

## Source Of Knowledge reading passage

### Source Of Knowledge

A.

What is considered knowledge? What do we mean when we claim to be knowledgeable? What is the condition of various types of knowledge? In order to investigate those problems, we will concentrate on one specific area of knowledge: medicine.

B.

How do you recognize illness? This may seem like an absurd question. You are ill because you feel ill; your body informs you of your illness. You may be aware of your pain or suffering, but understanding that you are ill is more complicated. Occasionally, people exhibit signs of disease when, in fact, they are simply exhausted, overworked, or suffering from a hangover. Occasionally, people suffering from a disease are unaware of their condition until it has reached a late stage of development. How can we determine if we are ill, and what constitutes knowledge?

C.

Consider the following instance. You feel ill. You have a severe cough and always seem exhausted. Perhaps it's work-related stress, or perhaps you should quit smoking. You feel worse. The physician examines your chest and heart, measures your temperature and blood pressure, and then recommends antibiotics for your bad cough.

D.

The situation does not improve, but you persist in the belief that you should pull yourself together since perhaps things will calm down at work soon. Your return to the doctor astonishes you. This time, the doctor diagnoses pneumonia based on your training and experience. This necessitates bed rest and a considerable absence from work. The scenario has transformed. Although you continue to experience the same symptoms, you no longer attribute them to workplace stress. You now have evidence of your illness. This is the outcome of combining your own subjective experience with the diagnosis of a person with medical expert expertise. You have a medically verified diagnosis and it looks like you are seriously ill; you are aware that you are ill and have evidence to support this belief.

E.

This scenario illustrates a variety of knowledge sources. For instance, if you decide to visit the doctor because you feel poorly, this is personal information about your own body. However, the doctor's professional diagnosis is based on experience and training, using varied knowledge sources including other experts, laboratory data, medical textbooks, and your own personal experience.

F.

The experience of our own bodies is a source of information; we have personal knowledge of

changes that may be significant, as well as the subjective experience of pain and physical anguish. These experiences are mediated by other forms of knowledge, such as the words we have available to describe them, the common sense of our relatives and friends, and popular culture. Over the past decade, for instance, the media in Western culture have placed a large emphasis on stress-related illness. The phrase "stressed out" has become a regular response in the workplace and has entered the realm of common sense. Therefore, it is not strange that humans might seek such an explanation for bodily discomfort.

G.

We may also rely on the observations of those who are familiar with us. Comments from relatives and friends, such as "you do look poorly" or "that's a horrible cough," may also be a source of information. Complementary health approaches, such as holistic medicine, generate their own bodies of knowledge, from which we can also draw when determining the type and severity of our illness and the appropriate therapy.

H

Perhaps the most influential and authoritative source of information is the general practitioner's medical knowledge. We anticipate that the physician will have access to expert knowledge. This is permitted by society. It would not be appropriate to inform our employer unit that we were too ill to report to work or that our religious healer, astrologer, therapist, or priest thought it was a bad idea. To obtain the requisite certificate to be out of work for longer than the statutory self-certification period, we need an expert medical diagnosis. In this regard, medical scientific knowledge is privileged in contemporary Western culture. Medical professionals are viewed as possessing the specialist knowledge necessary to legally prescribe medications and treatments to which patients would not otherwise have access. However, we draw on a variety of different types of knowledge while making decisions regarding our own health.

I

In addition to current knowledge, this short story also contains the construction of new knowledge. Given the doctor's medical education and experience, she may speculate, "Is this now pneumonia?" thereafter searching for evidence of it. She will utilise observations and tools to evaluate the data and interpret it critically in light of her education and fresh experience, both for you and the doctor. This information will then be added to the doctor's medical expertise and may aid in future pneumonia diagnosis.

## Source Of Knowledge reading questions

### Questions (1 - 3)

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the Reading Passage?

Write

**TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information

**FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information

**NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this

1. We do not need an expert medical diagnosis in order to obtain the necessary certificate in order to take more than the statutory self-certification.
2. The proof of illness is the combination of subjective experience and a diagnosis of a medical expert.
3. General practitioner's medicinal knowledge is dominant and trustworthy.

### Questions (4 - 11)

*Reading Passage has nine paragraphs A-I.*

*Which paragraph contains the following information?*

**NB You may use any letter more than once.**

- 4)\_\_\_\_\_ The illness of a patient can contribute to new knowledge.
- 5)\_\_\_\_\_ There will be no sick leave granted without a professional diagnosis.
- 6)\_\_\_\_\_ A description of knowledge derived from sources other than personal experience.
- 7)\_\_\_\_\_ how society views the opinions of physicians.
- 8)\_\_\_\_\_ A reference to the fact that some individuals are unaware they are ill.
- 9)\_\_\_\_\_ The difference between the nature of personal judgement and a physician's diagnosis.
- 10)\_\_\_\_\_ example of collective judgement based on personal experience and medical expertise.
- 11)\_\_\_\_\_ a cultural reference to pressure.

### Questions (12 - 14)

Complete the notes below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer

Source of knowledge	Examples

Personal experience	<p>Symptoms of a 12)_____</p> <p>and tiredness Doctor's measurement by taking 13)_____</p> <p>and temperatureCommon judgement from 14)_____</p> <p>around you</p>
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