

# English

## Reading

**Directions:** In this section of the test, you will show how well you can understand written English. There are several selections and some questions about each one. For each question, mark the letter of the correct answer on your answer sheet.



We usually think of plants as being peaceful. But even plants have enemies. The enemies of a plant range from tiny insects that suck sap to large mammals that eat the entire plant. But plants are stationary and cannot run away like animals can! So how do plants deal with their enemies? Many plants have special weapons to keep their enemies away.

5 Some plants protect themselves against insects with tiny hairs on the surface of their leaves. These tiny hairs serve as a barrier against smaller insects, which cannot walk across them to get to the stalk of the plant. Some plants use other weaponry, such as spikes, thorns, and stingers, to keep larger animals away. An animal that tries to eat a plant like a thistle or a cactus is given a painful but memorable lesson. Spikes and thorns also help to protect the seeds of many plants.

10 Some plants even use special chemicals to defend themselves. These plants have chemicals in their cells that make the plant very unpleasant to eat. Once an animal tastes the plant, that animal is unlikely to come back for more! Chemicals can also be used by some plants as an offensive weapon. A stinging nettle punctures the skin of an animal and releases chemicals that cause painful irritation. The animal remembers that sting and avoids the nettle in the future.

15 Some chemicals that plants use to repel enemies can also be put to medical use by humans. Though poisonous in large quantities, small amounts of these chemicals can be very useful in the treatment of illnesses. Every year scientists experiment with thousands of plants from around the world in search of new medicines.

**1** The selection describes

- A how chemicals are produced in a laboratory.
- B how farmers protect plants from insects.
- C how animals use plants to stay healthy.
- D how plants can protect themselves.

**2** In line 6, what does the word them refer to?

- A tiny hairs
- B some plants
- C smaller insects
- D other weaponry

**3** What can be inferred from the selection about plants like the thistle and the cactus?

- A They are covered with spikes or thorns.
- B They need animals to spread their seeds.
- C They do not need a lot of water to survive.
- D They cannot protect themselves against animals.

**4** Which plant can break the skin of an animal and inject a poison?

- A a thistle
- B a cactus
- C a thorn bush
- D a stinging nettle

**5** What does the selection say about treating illnesses with chemicals from plants?

- A There are very few plants that are useful to humans.
- B The most poisonous plants are the most useful ones.
- C Scientists are still trying to find more medicines from plants.
- D The enemies of plants are helping scientists to find new medicines.



## JACQUES COUSTEAU

Jacques Cousteau's first diving adventures taught him about the dangers of swimming and diving in the ocean's depths. There was rapture of the deep, a strange sensation caused by nitrogen in the bloodstream that led divers to think they were all-powerful and then to make fatal mistakes; there was the loss of body heat after swimming in very cold water that caused the divers to become unbearably tired; and there was the bends, a painful ailment caused by pressure changes that occurred when a diver rose to the surface too quickly after being down for a long time.

When Cousteau was a young man, he joined the French Army of Resistance and tried to figure out how to perform war work underwater. At that time, however, the only safe way to move about underwater for long periods was in a heavy diving suit. In a diving suit, the diver was completely covered and could only walk clumsily on the bottom. Air was supplied to the suit through a long hose from a ship on the surface. To free up the diver's arms and legs and make it possible for the diver to swim freely underwater, Cousteau invented the "aqualung." The aqualung was an air tank and breathing device worn on the diver's back.

Even before the Second World War ended, Jacques Cousteau began to explore his new freedom to move about underwater, and he began experimenting with underwater photography. He began diving very deep and shooting films about navy submarines and undersea caves. He and his friends dove more than 250 feet down, using aqualungs with three-cylinder tanks.

As he explored this unknown world, Cousteau discovered that the plants and fish at the bottom of the ocean were spectacularly beautiful and brightly colored. He used a large light that showed these colors for the first time when he shot the first underwater photographs in color. In 1956, Cousteau's first color movie, *The Silent World*, came out. Audiences were amazed by the film's masterful photography, the variety of undersea lifeforms, and the dazzling colors.

Cousteau was the world's greatest undersea explorer and photographer. His films and television programs made the oceans familiar to large audiences, and he popularized the sport of scuba diving. In his famous research boat *Calypso*, he traveled all over the world, alerting people to the threat of nuclear testing and the dangers of ocean pollution.

When Cousteau was in his eighties, an interviewer asked him whether he was finally done exploring the oceans. "No, nothing is finished for me," Cousteau said. "I don't stop." Until the end of his life, he continued, producing films about protecting the ocean environment. He continued working hard, pouring all of his energy into saving the lovely blue planet Earth.



**6** According to the selection, rapture of the deep and the bends are examples of

- A films made by Jacques Cousteau.
- B life-threatening conditions caused by diving in deep water.
- C fish that swim in deep, cold water.
- D types of boats that Cousteau used in underwater exploration.

**7** What was the problem with the diving suits that were used before Cousteau invented the “aqualung”?

- A They were very dangerous.
- B They allowed the diver to swim freely underwater.
- C They were large and clumsy and made moving about difficult.
- D They forced the diver to wear an air tank and breathing device on the back.

**8** According to paragraph 4, Cousteau was the first person to

- A take underwater pictures in color.
- B dive more than 200 feet below the surface.
- C inform people about the dangers of ocean pollution.
- D explore caves beneath the water’s surface.

**9** According to the selection, Cousteau’s most important contributions resulted from his role

- A in popularizing scuba diving.
- B in discovering new species of fish and underwater plants.
- C as the inventor of the underwater diving suit.
- D as a marine explorer, photographer, researcher, and advocate.

**10** What did Cousteau mean by his statement “No, nothing is finished for me. I don’t stop”?

- A Throughout his life, Cousteau was never able to rest or relax.
- B Cousteau had a difficult time completing a project.
- C Cousteau wanted to continue working for as long as he lived.
- D Cousteau continued fighting with the French Army of Resistance until the war had ended.