

Part two: Reading comprehension

Directions: Read the following passages carefully. Each passage is followed by some questions. Complete the questions with the most suitable words or phrases (a, b, c & d) below each one. Base your answers on the information given only.

Passage 1

Pharmacology as a scientific discipline dates from the mid-1800s, but its development has taken place over many centuries and has been influenced by many different cultures. The discovery of many drugs and medicinal plants was largely through trial and error. Across the world as tribal man foraged for food, he soon realized that his local woodland areas harboured a variety of roots, barks, berries and leaves which were not only sources of food, but also in some cases possessed medicinal (healing, soothing and therapeutic) properties. He also came across other matters that were highly toxic. Information about such plants was handed down from generation to generation, providing the basis of much of our knowledge today. One such example is the South American Indians, who gave us the first muscle relaxant: a drug called curare that they smeared onto the tips of their spears to immobilize animals when hunting. Today a drug which possesses similar characteristics is used by doctors to relax their patients' muscles during operations.

141 . According to the text, scientific pharmacology

- a. has existed for many centuries
- b. has influenced several cultures
- c. developed due to cultural influences
- d. first appeared in the mid-1800s

142 . Soothing effects of some plants were first discovered by

- a. some tribal men while hunting
- b. tribal people looking for food
- c. tribes surrounded by trees and bushes
- d. passing the drugs from tribe to tribe

143 . 'curare' was originally used by Indians to

- a. cure sick tribal men
- ♣ b. have more efficient spears
- c. eliminate pain and infection
- d. kill enemies in tribal wars

144 . The features of the drug, now, resemble those of the drug used by Indians while hunting.

- a. a highly toxic substance
- b. beneficial in surgery
- c. a muscular stimulant
- d. an effective precursor

145 . The passage is mainly trying to indicate the

- a. principles of pharmacology
- b. components of certain drugs
- c. beneficial effects of some drugs
- d. herbal origin of drugs