

# TOEFL Reading Sample Paper 06

- A) **Subject:** Reading Comprehension
- B) **Total Questions:** 20 Questions (2 Passages — 10 Questions per Passage)
- C) **Marking Scheme & Rules:**
- **Standard Questions:** 1 Point (Multiple Choice, Insert Text, etc.)
  - **Prose Summary:** 2 Points. This is the final question of each set.
  - **Partial Credit:** Awarded for the Prose Summary (usually 1 point if 2 out of 3 choices are correct).
  - **Negative Marking:** None. 0 points for incorrect answers.
  - **Timing:** Recommended 35 minutes for the entire section.

## PASSAGE I: The Science of Human Anatomy

**Paragraph 1:** Human anatomy is the scientific study of the body's structures. Some of these structures are very small and can only be observed and analyzed with the assistance of a microscope. Other larger structures can **readily** be seen, manipulated, measured, and weighed. The word "anatomy" comes from a Greek root that means "to cut apart."

**Paragraph 2:** [A] Human anatomy was first studied by observing the exterior of the body and observing the wounds of soldiers and other injuries. [B] Later, physicians were allowed to dissect bodies of the dead to **augment** their knowledge. [C] When a body is dissected, its structures are cut apart in order to observe their physical attributes and their relationships to one another. [D] Dissection is still used in medical schools, anatomy courses, and in pathology labs.

**Paragraph 3:** Because the understanding of internal systems requires seeing how different organs interact, the transition from surface observation to internal dissection marked a fundamental shift in medical science. This allowed for a detailed mapping of the human body that was previously impossible. Today, while imaging technology like X-rays and MRIs provides non-invasive views, the physical act of dissection remains a cornerstone of medical education.

1. The word "readily" in Paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to:

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| A. Rarely | C. Carefully |
| B. Easily | D. Secretly  |

2. The word "augment" in Paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to:
- A. Increase
  - B. Prove
  - C. Validate
  - D. Spread
3. According to Paragraph 1, what is the linguistic origin of the word "anatomy"?
- A. A French term meaning "to heal."
  - B. A Latin word for "the dead body."
  - C. A Greek root meaning "to cut apart."
  - D. An ancient Egyptian term for "structure."
4. In Paragraph 2, why does the author mention "the wounds of soldiers"?
- A. To show that ancient wars were more violent than modern ones.
  - B. To illustrate how anatomy was originally studied through external observation.
  - C. To argue that soldiers were the first physicians.
  - D. To explain why medical schools were built near battlefields.
5. According to the passage, what is the primary purpose of dissection?
- A. To weigh the body to determine its total mass.
  - B. To find a cure for common injuries and wounds.
  - C. To observe physical attributes and how structures relate to one another.
  - D. To replace the need for microscopes in the laboratory.
6. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a setting where dissection is currently used?
- A. Medical schools
  - B. Military hospitals
  - C. Pathology labs
  - D. Anatomy courses
7. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in Paragraph 3?
- A. Internal dissection became necessary only after doctors grew tired of surface observation.
  - B. Medical science changed significantly when doctors began looking inside the body to see organ interactions.
  - C. Understanding the human body is impossible without first mapping the exterior systems.
  - D. Most medical shifts are the result of observing how different organs function during surgery.

8. Look at the four squares [A, B, C, D] in Paragraph 2. Where would the following sentence best fit?

*"Access to the human interior was strictly limited in ancient times due to cultural and religious taboos."*

A. [A]

B. [B]

C. [C]

D. [D]

9. What can be inferred from Paragraph 3 about modern imaging technology (X-rays/MRIs)?

A. It has completely replaced the need for physical dissection.

B. It allows scientists to see inside the body without cutting it open.

C. It is less accurate than the Greek method of anatomy.

D. It is primarily used in pathology labs rather than schools.

10. [Summary] Select 3 sentences that summarize the most important ideas of the passage.

a. Anatomy is the study of both microscopic and macroscopic body structures.

b. The history of anatomy moved from surface observation to the detailed study of internal parts via dissection.

c. Dissection is a process of cutting the body apart to see how various physical attributes interact.

d. Ancient physicians were mostly concerned with treating the wounds of soldiers.

e. Most anatomical terms are derived from the Greek language.

f. Microscopes are the most important tool for modern anatomical research.

## PASSAGE II: The Genomic Evolution of the Banana

**Paragraph 1:** The recent sequencing of the banana genome marks a critical advancement in the effort to produce more resilient crops. A look at that genome has revealed **curious** findings, such as regions of DNA that do not seem involved in making proteins but are shared by many different plant species. Furthermore, **intriguingly**, the genus has duplicated its entire set of chromosomes three times. Two of these doublings occurred 65 million years ago, coinciding with the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary when dinosaurs went extinct.

**Paragraph 2:** [A] Scientists believe having extra copies of genes may have imparted stability to plants during the rapid climate change following an asteroid impact. [B] Having more than one gene of each type allows for greater adaptability; if one gene loses function, another remains active. [C] Additionally, one gene could be altered and **co-opted** for new purposes while the other continues its original job. [D]

**Paragraph 3:** The modern Cavendish banana found in supermarkets is a sterile triploid, meaning it has three sets of chromosomes instead of the usual two. **Because the Cavendish lacks the ability to produce viable seeds through fertilization, it must be propagated through the replanting of its shoots.** This stepwise evolution

involved the hybridization of wild species and chance chromosomal events that resulted in the vigorous, seedless fruit consumed worldwide today.

