

## SECTION B

## READING COMPREHENSION

## INSTRUCTIONS:

This section contains **TWO** passages. Read the passages carefully and answer the questions that follow. Special attention should be given to the directions for each question.

## SECTION B – PART 1

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the following passage and answer the questions which follow. **ALL** questions must be answered in complete sentences and in your own words unless otherwise indicated. All answers must be based on information in the passage.

## BUSH MEDICINE

MEDICINE is the science and art concerned with relieving pain, injury and disease, and prolonging life. Bush medicine, which uses various plants to promote healing and a healthy lifestyle, was practised long ago by the people of the Bahama Islands and particularly the Family Islands.

There were no doctors on those islands; therefore, the inhabitants tried to survive by doing their own doctoring, using local plants which were readily available. When a cure was proclaimed the potion was passed on from generation to generation. In an emergency the patient concerned was sent to Nassau on a boat. This could take up to three weeks, sometimes longer, depending on the weather. Knowing how to prepare and use plants for medicinal purposes was therefore very important to the islanders.

Today, many people on the Family Islands still insist on using their bush medicine, instead of seeing the doctors and nurses now stationed on these islands. Some plants are actually used to make medicine prescribed by doctors today (e.g. Senokot plant – Senokot tablets). There are numerous plants used for medicinal purposes, following various methods of preparation. Here are just a few:

*The Aloe*

It is probably one of the oldest plants known to man and was mentioned as a cleaning medicine in the Bible. Legend has it that the aloe plant was the only one brought by Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. Medicinal properties of the leaves are today used in modern medicine and beauty preparations, but have been used for centuries as an "instant" burn cure, pain reliever, tonic and laxative.

The liquid from one of the leaves may be drained into boiling water, and the mixture used to sharpen the appetite, for indigestion and to produce bowel movement. Also, one leaf cut in two sections may be applied on burns and cuts.

*Blue Flowers*

Crush a few leaves of this plant into a piece of clean cloth. Pour hot water over this. Strain and use to cure worms in children, reduce fever, cool the blood, reduce chills and induce vomiting. Rub Vaseline on to a leaf and apply on a boil to bring it to a head.

*Cascarilla Bark*

This is used in the making of Campari. When the dry twigs are boiled, the mixture is used to get rid of stomach pains and reduce fever.

*Castor Oil*

The young leaves are heated and greased with Vaseline and tied around the head to stop a headache. The plant is also used as a laxative when the seeds are parched, beaten and put into boiling water, and strained.

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Imagine that you are a Bush Medicine Doctor. You recently received a letter from a concerned mother whose child has sores and is suffering from shortness of breath. What bush medicine(s) would you recommend to the parent and what instructions would you give for preparation?