

TOEFL EXERCISE 3: Study each of the passages, and choose the best answers to the questions that follow.

PASSAGE ONE (Questions 1–2)

Blood pressure measurement has two components: systolic and diastolic. Systolic pressure is taken when the heart is contracting to pump blood; diastolic pressure is taken when the heart is resting between beats. In the usual blood pressure reading, the systolic measurement is given first and is the higher of the two.

Line
(5)

Normal blood pressure is a systolic measurement of 120–140, and when the systolic pressure is 160 or higher, then hypertension exists. Systolic pressure between 140 and 160 indicates borderline hypertension.

1. Which of the following is NOT true about systolic blood pressure?
 - (A) It is taken during the contraction of the heart.
 - (B) It is usually given first in a blood pressure reading.
 - (C) A normal systolic measurement is 120–140.
 - (D) Hypertension exists when the systolic pressure is below 140.
2. Which of the following is NOT stated about diastolic pressure?
 - (A) It is one of the two components of blood pressure measurement.
 - (B) It is taken when the heart is resting.
 - (C) It is lower than systolic pressure.
 - (D) A diastolic measurement of 140 is normal.

PASSAGE THREE (Questions 5–8)

The tunnel trees in Yosemite Valley are an amazing attraction to people who visit there. The tunnel trees are huge trees, giant redwoods, which have had tunnels carved in them, and cars can actually drive through some of the trees. The fact that the trees are large enough to have cars drive through them should give you some indication of just how big the trees are.

There are currently two existing tunnel trees in Yosemite Valley. One of them is called the "Dead Giant." This is just the stump, or bottom part, of a much larger tree. The hole was cut through the base of the tree in 1878, and stagecoaches used to drive through it. Today the Dead Giant still exists, but the stagecoaches do not. Passenger cars can and do drive through the 10-foot-wide opening in the tree stump.

The other existing tunnel tree is the 230-foot high California Tree, which had a hole carved through it in 1895. This tree is no longer open to the public, so it is not possible to take a car through it.

Unfortunately, a third tunnel tree no longer exists. The Wawona Tunnel Tree was a 2,100-year-old tree which was carved in 1881. A terrible snowstorm in 1969 caused this ancient giant of a tree to fall.

5. Which of the following is NOT true about the tunnel trees in Yosemite Valley?
 - (A) They are trees with holes cut in them.
 - (B) They are giant redwoods.
 - (C) Three tunnel trees currently exist.
 - (D) Cars have driven through some of them.
6. All of the following are stated about the Dead Giant, EXCEPT that
 - (A) it is still a tunnel tree today
 - (B) it is just the stump of a tree
 - (C) it was cut less than a century ago
 - (D) it has a 10-foot opening
7. Which of the following is NOT true about the California Tree?
 - (A) Its tunnel still exists.
 - (B) Its tunnel is 230 feet high.
 - (C) Its tunnel was cut in 1895.
 - (D) Cars are not allowed to go through it.
8. All of the following are true about the Wawona Tunnel Tree, EXCEPT that
 - (A) it does not exist anymore
 - (B) the tree lived for more than 2,000 years
 - (C) the tunnel tree was destroyed in a snowstorm
 - (D) the tunnel was destroyed in 1881