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QUESTION 1

Reading Material

Smallpox is one of the deadliest and dangerous diseases affecting the human population across the world. The first recorded epidemic was in 1350 BC during the Egyptian-Hittite war, and it was quite prevalent in the late 1800\\'s through a large part of the 1900\\'s. Approximately five hundred million people were infected with the disease prior to its eradication in the 1970\\'s, with the last case being in Somalia in 1977. Symptoms of infection included excessive bleeding, high fever, delirium, vomiting, and a raised pink rash. Most cases of smallpox ended in death and survivors were often seriously maimed by pock marks, blindness, or infertility. The pain and suffering remained for a lifetime after the disease was gone.

There is no known cure for smallpox, only preventative vaccinations. Because smallpox was wiped out in 1970s, the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) recommended that all countries stop vaccinating for the disease in 1980. This means that today, most young people are not vaccinated against the disease. Because the disease is considered eradicated, the issue of what to do with the remaining government-held vaccines has been an issue of debate. Should the stored vaccines be destroyed since the disease is no longer a concern, or do we keep them in storage for research or in case of an unexpected outbreak? Experts at the Center for Disease Control (C.D.C.) and the World Health Organization have spent an enormous amount of time researching this issue and have given much educated thought to the matter. Reportedly the W.H.O. wants to destroy all vaccines, however some scientists feel the destruction could do more harm than good.

The issue of bioterrorism adds another layer of complexity to the issue. In the case of smallpox, just a small amount of the virus released in the air could infect thousands of people in 6-24 hours. If such a disease were used as a weapon, we would obviously want the vaccine available for use. However, the fact that the vaccine still exists allows the use of smallpox for bioterrorism in the first place. If we could be sure all of the vaccine was destroyed, the decision may be a bit easier, but what if it the vaccine were only partially destroyed, and the remainder was used by an unfriendly nation?

In this world of global unrest and increasing technology, bioterrorism will come an increasing concern. The smallpox virus could be a serious threat to world health should any nation engage in the act of bioterrorism against an enemy. The question remains: do we run the risk of bioterrorism by continuing to store the medicine for several hundred smallpox vaccinations or do we destroy the vaccine and pray that there is no outbreak of the deadly virus? Because it is unknown at this time if researchers are able to re-create the vaccine, either solution may have permanent consequences.

What is the author\\'s purpose in writing this article about smallpox?

- A. to persuade
- B. to inform
- C. to entertain
- D. to analyze

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 2

Reading Material

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Which of these claims cannot be inferred from this passage?

- A. Smallpox is the deadliest disease that threatens world health.
- B. Smallpox was once a major worldwide disease.
- C. The issue of whether or not to destroy the vaccine is complex.
- D. The smallpox virus has been eradicated except for a few government-held vaccines.

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 3

Solve for x:

$$3(x - 4) = 18$$

- A. $x = 3/2$
- B. $x = 22/3$
- C. $x = 6$
- D. $x = 10$

Correct Answer: D

**QUESTION 4**

Reading Material A complete blood count (CBC) is one of the most useful and requested types of analysis in medical practice. A CBC searches for all the cells that exist in the blood, which are divided into three basic types: white blood cells (leukocytes), platelets, and red blood cells (erythrocytes). All of these blood cells are produced in the bone marrow and correspond to a specific exam, integrated in the CBC: erythrogram, leukogram, and thrombogram.

The erythrogram studies red blood cells. Among other tests, it includes a red blood cell count, a hematocrit, and hemoglobin. When these levels are low, the patient may be suffering from anemia, which can be caused by anything from heavy menstrual bleeding to Addison's disease. A diagnosis of polycythemia may be made if the number of red blood cells is increased.

The leukogram is the test that evaluates the number of white cells present in the blood, which should vary between 4,000 and 10,000 cells per cubic millimeter in most adults. High values of white blood cells are seen with infection or severe emotional/physical stress, while AIDS and chemotherapy are two causes for low values.

The thrombogram is the analysis of platelets, the cells responsible for coagulation. The main function of platelets is to help stop bleeding by helping form a clot. They do this by secreting proteins from their surface that allow them to stick to vessels and each other. Low values of platelets are seen with pregnancy or an enlarged spleen, whereas high values are seen with cancers or iron deficiency.

Which statement can correctly be inferred from the accompanying passage?

- A. A CBC gives a more complete evaluation of a patient's blood than a leukogram.
- B. The test of red blood cells is more informative than the tests of white blood cells and platelets.
- C. An elevated level of platelets is a confirmation of pregnancy in the patient.
- D. A CBC should be part of every physical exam because it tells so much about the patient's blood.

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 5

Select the word that means "important."

- A. vital
- B. corrective
- C. instigative
- D. diversional

Correct Answer: A