**11. The word "curious" in Paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to:**

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| A. Inquisitive | C. Nosy      |
| B. Peculiar    | D. Intricate |

**12. The word "co-opted" in Paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to:**

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| A. Decided | C. Removed |
| B. Argued  | D. Adopted |

**13. According to Paragraph 1, when did the most significant chromosome doublings occur?**

- A. Within the last hundred years due to human farming.
- B. During the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary extinction event.
- C. When the first wild bananas were brought to Southeast Asia.
- D. Long before the era of the dinosaurs began.

**14. Why does the author use the word "intriguingly" in Paragraph 1?**

- A. To suggest that the duplication of chromosomes is a rare and interesting event.
- B. To make the reader doubt the data provided by the French scientists.
- C. To imply that bananas are more interesting than other supermarket fruits.
- D. To emphasize how difficult it is to sequence a genome.

**15. According to Paragraph 2, how does a "doubled" genome help a plant survive climate change?**

- A. It makes the plant grow faster and larger than its competitors.
- B. It provides extra gene copies that can take over if a primary gene fails.
- C. It prevents viruses from splicing their DNA into the plant's genome.
- D. It allows the plant to survive without any water for several months.

**16. Which of the following is NOT true of the Cavendish banana?**

- A. It is a sterile triploid.
- B. It has three sets of chromosomes.
- C. It can reproduce easily through fertilization.
- D. It originated from the species *Musa acuminata*.

**17. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in Paragraph 3?**

- A. Cavendish bananas are replanted by hand because their seeds are too small to be seen.
- B. Since Cavendish bananas cannot produce seeds, they are grown by planting shoots from the parent plant.
- C. Replanting shoots is a more expensive method of fertilization than using viable seeds.

D. Modern bananas have lost the ability to grow shoots after thousands of years of evolution.

18. Look at the four squares [A, B, C, D] in Paragraph 2. Where would the following sentence best fit?

*"This redundancy provides a 'genetic safety net' for the organism."*

A. [A]                      B. [B]                      C. [C]                      D. [D]

19. The term "stepwise" in Paragraph 3 suggests that the evolution of the banana was:

A. A sudden, single-day occurrence.  
B. A gradual, multi-stage process.  
C. An accidental mistake by ancient farmers.  
D. A rapid mutation caused by volcanic ash.

20. [Summary] Select 3 sentences that summarize the most important ideas of the passage.

a. The sequencing of the banana genome has revealed a complex history of chromosome duplication.  
b. Genetic doublings 65 million years ago likely helped bananas survive extreme climate shifts.  
c. Modern domestic bananas are the result of hybridization and triploidy, making them seedless and sterile.  
d. Pat Heslop-Harrison is the primary scientist responsible for the Cavendish banana.  
e. Wild Malaysian bananas are the only species that can produce viable seeds.  
f. Supermarkets only sell the Cavendish banana because it is easier to transport.

## Solutions - Section I

1. **(B)** "Readily" means in a way that is without delay or difficulty. In the context of viewing large structures, "easily" is the best fit.
2. **(A)** "Augment" means to make something greater by adding to it. Physicians dissected bodies to "increase" their medical knowledge.
3. **(C)** Paragraph 1 explicitly states the word comes from a "Greek root that means 'to cut apart'."
4. **(B)** The author mentions the wounds of soldiers to show how anatomy was initially limited to what could be seen from the "exterior" or through injuries before dissection was allowed.
5. **(C)** Paragraph 2 states that dissection is done "to observe their physical attributes and their relationships to one another."
6. **(B)** The passage mentions medical schools, courses, and pathology labs, but it does not mention military hospitals.
7. **(B)** The original sentence links the understanding of internal systems to the shift from surface observation to dissection. Option B accurately captures this "fundamental shift."
8. **(B)** Square [B] is the correct placement because the preceding sentence discusses the first studies (external), and the following sentence discusses the shift to the dead (internal), making the note about "taboos" a perfect transition.
9. **(B)** Paragraph 3 contrasts imaging with dissection, describing imaging as "non-invasive," which implies seeing inside without cutting.
10. **(a, b, c)** These capture the dual nature of anatomy (a), its historical evolution (b), and the definition/mechanism of dissection (c).

## Solutions - Section II

11. **(B)** In the context of a scientific discovery, "curious" refers to something "peculiar" or unusual rather than someone asking questions.
12. **(D)** "Co-opted" means to take something and use it for a different purpose; "adopted" is the most accurate synonym here.
13. **(B)** The text states the doublings took place at the "Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary 65 million years ago."
14. **(A)** "Intriguingly" is used to highlight a specific, unusual fact about chromosome duplication in the plant world.
15. **(B)** Paragraph 2 explains that extra gene copies provide "greater adaptability" and "imparted stability" by allowing one gene to fail without killing the plant.

16. **(C)** Paragraph 3 states the Cavendish is a "sterile triploid" that "lacks the ability to produce viable seeds through fertilization." Therefore, C is false.
17. **(B)** The original sentence explains the consequence of sterility (no seeds → replanting shoots). Option B summarizes this relationship clearly.
18. **(B)** Square [B] is the best fit as it follows the explanation of how "extra copies" work and precedes the example of adaptability, perfectly describing the "safety net."
19. **(B)** "Stepwise" refers to something happening in a series of steps or "gradually."
20. **(a, b, c)** These summarize the genomic discovery (a), the evolutionary survival advantage (b), and the nature of the modern domestic banana (c).