Part II - READING COMPREHENSION (B)

Read the following passage carefully and answer question 2 in English.
Hebrew or Arabic will not be accepted in this part of the test.

Are Microchip Tags Safe?

I

You may not know what RFID stands for, but you probably use the technology regularly. RFID (that is, radio frequency identification) is in passports, credit cards, library books and car keys. Like bar codes, RFID chips store and relay information, and allow for the identification of products — and, now, of house pets and people too.

II

"Human tagging" was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2004 to provide easy access to private medical records and keep them safe. However, not a lot of people have been interested in tagging because they are concerned about its effects. In addition, some employers are thinking of using RFID as a means for paying their workers or giving them government benefits but their workers are not too happy about it.

III

This summer, VeriChip, the maker of the RFID chips began a large pilot program in the USA. Scott Silverman, CEO of VeriChip said that the company implanted its "human tags" in hundreds of human patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease in order to give these patients instant and accurate access to their medical records. Last year, 98,000 deaths occurred in emergency rooms because the patient had no medical information or it was inaccurate. The RFID chip offers a solution to this problem.

IV

RFID chips have been criticized in research that suggests the "human tags" might cause cancer in laboratory animals. Silverman provided other research that showed that less than 1% of the laboratory animals developed cancer. Despite these reports, many groups still implant the chip for their patient's medical records since the chip cannot be taken off or lost. Even though the public isn't yet excited about RFID tagging, Silverman expects this year's sales to be 3.4 million chips, double the amount sold in 2006. *(Adapted from New York Times October 18, 2007)*

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2. *Answer the following questions.* (30 points)

a. *Match [A] to [B] according to the text.*

A	B
a. the number of laboratory animals that got sick from the chip	(i) 3.4
b. the number of people who died in emergency rooms in 2006	(ii) 98,000
c. the number of chips that will be sold in 2007	(iii) 2004
d. the year "human tagging" was approved in the USA	(iv) 1%

(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____

b. What are **three** uses of the RFID chip? (paragraph I)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

c. ***Tick (✓) the correct answer according to paragraph II.***

Human tagging is used to provide a way for people to

☐ (i) find their way to the hospital.

☐ (ii) keep their medical records safe.

☐ (iii) pay their government taxes.

d. ***Tick (✓) the correct answer according to paragraph III.***

What problem can the RFID chip solve?

☐ (i) It can prevent Alzheimer's diseases.

☐ (ii) It can prevent emergency room visits.

☐ (iii) It can prevent unnecessary deaths.

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e. ***Tick (✓) the THREE correct answers according to paragraph IV.***

What happened after the results of the "human-tag" research were published? (paragraph IV)

☐ (i) Sales of the chip are expected to increase this year.

☐ (ii) The public is very excited about the use of the chip.

☐ (iii) The chip with medical data is still placed in many patients.

☐ (iv) The chip has been lost by many patients.

☐ (v) Several groups are now researching the chip.

☐ (vi) Another study showed that there is little risk of cancer.

f. ***Read the main ideas below.***

Write the paragraph number that each main idea refers to.

Main Idea	Paragraph
1. Why the chip was approved	
2. How the chip helps Alzheimer patients	
3. Criticism of the RFID chip	
4. Uses of the RFID chip	

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