

EXERCISE 9

Questions 1 to 8 are based on the following passage.

- 1 As befits and industrialised country, Britain's public-health problems are those of wealth rather than poverty. But beneath headlines about fat, cigarettes and a national epidemic of drunkenness, two diseases that were believed vanquished decades ago are re-emerging. Both are linked to immigration.
- 2 On December 29th, the Department of Health confirmed what doctors have long suspected: rickets seems to be on the rise. The disease – thought to have been eradicated in the 1950's – stunt growth and deforms the skeleton, characteristically causing bowed legs and worse. 5
- 3 The other disease is tuberculosis, dimly remembered as an affliction of slum-dwellers and glamorous Victorian poets. Antibiotics and a national-screening programme had all but wiped out the disease. Yet cases have been increasing since the mid-1980s. In 2000, 6323 were reported in Britain (excluding Scotland). Or 11.7 for each 100 000 people; by 2006 that had risen to 8112, or 14.6 per 100 000, and the true number is thought to be higher. 10
- 4 Migration is involved in the resurgence of both conditions, though in different ways. Rickets is usually caused by a lack of vitamin D, which is needed to absorb calcium to build bones. Most vitamin D is made when skin is exposed to sunlight. Not much sunshine is needed – around 15 minutes a day in summer – but obtaining it in Britain, with its grey climate, house-bound children and official warnings about skin cancer, can be tricky. Skin colour matters too: dark-skinned people require more sun. What scant data there are suggest that up to 1 in 100 children from ethnic minorities may suffer from rickets. 15
- 5 Whereas migrants from sunny countries may develop rickets after arriving in Britain, tuberculosis is a disease that often comes with them. Rates of infection are lowest among natives and highest among immigrants from Africa, where the disease is common in part because of the spread of AIDS, whose sufferers are particularly susceptible to infection. Tuberculosis is most common in the poorer areas of Britain's cities, which tend to have high immigrant populations and where poverty and deprivation erode resistance to the disease. Newham, a poor east London borough that is home to many immigrant families, has around 100 infections per 100 000 people, the highest rate in the country and comparable to China's figure. 20 25
- 6 In theory, rickets is easy to cure: official advice is to get more sunshine and, for pregnant woman and young children, to take vitamin D supplements (though only around a fifth of mothers heed it). Tuberculosis is harder to stamp out. Vaccinations which used to be universal, have been re-introduced for children in high-risk areas. Immigrants from countries with the disease are offered screening when they arrive, although Chris Griffiths, a tuberculosis expert at Queen Mary, University of London, reckons the system is too leaky to catch all of them. Often those most at risk are hardest to reach. One drug-resistant strain has been circulating in Camden and Islington for five years, especially among homeless people and ex-prisoners. This has prompted suggestions that sufferers be detained in secure hospitals – a Victorian response to a Victorian disease. 30 35

(Adapted from The Economist, January 5, 2008)

- 1 The word *vanquished* (line 3) has the same meaning as the following **except**
- A confirmed (line 5)
- B eradicated (line 6)
- C wiped out (line 9 – 10)

- 2 A child suffering from rickets is likely to
- A have short legs
 - B be fair in complexion
 - C grow at a much slower rate
- 3 Which of the following questions is answered by paragraph 4?
- A How can immigrants avoid getting rickets?
 - B Why do immigrants develop rickets in Britain?
 - C What is the link between dark-skinned immigrants and rickets?
- 4 Which of the following ideas is **not** found in paragraph 5?
- A Tuberculosis is related to poverty.
 - B There is a link between tuberculosis and AIDS.
 - C The rate of infection of tuberculosis in London is the same as that in China.
- 5 *One drug-resistant strain has been circulating ... for five years, ...* (lines 34 and 35). The writer cites this example to support the idea that
- A it is difficult to contain tuberculosis
 - B tuberculosis is more rampant among the homeless
 - C tuberculosis sufferers need to be confined in hospitals
- 6 What is true about rickets and tuberculosis?
- A They can be easily cured
 - B They are migrant-related disease
 - C They were eradicated in the 1950s
- 7 The gist of the passage is
- A the spread of diseases among immigrants
 - B the increase in cases of rickets and tuberculosis
 - C the re-emergence of diseases that were believed to have been stamped out
- 8 The idea in the passage are developed mainly through
- A cause and effect
 - B problem and solution
 - C compare and contrast