

PRACTICE TEST 51

Passage 1

In 1781 twelve families trooped north from Mexico to California. On a stream along the desert's edge they built a settlement called Los Angeles. For many years it was a market town where nearby farmers and ranchers met to trade.

Then in 1876 a railroad linked Los Angeles to San Francisco and, through San Francisco to the rest of the country. The next year farmers sent their first trainload of oranges east. By a new railroad provided a direct route between Los Angeles and Chicago.

Then in the 1890 's oil was discovered in the city. As derricks went up, workers built many highways and pipe lines. Digging began on a harbor that would make Los Angeles not only an ocean port but also a fishing center. The harbor was completed in 1914. That year the Panama Canal opened. Suddenly Los Angeles was the busiest port on the Pacific Coast.

Today the city is the main industrial center in the West. It produces goods not only for other West Coast communities but also for those in other parts of the country. It leads the nation in making air planes and equipment for exploring outer space. Many motion pictures and television programs are filmed in Los Angeles. The city is also the business center for states in the West. Improvements in transportation are the main reason for Los Angeles' growth.

1. According to the passage what was the main commercial activity of Los Angeles during the years directly following its settlement?
(A) Fruit growing (B) Oil drilling
(C) Fishing (D) Trading
2. According to the passage in which year were oranges first shipped from Los Angeles to the East Coast by train?
(A) 1781 (B) 1876 (C) 1877 (D) 1890
3. San Francisco is mentioned in the passage for which of the following reasons?
(A) The settlers who founded Los Angeles came from San Francisco.
(B) San Francisco linked Los Angeles with the rest of the country
(C) San Francisco was a market town where farmers came to trade.
(D) Oil was discovered in San Francisco in the 1890's.
4. Where in the passage does the author state the principal cause of the expansion of Los Angeles?
(A) Line 5 (B) Line 7 (C) Line 11 (D) Lines 15-16

Passage 3

The term 'virus' is derived from the Latin word for poison, or slime. It was originally applied to the noxious stench emanating from swamps that was thought to cause a variety of diseases in the centuries before microbes were discovered and specifically linked to illness. But it was not until almost the end of the nineteenth century that a true virus was proven to be the cause of a disease.

The nature of viruses made them impossible to detect for many years even after bacteria had been discovered and studied. Not only are viruses too small to be seen with a light microscope, they also cannot be detected through their biological activity, except as it occurs in conjunction with other organisms. In fact, viruses show no traces of biological activity by themselves. Unlike bacteria, they are not living agents in the strictest sense. Viruses are very simple pieces of organic material composed only of nucleic acid, either DNA or RNA, enclosed in a coat of protein made up of simple structural units. (Some viruses also contain carbohydrates and lipids.) They are parasites, requiring human, animal, or plant cells to live. The virus replicates by attaching to a cell and injecting its nucleic acid. Once inside the cell, the DNA or RNA that contains the virus' genetic information takes over the cell's biological machinery, and the cell begins to manufacture viral proteins rather than its own.

1. Which of the following is the best title for the passage.
(A) New Developments in Viral Research (B) Exploring the Causes of Disease
(C) DNA: Nature's Building Block (D) Understanding Viruses
2. Before microbes were discovered it was believed that some diseases were caused by
(A) germ-carrying insects (B) certain strains of bacteria
(C) foul odors released from swamps (D) slimy creatures living near swamps
3. The word "proven" in line 4 is closest meaning to which of the following.
(A) Shown (B) Feared (C) Imagined (D) Considered
4. The word "nature" in line 6 is closest in meaning to which of the following?
(A) Self-sufficiency (B) Shapes (C) Characteristics (D) Speed
5. The author implies that bacteria were investigated earlier than viruses because
(A) bacteria are easier to detect (B) bacteria are harder to eradicate
(C) viruses are extremely poisonous (D) viruses are found only in hot climates
6. All of the following may be components of a virus EXCEPT
(A) RNA (B) plant cells (C) carbohydrates (D) a coat of protein