

## 21. READING COMPREHENSION 1: THE OPIUM WARS

### The Opium Wars

#### PARAGRAPH A

The Opium Wars were two 19th-century conflicts between China and Britain (and later France) that began with Chinese attempts to stop opium being smuggled into their country.

#### PARAGRAPH B

Opium is a highly-addictive drug that is extracted from poppies. As well as being used as a medicine, it has also been a popular recreational substance. By the 1830s, millions of Chinese were hooked on opium, causing significant damage to the health and productivity of the nation. Much of the opium the Chinese were smoking had been imported by the British.

#### PARAGRAPH C

At this time there was great demand in Britain for Chinese products such as porcelain and tea, but the Chinese did not want to trade British goods in return. Instead they demanded to be paid in silver. Rather than allow the country's silver reserves to be drained, some enterprising British merchants adopted a different solution. They took opium grown in India (which was then effectively under British control) and imported it into China, insisting on being paid for the drug in silver, which could be used to purchase Chinese products. Although importing opium was illegal, corrupt Chinese officials allowed it to take place on a vast scale.

#### PARAGRAPH D

In 1839 the Chinese government decided to crack down on the smuggling. It ordered the seizure of large quantities of opium from British merchants in the Chinese port of Canton, which was the only part of the country where Europeans were allowed to trade. The outraged merchants lobbied the British government for assistance and on this occasion they found a ready audience. Britain had long hoped to increase its influence in China. This seemed like a perfect opportunity to achieve that goal. A British naval fleet arrived in June 1840, attacking along the Chinese coast. With their inferior military technology, the Chinese were no match for the British and, after a series of military defeats, they agreed to sign humiliating peace terms. These stipulated that China pay a large fine to Britain, open up five more ports to foreign trade, give the British a 99-year lease on the island of Hong Kong and offer British citizens special legal rights in China. In later years, China referred to this settlement as the 'Unequal Treaty'.

#### PARAGRAPH E

With China humiliated and Britain seeking further gains, the situation remained tense. The spark for the second conflict occurred in 1856 when Chinese officers searched a Chinese owned (but British registered) ship and lowered the British flag. In response to this affront, the British once again dispatched a military expedition, and this time they were joined by the French, who also had aspirations in China and were protesting about the murder of one of their missionaries in the country. As before, the European powers were too strong for the Chinese. A peace agreement was reached in 1858 but, the following year, China broke off the deal. This led, in 1860, to the arrival of an even larger Anglo-French force, which stormed Beijing. By October, the Chinese had been forced to accept British and French terms that included the right of foreign powers to keep diplomats in Beijing and the legalising of the opium trade.

MATCH PARAGRAPH (A) TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(1 Point)

- Why were the British exporting the drug to China?
- How did the second one come about?
- What were the Opium Wars?
- How did this lead to war?
- What exactly is opium?

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MATCH PARAGRAPH (B) TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(1 Point)

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- How did the second one come about?
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MATCH PARAGRAPH (C) TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

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MATCH PARAGRAPH (D) TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(1 Point)

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(1 Point)

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26. Questions 26

Does the following statement agree with the information given in the Reading Passage 1: THE OPIUM WARS?

CHOOSE:

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

26. Chinese addiction to opium had medical and economic consequences. (1 point)  
(1 Point)

TRUE

FALSE

NOT GIVEN

27. Questions 27

Does the following statement agree with the information given in the Reading Passage 1: THE OPIUM WARS?

CHOOSE:

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

27. China was keen to import a variety of goods from Britain . (1 point)  
(1 Point)

TRUE

FALSE

NOT GIVEN

28. Questions 28

Does the following statement agree with the information given in the Reading Passage 1: THE OPIUM WARS?

CHOOSE:

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

28. British merchants were able to exchange opium for silver in China which they then used to buy tea. (1 point)  
(1 Point)

TRUE

FALSE

NOT GIVEN

29. Questions 29

Does the following statement agree with the information given in the Reading Passage 1: THE OPIUM WARS?

CHOOSE:

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

29. In the First Opium War, thousands of Chinese soldiers were killed. (1 point)  
(1 Point)

TRUE

FALSE

NOT GIVEN

30. Questions 30

Does the following statement agree with the information given in the Reading Passage 1: THE OPIUM WARS?

