

## ECAT Pre General Science English Chapter 8 Comprehension Online Test

Sr	Questions	Answers Choice
1	<p>Chocolate – there's nothing quite like it, is there? Chocolate is simply delicious. What is chocolate? Where does it come from?</p> <p>Christopher Columbus was probably the first to take cacao beans from the New World to Europe in around 1502. But the history of chocolate goes back at least 4,000 years! The Aztecs, who lived in America, thought that their bitter cacao drink was a <b>divine</b> gift from heaven. In fact, the scientist Carolus Linnaeus named the plant Theobroma, which means "food of the gods"</p> <p>The Spanish explorer Hernando Cortez went to America in 1519. He visited the Mexican emperor Montezuma. He saw that Montezuma drank cacao mixed with vanilla and spices. Cortez took some cacao home as a gift to the Spanish King Charles. In Spain, people began to drink Cortez's chocolate in drink with chili peppers. However, the natural taste of cacao was too bitter for most people. To sweeten the drink, Europeans added sugar to the cacao drink. As a sweet drink, it became more popular. By the 17<sup>th</sup> century, rich people in Europe were drinking it.</p> <p>Later, people started using chocolate in <b>pastries</b>, like pies and cakes. In 1828, Dutch chocolate makers started using a new process for removing the fat from cacao beans, and getting to the center of the cacao bean. The Dutch chocolate maker Conrad J. Van Houten made a machine that pressed the fat from the bean. The resulting powder mixed better with water than cacao did. Now, some call van Houten's chocolate "Dutch chocolate."</p> <p>It was easy to mix Dutch chocolate powder with sugar. So other chocolate makers started trying new <b>recipes</b> that used powdered chocolate. People started mixing sweetened chocolate with cocoa butter to make solid chocolate bars. In 1849, an English chocolate maker made the first chocolate bar. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Swiss started making milk chocolate by mixing powdered milk with sweetened chocolate. Milk chocolate has not changed much since this process was invented.</p> <p>Today, two countries – Brazil and Ivory Coast – account for almost half the world's chocolate. The United States imports most of the chocolate in the world, but the Swiss eat the most chocolate per person. The most chocolate eaten today is sweet milk chocolate, but people also eat white chocolate and dark chocolate.</p> <p>Cocoa and dark chocolate are believed to help <b>prevent</b> heart attacks, or help keep from happening. They are supposed to be good for the circulatory system. On the other hand, the high fat content of chocolate can cause weight gain, which is not good for people's health. Other health claims for chocolate have not been proven, but some research shows that chocolate could be good for the brain.</p> <p>Chocolate is a popular holiday gift. A popular Valentine's Day gift is a box of chocolate candies with a card and flowers. Chocolate is sometimes given for Christmas and birthdays. Chocolate eggs are sometimes given at Easter.</p> <p>Chocolate is <b>toxic</b> to some animals. An ingredient in chocolate is poisonous to dogs, cats, parrots, small rodents, and some livestock. Their bodies cannot process some of the chemicals found in chocolate. Therefore, they should never be fed chocolate.</p> <p>How did people first consume chocolate?</p>	<p>A. As a sweet drink  <b>B. As a bitter drink</b>  C. As a chocolate bar  D. In cakes and pastries</p>
	<p>When her grandmother's health began to deteriorate in the fall of 1994, Mary would make the drive from Washington, DC to Winchester every few days.</p> <p>She hated highway driving, finding it ugly and monotonous. She preferred to take meandering back roads to her grandmother's hospital. When she drove through the rocky town of Harpers Ferry, the beauty of the rough waters churning at the intersection of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers always captivated her.</p> <p>Toward the end of her journey, Mary had to get on highway 81. It was here that she discovered a surprising bit of beauty during one of her trips. Along the median of the</p>	

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- A. The natural beauty of U.S. highways
- B. An opportunity to compose herself before visiting her grandmother
- C. A final chance to connect with her grandmother
- D. A way to make the hospital room more pleasant

Afterwards, Mary began carrying scissors in the car during her trips to visit her grandmother. She would quickly glide onto the shoulder, jump out of the car, and clip a bunch of flowers. Each time Mary placed the flowers in the pitcher, her grandmother's eyes would light up and they would have a splendid conversation.

One morning in late October, Mary got a call that her grandmother had taken a turn for the worse. Mary was in such a hurry to get to her grandmother that she sped past her flower spot. She decided to turn around head several miles back, and cut a bunch. Mary arrived at the hospital to find her grandmother very weak and unresponsive. She placed flowers in the pitcher and sat down. She felt a squeeze on her fingers. It was the last conversation they had.

What do the flowers come to signify most for Mary?

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- A. False
- B. Realistic
- C. Muddled
- D. Determined

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As used in the middle of the story, which is the best antonym for 'lucid'?

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- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II and III

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Which of the following accurately describe Mary's personality?

- I Impatient
- II Drawn towards beauty
- III Loving

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- A. Mary and her grandmother held hand and had a splendid conversation
- B. Mary's grandmother was too weak to communicate with Mary
- C. Mary and her grandmother communicated through touch
- D. Mary's grandmother liked flowers that Mary brought

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In the final paragraph, the author writes. "She felt a squeeze on her fingers. It was the last conversation they had."

Which best describes what the author is trying to communicate in these sentences?

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- A. "The Fall"
- B. "On the Road"
- C. "Wildflower Poe"
- D. "Living for Tomorrow"

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What other title would best fit this passage?

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- A. Monotonous
- B. A ritual
- C. A regret
- D. Torturous

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Which best describes what the act of stopping for flowers on the side of the highway became for Mary?

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- A. Vernacular, suggesting the dialect

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"They were thin and delicate and purple, and swayed in the wind as if whispering poems to each other."

Which of the following literary techniques is used in the above sentence?

- of a particular geographical area
- B. Assonance, characterized by the repetition of identical or similar vowel sounds in successive words
- C. Foreshadowing, characterized by the use of hints to suggest what is to come
- D. Personification, characterized by a thing or object being endowed with human qualities

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"She hated highway driving, finding it ugly and monotonous."

Which of the following is the best way to rewrite the above sentence, while keeping its original meaning?

- A. She hated highway driving, finding it ugly and tedious
- B. She hated highway driving, finding it ugly and confusing
- C. She hated highway driving, finding it ugly and nerve-wracking
- D. She hated highway driving, finding it ugly and time-consuming

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- A. Energized
- B. Fascinated
- C. Humbled
- D. Relaxed

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As used in the beginning of the story, which is the best definition for 'captivated'?