

GRE Verbal Practice Paper 44

Questions 17-23

Refer to the following passage. After reading the passage, read and respond to the questions that follow by selecting the best choice for each one.

Statins are a class of drugs that work to decrease the level of cholesterol in the blood. They are able to perform this function by effectively blocking the cholesterol-producing enzyme in the liver. In recent years, statins have increased in utility and popularity. Although a certain amount of cholesterol is imperative for the human body to function, an elevated level can cause a precarious situation in the body. Cholesterol affixes itself to arteries, lining them and inhibiting blood flow. Since less blood can travel through those encumbered arteries, the blood flow to the heart is adversely affected. Scientists have found that the walls of arteries in the body can become inflamed from this plaque buildup. In many instances, the end result of this decreased blood supply and inflammation is a heart attack – sometimes a fatal one. In other cases the blood supply to the brain is compromised by the plaque buildup, often causing a stroke. Decreased blood flow to the legs can cause leg pains or cramps. In short, arterial plaque buildup is never a healthy situation.

Statins diminish the amount of cholesterol generated by the body. Although the drugs are not always able to reduce the amount of plaque that may already be clogging arteries, they can slow the production of new plaque. The drugs are also able to stabilize the plaques that are already present and make them less likely to cause problems in the body. Lowered cholesterol does not guarantee that a heart attack won't occur, but statin use will lower the risk for most patients. Not everyone who has a heart attack has high cholesterol levels, but most do have plaque formations on their arteries. It should be noted that the plaque is not always formed by high levels of cholesterol in the blood. Statins are generally prescribed by doctors for people with elevated cholesterol levels. As the mean weight of the American population has risen, so has the number of individuals with high cholesterol. Millions of men and women in this country are prescribed statins in an effort to decrease the amount of cholesterol in their blood. Remarkably, these effects can be seen in as little as two weeks after beginning a statin regime.

17. The author's main point is that:

- A. Cholesterol can cause heart attacks.
- B. Statins can diminish the amount of cholesterol in the blood.
- C. Most people have plaque buildup in their arteries.
- D. Statins are not able to decrease the amount of plaque lining the arteries.
- E. Heart attacks are not the only danger of high cholesterol.

18. Which of the following does the author imply about statins?

- I. They can be lifesaving drugs.
 - II. They are overprescribed by doctors.
 - III. They are expensive drugs to produce.
- A. I only

- B. II only
- C. III only
- D. I and II only
- E. II and III only

19. Which of the following is suggested about the American population?

- A. Their life expectancy has decreased in the past few decades.
- B. They don't get enough exercise.
- C. Their diet may be affecting their cholesterol levels.
- D. They want an easy fix for a difficult problem.
- E. There are a record number of heart disease deaths in the United States.

20. According to the article, which of the following is true of statins?

- I. They can help rid the arteries of dangerous plaque.
- II. They are able to affect the body relatively quickly.
- III. They are an inexpensive drug.

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

21. According to the article, which is true of cholesterol?

- I. A certain amount of cholesterol is needed by the body.
- II. Cholesterol may be dangerous to the body.
- III. A low cholesterol level means a person likely won't have a heart attack.

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

22. The author concedes that statins' job is primarily to:

- A. slow the production of cholesterol in the body.
- B. eliminate the possibility of a heart attack.

- C. increase the amount of blood flowing to the heart.
- D. attack the cholesterol in the human body.
- E. improve the condition of a person's arteries.

23. The author organizes the passage by:

- A. enumerating reasons why statins are useful drugs.
- B. debating the importance of statins.
- C. criticizing the American public's diet and health.
- D. outlining ways to reduce cholesterol in the blood.
- E. discussing ways doctors treat high cholesterol.

Questions 24-27 refer to the following passage.

One way to deliver news is with a photograph. Well-placed images can enhance and further explain details of news stories while impacting the viewer emotionally. Indeed, the main goal of a news photograph is not necessarily to be aesthetically pleasing, but to objectively deliver the news by way of a graphic image. Interpreting the news through photographs is not an effortless task, even for the experienced photojournalist. What separates a good news photograph from a typical photo is that a good one will not just be a picture. It will be a complete sentence, with a subject, a verb, and a verb object. It won't just say "the dog" or "the boy," but it will say, "The dog saved the boy and seemed to know what it was doing." Good photographs won't be posed or set up, but will be a slice of the news story as it happens.

Most professional photojournalists know that the best photographs they can take are those that are able to provoke emotion. A snapshot is not simply taken of a plane that has been involved in a runway crash. A good photojournalist will try to find a way to show a part of the story: a distraught person, an ice-plagued runway, or even a spent firefighter. This can mean time invested waiting around for the right moment and the right photograph.

Professional photojournalists know and expect this, and know that it is time well spent when they get the shot that shows the story.

24. The author's main point is that:

- A. it's not easy to take a good photograph.
- B. photojournalists are professionals.
- C. photographs are an important part of the news.
- D. news photographs are not just pictures.
- E. it's wrong to pose a news photograph.

25. Which of the following does the author imply about photojournalism?

- I. It's not as easy as it looks to take a news photograph.
- II. Most photojournalists have strong relationships with those they photograph.
- III. Most people can be taught to take a good photograph.

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

26. Which statement is true about an objectively delivered news photograph?

- I. It shows the photographer's feelings about the subject.
- II. It may show the photographer's personal bias.
- III. It will be devoid of the photographer's feelings.

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

27. As implied by the passage, which part of speech does a good photograph mainly capture?

- A. adverb
- B. noun
- C. adjective
- D. verb
- E. preposition