

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

## Text 2: Antibiotic prescriptions

### Paragraph 1 – Vocab:

- Crisis
- Catastrophic
- Multi-resistant organisms

**15** In the first paragraph, the writer uses quotes from Professor Chris Del Mar

1. For this question, are we looking for the writer's attitude or someone else's?
2. How can we find the information we need to answer this question?

'The antibiotic crisis has come,' says Chris Del Mar, Professor of Public Health at Bond University on the Gold Coast, Australia. 'We are getting reports from all around the world of multi-resistant organisms; resistant to every antibiotic we know.' The consequences of this development could be catastrophic. 'It could mean a return to the pre-antibiotic era, when people died of pneumonia,' Del Mar says. 'As well as direct deaths from antibiotic resistance, you'd also have the inability to use antibiotic cover for high-risk procedures, which we now take as standard care. That includes things like joint replacements, for example. So that means a lot of orthopaedic surgery would be too dangerous to do.'

**15** In the first paragraph, the writer uses quotes from Professor Chris Del Mar

- (A) to illustrate some potential outcomes of increasing antibiotic resistance.
- (B) to highlight how undergoing surgery is already risky due to antibiotic resistance.
- (C) to clarify some misunderstandings about antibiotic resistance.
- (D) to establish the main causes of antibiotic resistance.

**What does Professor Chris Del Mar tell us?**

**Paragraph 2 – Vocab:**

- Problematic
- Unwritten bond
- Dizzying spiral

**16** What is meant by the 'better safe than sorry approach'?

1. What is your existing knowledge of the phrase “better safe than sorry”?
2. How does the writer use this phrase in the paragraph?

One approach to tackling this crisis is to reduce unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions across hospitals and primary care. In Australia, a 2016 report found that family doctors generate 88% of antibiotic prescriptions. According to Del Mar, these rates of over-prescribing emerged from a widespread better safe than sorry approach from earlier days in primary care when resistance wasn't so problematic. Consequently, patients have come to expect antibiotic prescriptions when they visit their family doctor. 'An unwritten bond has been built up between doctor and patient in Australia that's led to a dizzying spiral of increasing antibiotic use' says Professor John Turnidge, program lead for the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's (ACSQHC) National Antimicrobial Utilisation Surveillance Program.

**16** What is meant by the 'better safe than sorry approach'?

- (A) Patients went to family doctors rather than hospitals for their antibiotics.
- (B) Patients started to become aware of how dangerous the antibiotic resistance problem is.
- (C) Increasing antibiotic resistance was a deterrent to over-prescription by family doctors.
- (D) Family doctors tended to prescribe antibiotics as a precautionary measure.

**Why did primary care doctors over-prescribe antibiotics?**

**Paragraph 3 – Vocab:**

- To alleviate
- To placate
- Pressured

**17** Which solution to the problem of overprescribing antibiotics is discussed in the third paragraph?

1. The question uses the word “solution” – What type of information might we need to answer this question?

Turnidge believes another reason for high rates of antibiotic-prescribing is a fear of losing patients. ‘General practice is a private business and you’ve got to keep your customer satisfied, so to speak. There’s always a concern that if you don’t write the prescription, the patient will go to the family doctor down the road or to the 24-hour clinic to get it.’ This problem may be alleviated somewhat in Australia if patients were required to register at a single general practice clinic rather than being able to freely move from one to another. Such a restriction would leave doctors less pressured to placate them.

**17** Which solution to the problem of overprescribing antibiotics is discussed in the third paragraph?

- (A) Removing the right of patients to attend a number of different clinics.
- (B) Abolishing clinics which are open all-hours.
- (C) Offering support to clinics with fluctuating patient numbers.
- (D) Withdrawing the financial incentive to prescribe antibiotics.

**How does the writer use conditional sentences in this paragraph?**

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- Catastrophic
- Multi-resistant organisms

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- (B) **Patients** started to become **aware** of how **dangerous** the **antibiotic resistance** problem is.
- (C) Increasing antibiotic resistance was a **deterrent** to over-prescription by family doctors.
- (D) Family doctors tended to prescribe antibiotics as a **precautionary** measure.

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**How does the writer use conditional sentences in this paragraph?**

**Answers:**

15) A

16) D

17) A