

5<sup>th</sup> November – Reading Part C

## Text 1: Fibromyalgia

### Paragraph 1 – Vocab:

- Crippling
- Hallmark
- Predisposition

### 7 What fact about fibromyalgia is the writer emphasising in the first paragraph?

1. This question uses the words “fact” and “emphasising” – What information may we need to look for?

Affecting at least 1 in 40 people worldwide, fibromyalgia is a chronic illness characterised by widespread pain, muscle tenderness, and crippling fatigue. The cause of fibromyalgia is unknown, but many researchers believe that sufferers have a genetic predisposition to the illness, which is activated by a trigger such as stress, trauma or infection. Fibromyalgia has some features in common with autoimmune conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, yet it does not qualify as an autoimmune disorder because scientists have so far been unable to identify the hallmark indicators: self-reactive T cells, autoantibodies and inflammation.

### 7 What fact about fibromyalgia is the writer emphasising in the first paragraph?

- (A) how difficult it is to know how many people have it
- (B) how hard it is to distinguish it from other diseases
- (C) how badly people’s lives are affected by it
- (D) how poorly understood it is

Why does the writer use the word “yet”?

**Paragraph 2 – Vocab:**

- Standpoint
- Pave the way
- In light of

**8 The study published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation**

1. What information do we need to find to answer this question?
2. How can we find this information in the paragraph?

This standpoint looks set to change, however, in light of a new study published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation. The study, led by Dr David Andersson from the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King's College London, has found that fibromyalgia may be initiated by an autoimmune response that increases the activity of pain-sensing nerves throughout the body. These radical findings could potentially pave the way for more effective treatments for the millions of people affected.

**8 The study published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation**

- (A) caused controversy in the medical community.
- (B) took far longer to complete than had been expected.
- (C) provided support for an existing idea that has been difficult to prove.
- (D) focused on treatment over diagnosis.

**What were the findings of the study?**

**Paragraph 1 – Vocab:**

- Crippling
- Hallmark
- Predisposition

7 What **fact** about fibromyalgia is the writer **emphasising** in the first paragraph?

2. This question uses the words “fact” and “emphasising” – What information may we need to look for?

Affecting **at least 1 in 40 people worldwide**, fibromyalgia is a chronic illness **characterised by widespread pain, muscle tenderness, and crippling fatigue**. The cause of fibromyalgia is unknown, but many researchers believe that sufferers have a genetic predisposition to the illness, which is activated by a trigger such as stress, trauma or infection. **Fibromyalgia has some features in common with autoimmune conditions** such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, **yet it does not qualify as an autoimmune disorder because scientists have so far been unable to identify the hallmark indicators: self-reactive T cells, autoantibodies and inflammation.**

7 What fact about fibromyalgia is the writer **emphasising** in the first paragraph?

- (A) how **difficult** it is to **know** **how many people have it**
- (B) how **hard** it is to **distinguish** it from **other diseases**
- (C) how **badly** **people's lives** are **affected** by it
- (D) how **poorly understood** it is

A – the writer mentions how many people have it (“at least 1 in 40 people”) and it’s not emphasised that it is difficult to know this

B – the writer mentions that the hallmark indicators of autoimmune conditions have not been identified in fibromyalgia, so it is not “hard” to distinguish fibromyalgia from other diseases

C – the writer mentions the symptoms and they sound “bad” but this is not what the writer emphasises

D – the writer says that fibromyalgia is similar to autoimmune conditions but that it is not considered to be an autoimmune condition because scientists have not found the hallmark indicators associated with autoimmune conditions “so far” when researching fibromyalgia – the writer wants to emphasise that the condition is not understood well

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A – although we might imagine this, there is no controversy in the medical community mentioned in the text  
B – there is no mention of the time it took to complete the study  
C – the writer makes a connection to the viewpoint in the previous paragraph (“This standpoint looks set to change, however, in light of a new study”) and this “existing idea” (that fibromyalgia may be an autoimmune condition) now has more evidence to support it because of the study mentioned in the text  
D – there is no mention of the focus of the study. “Effective treatments” are mentioned at the end of the paragraph but this is due to the findings of the study, not the focus of the study