Name: _____ Teacher: _____ Date: _____

PART I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXT (70 points)

BEWARE OF SUPERBUGS

The headline of the Washington Post read "SUPERBUG CLAIMS 7th VICTIM'. The article reported that 17 hospital patients were infected with deadly bacteria which were resistant to drugs. Even though the victims were isolated from other patients and treated with antibiotics, not everyone survived. This article reflects a new and shocking reality. Powerful bacteria, called superbugs, are invading our world, and they are indestructible.

The widespread misuse of antibiotics, since its discovery in 1945, is the main cause of the superbug invasion. Antibiotics, which were originally intended to treat bacterial infections, have been used for viral infections. Some antibiotics can easily be bought over the counter; others are prescribed by doctors who succumb to pressure from patients. The implications of this misuse are cause for concern. The first is that antibiotics only work against bacterial infections and are ineffective in the case of viral infections. The second and more serious implication is that when a patient regularly takes an antibiotic for a viral infection, such as a sore throat, his or her body builds up a resistance, which means the antibiotic will have little effect against a superbug in the future.

To make matters worse, superbugs do not only affect people. In many countries, animals are given large doses of antibiotics to make them grow faster and healthier in order to produce cheaper meat. However, antibiotics have the same effect on animals as on people. These animals build up resistance and become a breeding ground for superbugs.

Today, experts are looking for solutions to superbugs. The most immediate problem is to stop their spread. Therefore, strict rules of hygiene, such as washing hands and sterilizing equipment, are enforced in hospitals and health clinics. In another attempt to fight superbugs, the use of antibiotics in some countries is now restricted by law. In the Netherlands, for example, antibiotics are rarely prescribed. This has resulted in a very low incidence of infections due to superbugs. And in the U.S., politicians are

trying to pass a bill which will limit the use of antibiotics in agriculture.

Hopefully, these controls will help win future battles against superbugs.

(Information from "The Spread of Superbugs: What Can Be Done about the Rising, Risk of Antibiotic Resistance'?" The Economist, March 31, 2011)

QUESTIONS:

What do we learn about superbugs from lines 1-6?

PUT A ✓ BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

..... i) They are very infectious.

..... ii) They must be treated with antibiotics.

..... iii) Recently, they killed 17 people.

..... iv) They are impossible to eliminate.

..... v) All the patients were infected with the bacteria.

..... vi) They are invading certain hospitals.

2. In lines 1-6 the writer describes a problem. In lines 7-16 the writer (-).

a) expresses an opinion about this problem
b) provides solutions to the problem
c) gives the background to the problem
d) compares the problem to other problems

3. What was the initial purpose of antibiotics'? (lines 7-16)

ANSWER:_____.

4. "The widespread misuse of antibiotics ... is the main cause of the superbug invasion." (lines 7-8) What is the effect of this?

COMPLETE THE SEQUENCE OF CAUSE AND EFFECT. (lines 11-16)

(i) Antibiotics work only against bacterial infections.

(ii) However, they are being used_____.

(iii) The body builds up a resistance to antibiotics.

(iv) This means antibiotics are no longer_____.

5. How is the effect of misusing antibiotics similar in both animals and humans?

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. (lines 17-21)

They both_____.

6. Give TWO examples of different methods being used to prevent the spread of superbugs. (lines 22-28)

(1) _____ .

(2) _____ .

7. The Netherlands is described as a country which restricts the use of antibiotics. What are the results of this action? (lines 22-28)

ANSWER: _____ .