



ANGLAIS

Text: Asbestos¹

While evidence of health hazards associated with the use of asbestos goes back centuries, it wasn't until the Industrial Revolution that the extent of the problem was realized. In the late 19th century large quantities of asbestos were needed for the ever-expanding textile and building industries. The first documented case of an asbestos related death was reported in 1906. After generations of asbestos related health problems, an autopsy of an asbestos worker revealed that he had died of lung fibrosis. By 1918, life insurance companies were charging higher premiums for asbestos workers.

By the 1970's an array of health problems had been found to be associated with the mining of asbestos, and the manufacture and use of asbestos products. If the use of asbestos were confined to a relatively few products, it would have been a simple process to find alternatives to asbestos, discontinue the manufacture and distribution of products containing asbestos and recall products that were already in the hands of consumers. Unfortunately, asbestos was being used in the manufacture of thousands of diverse products. Ranging from brake shoes, and insulation for houses and pipes to clothing and other textiles. As we will discuss in detail later, asbestos was even showing up in products in which insulation was not an intended ingredient. Once the health risks associated with exposure to asbestos were brought to the forefront, it was too late to confine the corrective action to a few isolated incidents. Asbestos related diseases had reached all parts of the industrialized world and had become a global problem in the work place and in the living spaces of millions of individuals.

While individuals employed in industries associated with asbestos are at highest risk, families of such workers can also be placed at risk if the workers bring home their work clothes for laundering. Today it is common for workers to remove uniforms and shower prior to leaving the facility. Clothing that might be contaminated is laundered professionally.

The general public is exposed to small doses of environmental asbestos from the natural erosion of rocks containing asbestos. These low levels of asbestos (known as "background") seem to be of little consequence in the development of asbestos related diseases. Occasionally an individual may be exposed as a result of exposure to non-work related friable asbestos in building products such as tiles or insulation.

<http://environmentalchemistry.com/yogi/bobbie.html>

Footnote: 1. amiante

READING COMPREHENSION:

(8.5 marks)

A. Say whether these statements are TRUE or FALSE. Then justify by quoting from the text. (3 marks)

1. Centuries ago, people knew very little about the effects of asbestos.

2. The first case of asbestos contamination occurred in the 1990s.

3. The use of asbestos was limited to a few products.

B. Read the text carefully. Find equivalents or near equivalents of these sentences. (2 marks)

4. The demand for asbestos was increasing as manufacturers were expressing needs that were more important.

Equivalent: -----

5. For once, written information was produced that revealed a victim of asbestos.

Equivalent: -----

6. As a result of the extraction of asbestos, a lot of diseases have emerged.

Equivalent: -----

7. The victims of asbestos were submitted to a different financial treatment.

Equivalent: -----

C. Complete the chart with information from the text. (1.5 marks)

Sectors using asbestos	Products showing up asbestos	People at a lower risk
8. -----	10. -----	12. -----
9. -----	11. -----	13. -----

D. Circle a, b, or c to show the correct answer. (2 marks)

14. "The ever-expanding textile industries" means

- a. Textile industries used important quantities of materials to develop.
- b. Textile industries are constantly growing.
- c. Textile industries are expected to grow rapidly.

15. "charging higher premiums" means

- a. imposing more important amounts of money to cover health expenses.
- b. spending more money for the medical support of asbestos workers.
- c. asking for more money to help asbestos workers.

16. "recall products that were already in the hands of workers" means

- a. add products to the ones being used by workers.
- b. remove from sales products being used by workers.
- c. reduce products in the hands of workers.

17. "array of health problems" means

- a. insurmountable health problems.
- b. health problems of great complexity.
- c. a range of health problems

COMPETENCE LINGUISTIC:**(7.5 marks)****E. Complete the sentences with the correct linking words.****(2.5 marks)**

WHETHER / EVEN THOUGH / BUT / DESPITE / AS

18. There was a decrease in the rate of newly contaminated people, -----
-- an increase in asbestos cancer-related death.
19. It is not proved ----- the link exists between asbestosis and the
development of lung cancer.
20. Cigarette smoking causes lung cancer, ----- does exposure to
asbestos.
21. There is a progression of asbestos-related disease ----- the
reduction of the exposure to asbestos.
22. Individuals exposed to asbestos thirty or forty years earlier, were developing lung
cancer ----- they were no longer exposed to the product.

F. Fill in the gap with the correct word.**(2.5 marks)**

DISPLACED / UNRESOLVED / DISCONTINUED / RECALLED / REPLACED / UNRELATED

The use of toxic substances in most industries should be -----²³ for health
reasons. People living in contaminated areas must be -----²⁴ to safer
places and dangerous materials -----²⁵ by environmentally clean ones. If
necessary those already in use can be -----²⁶ even though it is a costly and
restricting procedure. If the health problem remains -----,²⁷ the
consequences on humans will be disastrous.

G. Reformulate the sentences as suggested by the prompts.**(1.5 marks)**

28. Asbestos was being used in the manufacturing of thousands of products.
They ----- of
thousands of products.
29. The use of asbestos decreases progressively in most developed countries.
The use of asbestos is getting (**low**) -----

H. Complete with the correct form of the verbs.**(1 mark)**

30. Manufacturers cannot help----- (**USE**) asbestos.
31. Developed countries ----- (**NOT, FACE**) such health problems, if
they confined asbestos to few products.

WRITING: Choose one topic and write a passage of not more than 150 words. (4 marks)

Topic One: Many workers are exposed to dangerous chemicals in their workplaces. What
measures could be taken to improve their safety? State your ideas.

Topic Two: Do you think that people exposed to a higher risk of contamination should be
given more consistent financial compensation? Give your opinion.