

TOEFL EXERCISE 5: Study each of the passages, and choose the best answers to the questions that follow.

PASSAGE ONE (Questions 1–4)

When babies are born, they always have blue eyes. This is because the melanin, the pigment that colors the eyes, is not on the surface of the iris. Instead, it is within the creases of the iris. Because there is little melanin on the surface of the iris, the eyes appear blue.

Line
(5)

After a few months, the melanin moves to the surface of the iris. It is the amount of melanin on the surface that determines a person's permanent eye color, so it is at this point that a baby's eyes develop the color they will have for a lifetime.

1. The word "pigment" in line 2 is closest in meaning to
 - (A) skin
 - (B) muscle
 - (C) tissue
 - (D) color
2. The word "surface" in line 2 is closest in meaning to
 - (A) top
 - (B) inside
 - (C) back
 - (D) bottom
3. The word "permanent" in line 6 could best be replaced by
 - (A) changeable
 - (B) lasting
 - (C) dark
 - (D) possible
4. The word "point" in line 7 could best be replaced by which of the following?
 - (A) Dot
 - (B) Era
 - (C) Time
 - (D) Place

PASSAGE TWO (Questions 5–9)

The chili pepper is native to the Americas, but nowadays it is found all over the world. It is an extremely popular spice in many cultures and is, in fact, the world's second favorite spice, after salt. There are more than a hundred species of chili peppers, some which are quite mild and others which are incredibly hot and spicy.

Line
(5)

Today chili peppers are used to spice a variety of foods, e.g., salsa, meat and rice dishes, and even jam and jelly. In the past, chili peppers had some other, more unusual uses. In ancient Mexico, for example, chilies could be used to pay taxes. In addition, in Panama, these peppers were used to protect against sharks.

5. The word "favorite" in line 3 is closest in meaning to
 - (A) most popular
 - (B) most delicious
 - (C) best known
 - (D) most recognized
6. The word "species" in line 3 is closest in meaning to which of the following?
 - (A) Plants
 - (B) Uses
 - (C) Types
 - (D) Sizes
7. The word "mild" in line 4 could best be replaced by
 - (A) strong tasting
 - (B) cold
 - (C) delicate tasting
 - (D) amiable
8. "Jam" in line 6 is probably
 - (A) a type of chili
 - (B) something to eat
 - (C) something to wear
 - (D) a container for chilies
9. The expression "protect against" in line 8 could best be replaced by
 - (A) lean against
 - (B) hunt for
 - (C) flirt with
 - (D) defend against