CHOOSE:

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

30. One result of the Second Opium War was the legalization of the buying and selling of opium. (1 point)  
(1 Point)

TRUE

FALSE

NOT GIVEN

### 31. READING COMPREHENSION 1: Octopus Arms Are Capable of Making Decisions Without Input From Their Brains

Rather than a centralised nervous system such as vertebrates have, two-thirds of an octopus's neurons are spread throughout its body, distributed between its arms. And now scientists have determined that those neurons can make decisions without input from the brain. "One of the big picture questions we have is just how a distributed nervous system would work, especially when it's trying to do something complicated, like move through fluid and find food on a complex ocean floor," said neuroscientist David Gire of the University of Washington. "There are a lot of open questions about how these nodes in the nervous system are connected to each other."

The research was conducted on live Giant Pacific octopuses (*Enteroctopus dofleini*) and East Pacific red octopuses (*Octopus rubescens*), both native to the North Pacific Ocean. These octopuses have around 500 million neurons, around 350 million of which are along the arms, arranged in clusters called ganglia. These help process sensory information, allowing the octopus to react faster to external factors.

"The octopus' arms have a neural ring that bypasses the brain, and so the arms can send information to each other without the brain being aware of it," said behavioural neuroscientist Dominic Sivitilli of the University of Washington. "So while the brain isn't quite sure where the arms are in space, the arms know where each other are and this allows the arms to coordinate during actions like crawling locomotion."

"You're seeing a lot of little decisions being made by these distributed ganglia, just by watching the arm move, so one of the first things we're doing is trying to break down what that movement actually looks like, from a computational perspective," Gire said. "What we're looking at, more than what's been looked at in the past, is how sensory information is being integrated in this network while the animal is making complicated decisions."

This is consistent with previous research, which has found that not only do octopus arms forage independently of the brain, but that they can continue to respond to stimuli even after being severed from a dead animal. "It's an alternative model for intelligence," Sivitilli said. "It gives us an understanding as to the diversity of cognition in the world, and perhaps the Universe."

The team's research has been presented at the 2019 Astrobiology Science Conference.

Choose the most appropriate answer A, B, C or D.

31. An octopus's neurons  
(1 Point)

- are distributed all through its body and arms.
- can't make decisions without input from the brain
- are part of a centralized nervous system.
- are mostly situated in its brain.



### 32. READING COMPREHENSION 1: Octopus Arms Are Capable of Making Decisions Without Input From Their Brains

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32. The research was carried out on  
(1 Point)

- two species of octopuses from the Pacific.
- several different species of octopuses.
- only one species of octopus.
- smaller species of octopuses.

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Choose the most appropriate answer A, B, C or D.

33. Ganglia...

(1 Point)

- is another word for an octopus's brain.
- is another word for an octopus's arms.
- limit how an octopus interacts with the environment.
- are groups of neurons in an octopus's arms.

### 34. READING COMPREHENSION 1: Octopus Arms Are Capable of Making Decisions Without Input From Their Brains

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Choose the most appropriate answer A, B, C or D.

34. The arms of an octopus  
(1 Point)

- are able to interact with the world even after death.
- do not have independent reactions.
- can only respond to stimuli in a live animal.
- can continue to move for weeks after death.

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Choose the most appropriate answer A, B, C or D.

35. The research conducted by this team  
(1 Point)

- will be presented next year.
- has already been shared at a conference.
- is still ongoing.
- is partial and awaiting confirmation.

36. Match these opinions to either of the two researchers mentioned in the text:

An octopus's brain cannot locate where its arms are in space.  
(1 Point)

- David Gire
- Dominic Sivitilli

37. Match these opinions to either of the two researchers mentioned in the text:

An octopus represents a different model of cognitive ability.

(1 Point)

- David Gire
- Dominic Sivitilli

38. Match these opinions to either of the two researchers mentioned in the text:

There are open issues about how an octopus's nervous system operates.

(1 Point)

- David Gire
- Dominic Sivitilli

39. Match these opinions to either of the two researchers mentioned in the text:

The neural ring allows an octopus's arms to communicate directly with each other.

(1 Point)

- David Gire
- Dominic Sivitilli

40. Match these opinions to either of the two researchers mentioned in the text:

We are more interested in network integration than our predecessors.

(1 Point)

- David Gire
- Dominic Sivitilli