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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/128/2021_2022__E8_81_8C_E7_A7_B0_E8_8B_B1_E8_c91_128667.htm PASSAGE 31 Powers of Self-suggestion Most systems of medicine are based on theater. With leeches, acupuncture needles, vitamin pills or whatever stage prop is appropriate for the time and culture, the healer artfully evokes the patients powers of self-suggestion, which are responsible for whatever healing may occur. Western medicine operates on a different plane. For one thing, it has the most impressive props - expensive medicines, elaborate rituals and mysterious high-tech machines with a white-gowned cast to operate them. For another, it evokes the patients auto suggestive powers all the more forcefully by pretending to ignore them. This mysterious gift of self-healing is cloaked with an anodyne label, the "placebo effect", and recognized only as a nuisance likely to confound clinical trials. But the placebo (Latin for "I will please") and its shadowy twin the nocebo ("I will harm") are much more than methodological problems: they lie at the heart of every interaction between doctor and patient. How they work no one knows. But the brain rules the body in many subconscious ways, including its control of the bodys major hormones and its subtle influence over the immune system. So its possible that, in ways yet unknown, expectations about health or disease are sometimes translated into a bodily reaction that fulfills them. The power of these effects is hard to overstate. A rule of thumb is that 30 percent of patients in the placebo half of a drug trial (i.e.

those who unknowingly receive a dummy pill instead of the real thing) will experience an improvement in symptoms. But the proportion may be much higher. Just like real drugs, placebo pills can produce stronger effects in larger doses. Patients will report greater relief when given a larger pill, or two dummy capsules instead of one. Doctors expectations also contribute to the awesome power of the placebo effect. In a study of tooth extractions, patients were given either a painkiller or sham drugs. Some dentists were assigned to give either drug, without knowing which, but other dentists knew they would be giving only sham drugs. The patients whose dentists thought they had at least a 50-50 chance of giving a painkiller suffered significantly less pain. Presumably, doctors transmit their expectations to the patient through subtle cues, often without knowing they are doing so. For this reason, all properly designed drug trials are double blind. But given that both groups can often guess from the side effects, even this precaution may not always crush the generation of expectancies.

1. Which of the following is NOT a feature of Western medicine? A) It reduces the patients. self-healing powers. B) It has the full support of high-tech machines. C) It is very expensive. D) It has complicated rituals.

2. What does the term "the placebo effect" mean? A) It means the mind-troubling effect. B) It means the psychological effect. C) It means the harmful effect. D) It means the theatrical effect.

3. What does "them" (the last word in paragraph 3) refer to? A) Clinical trials. B) The bodys major hormones. C) Expectations about health or disease. D) Many subconscious ways.

4. Why did the patients whose dentists thought

they had at least a 50-50 chance of being given a painkiller suffer significantly less pain? A) Because of doctors expectations. B) Because of the placebo effect. C) Because of the healing power of the medicine taken. D) Because of the excellent medical skills of the doctors.

5. What does the author mean by saying that for this reason, all properly designed drug trials are double blind (in the last paragraph)? A) The physician and the patient are both ignorant of the healing power of the medicine. B) The physician doesnt know whether the given pill is real or fake. C) The patient doesnt know whether the given pill is real or fake. D) Neither the physician nor the patient knows whether the given pill is real or fake. Key: ABCAD

PASSAGE 32 Fords Assembly Line When it comes to singling out those who have made a difference in all our lives, you cannot overlook Henry Ford. A historian a century from now might well conclude that it was Ford who most influenced all manufacturing, everywhere, even to this day, by introducing a new way to make cars-one, strange to say, that originated in slaughterhouses. Back in the early 1900s, slaughterhouses used what could have been called a "disassembly line." Ford reversed this process to see if it would speed up production of a part of an automobile engine called a magneto. Rather than have each worker completely assemble a magneto, one of its elements was placed on a conveyer, and each worker, as it passed, added another component to it, the same one each time. Professor David Hounshell of the University of Delaware, an expert on industrial development, tells what happened: "The previous day, workers carrying out the entire process had averaged one assembly

every 20 minutes. But on that day, on the line, the assembly team averaged one every 13 minutes and 10 seconds per person." Within a year, the time had been reduced to five minutes. In 1913, Ford went all the way. Hooked together by ropes, partially assembled vehicles were towed past workers who completed them one piece at a time. It wasn't long before Ford was turning out several hundred thousand cars a year, a remarkable achievement then. And so efficient and economical was this new system that he cut the price of his cars in half, to \$260, putting them within reach of all those who, up until that time, could not afford them. Soon, auto makers the world over copied him. In fact, he encouraged them to do so by writing a book about all of his innovations, entitled *Today and Tomorrow. The Age of the Automobile* has arrived. Today, aided by robots and other forms of automation, everything from toasters to perfumes are made on assembly lines.

1. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
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