

**Epreuve du 1<sup>er</sup> groupe****ANGLAIS****Aspirin reduces deaths from some cancers**

People have known since ancient times that aspirin lessens pain and lowers high body temperature. But **that** is not all the drug can do. It has gained important new uses in recent years. Small amounts may help prevent a stroke or heart attack. Some researchers say aspirin may help patients with colon cancer live longer, or may even prevent some cancers.

5 But doctors also warn that the acid in aspirin can cause problems like bleeding in the stomach and intestines.

The story of aspirin begins with a willow tree. Two thousand years ago, the Greek doctor Hippocrates advised his patients to chew on the bark and leaves of the willow. The tree contains a chemical called salicin. In the eighteenth century, researchers discovered how to make salicylic acid from the chemical. In 1897, a chemist named Felix Hoffmann at Friedrich Bayer and Company in Germany created acetyl salicylic acid. Later, it became the active substance in a medicine that Bayer called aspirin. The “a” came from acetyl. The “spir” came from the spirea plant, which also produces salicin, and the “in” is the common way to end medicine names.

15 Last year, a group of experts examined studies of aspirin at the request of federal health officials in the United States. The experts said people with an increased risk of a heart attack should take a low-strength aspirin every day. Aspirin may help someone who is having a heart attack caused by a blockage in a blood vessel. Aspirin thins the blood, so it may be able to flow past the blockage. But heart experts say people should seek emergency help immediately. And they say an aspirin is no substitute treatment, only for temporary help.

20 Aspirin competes with many other medicines for reducing pain and high body temperature. The competition includes acetaminophen, the active substance in products like Tylenol. Like the medicine ibuprofen, aspirin is an NSAID – a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. Aspirin does not help everything, however. It can cause problems. For example, it can interfere with other medicines, although this is true of many drugs. Also, some people should not take aspirin. People who take other blood thinners or have bleeding disorders are among **this group**. Pregnant women are usually told to avoid aspirin.

25 Experts say most people should not take aspirin for disease prevention without first talking to a doctor because there are risks to taking aspirin. Some researchers have even said that some people get little or no protection from aspirin. So research continues on one of the oldest and most widely used drugs in the world.

Adapted from <http://www.voa.com/learning> English/  
December 13<sup>th</sup> 2010.

**Epreuve du 1<sup>er</sup> groupe**

**I. READING COMPREHENSION (8 marks)**

A. **Information transfer** : Give three (3) positive effects and three negative effects of aspirin from the text. (3 marks)

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	6.

B. **Vocabulary in context** (2 marks)

a) **Synonyms** : Find equivalents of the following words in the text.

- 7. quantities (p. 1) : .....
- 8. To circulate (p. 3) : .....

b) **Antonyms** : Find the opposites of the following words in the text.

- 9. rare (p. 2) : .....
- 10. cure (p. 5) : .....

C. **Looking for information** (3 marks)

1) Pick out of the text sentences justifying that not everybody should take aspirin.

- 11. ....
- 12. ....

2) Find words showing that aspirin is not a new medicine.

- 13. ....

**II. LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (8 marks)**

D. **Error Identification and correction** : Identify the errors in the following sentences then correct them. (3 marks)

- 14. In spite its efficiency, aspirin may cause a lot of damage to some people.
- 15. I was made drink much aspirin.
- 16. The use of aspirin doesn't need a many money.

E. **Discourse connectors** : Use the words and phrases in the box to complete the sentences meaningfully. Each item has to be used only once. (1.5 mark)

since – however  
As a result – yet

Many people use aspirin to relieve whatever pain they may feel. ...., many accidents have been reported. ...., some people keep using it without a doctor's advice. ...., those who should not use it always make the fatal mistake of self-medication.

17.

18.

19.

**Epreuve du 1<sup>er</sup> groupe**

F. **Sentence rewriting** : Rewrite the sentences correctly using the prompts given. (2 marks)

20. Pregnant women are usually told to avoid aspirin.  
Doctors.....

21. Some people have accidents because many medicate themselves.  
If.....

G. **Notions and Functions** : Match each notion in column A with the appropriate function in column B. (1.5 marks)

Column A	Column B
22. you had better take aspirins	a. contrast
23. you don't need to see a doctor for this	b. suggestion
24. how about asking for a prescription ?	c. advice
	d. absence of necessity

III. **WRITING** : Choose only one (1) topic (4 marks)

**Topic 1** : Two people are discussing the advantages and disadvantages of traditional medicine. Write down the conversation. Don't exceed 200 words

**Topic 2** : A doctor is making a speech about self-medication to a group of students. Write down the speech. Don't exceed 200 words.

**ANSWER KEY****I. READING COMPREHENSION (8 marks)****A. Information transfer (3 marks)**

<b>Positive effects</b>	<b>Negative effects</b>
1. Aspirin lessens pain. (It may help patients with colon cancer live longer)	4. Bleeding in the stomach and intestines.
2. Aspirin lowers high body temperature. (It may even prevent some cancers)	5. It can cause problems (it can interfere with other medicines)
3. Aspirin may help prevent a stroke. (It may help someone...in a blood vessel)	6. It can have negative effects on pregnant women

**B. Vocabulary in context (2 marks)****a) Synonyms :**

- 7. Amounts (line 3)
- 8. To flow (line 19)

**b) Antonyms :**

- 9. Common (line 14)
- 10. Prevention (line 28)

**C. Looking for information (3 marks)**

- 11. People who take other blood thinners or have bleeding disorders are among this group.
- 12. Pregnant women are usually told to avoid aspirin.
- 13. One of the oldest

**II. LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (8 marks)****D. Error Identification (3 marks)**

- 14. In spite of its efficiency, aspirin may cause a lot of damage.
- 15. I was made to drink much aspirin.
- 16. The use of aspirin doesn't need much money.

**E. Discourse connectors (1.5 marks)**

- 17. However
- 18. Yet
- 19. As a result

**F. Sentence rewriting (2 marks)**

- 20. Doctors usually tell pregnant women to avoid aspirin.
- 21. If some people didn't medicate themselves, they wouldn't have accidents.  
/ If some people have accidents, it's because they medicate themselves.

**G. Notions and Functions (1.5 marks)**

- 22. advice
- 23. absence of necessity
- 24. suggestion