now seen as impractical and a drain on limited resources.

16. The second paragraph highlights an idea that common cold vaccine development
- (A) is still based on outmoded assumptions.
 - (B) is unlikely to prove a profitable investment.
 - (C) fails to attract enough interest amongst scientists.
 - (D) has probably gone as far as it can in the circumstances.

Paragraph 3 – Vocab:

- Work-around
- Target

Still, researchers are working on some clever work-arounds, says virologist Martin Moore of Meissa Vaccines. One way, which a group at Imperial College London is currently investigating, is to discover some part of the viral structure that's common to all 160 strains. If they can successfully target an immune response against **that**, then they could design a single vaccine that would offer protection against every strain of rhinovirus.

17. What does the word '**that**' in ~~line 00~~ refer to?

- (A) a feature shared by serotypes.
- (B) a newly discovered viral strain.
- (C) a particular type of virus.
- (D) a universal cold vaccine.

Answers:

15	A	sense of frustration at the scale of the task which they face.
16	D	has probably gone as far as it can in the circumstances.
17	A	a feature shared by serotypes.