

International Islamic University Chittagong

Center for General Education (CGED)

Midterm Examination, Autumn-2022

Course Code: UREL -1205

Course Title: Developing English Language Skills

Time: 1 Hour and 30 Minutes

Full Marks: 30

Dept. of Civil Engineering

17 SEP 2022

Int'l Islamic University Chittagong

Reading Part

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions.

A baby born today could live to be not only 100, but even 120 years old. Hard to believe? Apparently, there could be a gene for not only long life, but long and healthy life.

Even today, there are many, many people who have passed the landmark age of 100 – an age that seemed an impossible achievement only a few decades ago. In fact, there are now so many healthy, elderly people that a new term has been coined: the wellderly. These are people over the age of 80 who have no chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, coronary disease or diabetes and who have never taken medication for these conditions.

There have been quite a few scientific studies of communities where a healthy old age is typical. These include places like Calabria in southern Italy and the island of Okinawa in Japan.

The small village of Molochio in Calabria numbers about 2,000 inhabitants. And of these, there are at least eight centenarians. When researchers ask people like this what the secret of their long life is, the answer is invariably to do with diet and is almost always the same: 'I eat a lot of fruit and vegetables.' 'A little bit, but of everything.' 'No smoking, no drinking.'

But such evidence is now regarded as unreliable and these days scientists are looking beyond diet and lifestyle to genetic factors. Eric Topol is one researcher who questions the received wisdom, saying, 'There must be genes that explain why some individuals are protected from the harmful genes that affect the aging process.'

New research into long life, looking at groups of people who have a genetic connection, has taken scientists to Ecuador. In one small region there are a number of people with a genetic condition called Laron syndrome. The main effect of this condition is to restrict the individual's growth to little more than a metre, but it also seems to protect them against both cancer and diabetes. Ultimately, those with Laron's syndrome live longer than the rest of their families. Meanwhile, on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, there's a completely separate group of Japanese-American men who are particularly long-lived. And it turns out that they have a variant of the same gene as the Laron syndrome group.

Back in Calabria, scientists have been trying to work out exactly how much of the local longevity is due to genetics and how much to environmental factors. By checking public records going back to the 19th century, researchers have reconstructed the family trees of 202 nonagenarians and centenarians. They concluded that there were genetic factors which seemed to benefit the men more than the women – a surprising result because generally in Europe, women centenarians outnumber men by about five to one.

So what really makes people live longer? It seems likely that it is an interaction of genes, the environment and ultimately a third factor beyond our control – luck.

1. Answer the questions as directed 0.5x8=4
 - a) Research into families in Calabria (doesn't support the idea of a genetic basis for old age/found that more women lived to old age than men/showed unexpected old age patterns.)
 - b) Laron syndrome is interesting to scientists because ...(it explains why some people don't grow tall./it shows that there is a genetic reason for old age./it only affects men.)
 - c) What does the word **wellderly** mean in the article?
 - d) There have been quite a few scientific studies of communities where a healthy old age is typical. Here the word **typical** means _____.
 - e) What is the secret of long life?
 - f) Who is Eric Topol?
 - g) What is the symptom of Laron's Syndrome?
 - h) Where is Molochio situated?

2. Complete the sentences using the correct form of these words. 0.5x6=3

achievement, benefit, harmful, medication, restrict, unreliable

 - a) Tobacco is full of _____ substances that cause disease.
 - b) Giving up smoking is a real _____ that people can be proud of.
 - c) When taking _____, you should follow your doctor's instructions carefully.
 - d) Our local hospital _____ visitors to one person for each patient.
 - e) Protecting the environment _____ everyone.
 - f) Dave is an _____ employee. He takes too many days off.

3. Write a summary of the article in more than 100 words. 3

4. Answer the question as per directions. 1x5=5
 - a. What might you say in this situation? Use a conditional sentence.
You haven't got a pen, so can't write down the address.
 - b. You can't drive a car _____ you haven't got a licence. (Use a conjunction)
 - c. I'll see you near the post office. We met there the other day.(Join with a relative pronoun)
 - d. We can't go along here because the road is _____ (repairing/repared/being repaired.)
 - e. She told that she can't remember nothing about it.(Correct it if necessary.)

5. Develop the topic sentence into a complete paragraph. 5

Researchers have found some genetic connections behind long life.

6. Speaking test(it will be taken by the course teacher in a convenient time) 5
7. Listening test(it will be taken by the course teacher in a convenient time) 5