

Reading Comprehension Sample

Directions: The passage below is followed by questions based on its content. Answer all questions following the passage on the basis of what is stated or suggested in it.

Questions 1 – 3

¹For hundreds of years, people thought that only veins contained blood and that arteries were filled with air. ²The blood was supposed to ebb and flow from the heart through the veins, in the manner of a tide. ³It was not until the 1700's that scientists began to accept the idea that blood left the heart through arteries, circulated throughout the body, and returned to the heart through the veins.

1. The main point of the passage is that, for a long time, it was not known that
 - A. blood is necessary to all parts of the body.
 - B. blood circulates through the arteries as well as the veins.
 - C. the heart has a relationship to the flow of blood.
 - D. arteries could be found in the human body.

2. Which of the following best describes the function of sentence 2 in the passage?
 - A. It elaborates on the idea expressed in sentence 1.
 - B. It provides a contrast to the idea presented in sentence 1.
 - C. It supports the idea stated in sentence 3.
 - D. It gives an illustration of the idea suggested in sentence 3.

3. The passage suggests that scientific knowledge has changed in which of the following ways?
 - A. It now provides a more accurate understanding of the human body.
 - B. It casts doubt on the former belief that blood flows through arteries.
 - C. It tries to revise, rather than correct, mistaken ideas about bodily functions.
 - D. It has recently established that arteries carry less blood than veins.

Answers: 1. B 2. A 3. A