

新TOEFL 英作文演習

(「統合」型 / 読→聴→書)

設問

Directions: In this writing task, you will first read the passage, then, listen to the lecture. After the lecture, you are required to respond to the question. You have 20 minutes to plan and write your answer. Your answer will be scored on the basis of the quality of your writing and on how well your answer represents the points in the lecture and their relationship to the reading passage. Usually, an effective answer will be 150 to 225 words.

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(Reading Task)

Now, you have 3 minutes to read the following passage. You may take notes if you like.

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Medical researchers attempt to combat HIV, yet its origin remains controversial. How did the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV, originate? To date, scientists have tended to embrace one leading theory, which will be explained below.

Documenting the spread of HIV has been problematic because the path of infection has evaded medical surveillance for decades. The earliest record of an HIV infection is said to be from 1959. Yet it was not until the end of the twentieth century that this case was verified. The case involved colonial Belgian doctors who treated a Congolese man in a mass vaccination program. Later, in 1998, a Congolese blood sample from the vaccination records tested positive for HIV. This evidence has led the majority of scientists to conclude that this was the initial location of HIV.

The current main theory is based on research conducted by American scientists. They postulate that the blood of chimpanzees which were hunted for food mixed with human blood, and thereby both strains of HIV (HIV-1 and HIV-2) moved between species. There is much empirical evidence for this theory, and the scientific community has embraced it as the best explanation for how HIV migrated between species and humans

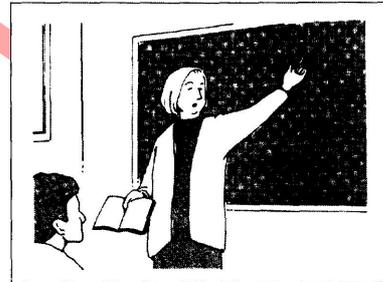
came to be infected with HIV. In the case of HIV-2, scientists identified a type of West African monkey called the mangabey as the original carrier of the virus. This claim is evidenced by the thriving bush meat industry, in which monkeys are caught and traded as food.

For the time being, managing the virus has been our primary approach. Immediate concerns, such as treatment and control of the HIV pandemic, have overwhelmed the resources of scientists and medical researchers in many countries. Nonetheless, due to the complicated and virulent nature of HIV, determining the origins of the virus could lead to further discoveries in treatment or vaccination.

(308 words)

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Now, listen to part of the lecture in a sociobiology class. You may take notes while you listen to the lecture.



Professor:

So often in health science, new findings can force us to reexamine earlier conclusions. For some time, the scientific community has rested on a leading theory that explains the cause and spread of human immunodeficiency syndrome. However, the two pandemic retroviruses, HIV-1 and HIV-2, as you all know, carry a, uh, social stigma. We've seen an urgent demand for a fair and unbiased explanation of HIV's spread. Taking this into account, any hint of assigning blame for HIV has been avoided. Nonetheless, uh, the leading consensus utilizes a selective account of history that omits credible reasons for why HIV has spread so quickly.

That being said, it is worthwhile to consider other hypotheses that are out there. This is in the interest of developing a complete understanding of HIV. Currently, most people subscribe to the theory that a hunter was cut by an HIV-infected monkey, and that is how HIV migrated between species.

Without a doubt, simians carry HIV-1, and it is most likely that human blood mixed with the blood of infected monkeys during hunting. Yet, the transmission among humans on such a large scale in such a short time, needs a better explanation. Why is it that African hunters who came into contact with the blood of chimpanzees for hundreds of years never contracted HIV until the 1950's?

There is more evidence to consider. Historical information has been released that complicates the leading hypothesis. For various historical reasons, doctors reused disposable syringes throughout the Belgian colonies. This practice began in the 1950's. You are well aware of the brutality inflicted upon Africa during the colonial period, so I won't go into detail at this time. Nonetheless, it is important to understand that between 1957 and 1960 an untested polio vaccine was administered in Rwanda, Burundi and Congo. In fact, about a million people received this vaccine, typically with unsanitary or reused needles. As a result, HIV-1 was allowed to be accidentally transmitted on a large scale in a short period of time.

In conclusion, the leading theory of HIV's origins probably could stand modification. It does not adequately explain how an isolated infection from a simian virus could spark the current pandemic in such a short amount of time.

(375 words)

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Summarize the points made in the lecture you just heard, explaining how it casts doubts on points made in the reading.

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<解答例>

Unlike stated in the passage, the lecturer points out different approaches to the widespread pandemic of HIV. According to the lecturer, the rapid spread of HIV infections was caused by vaccinations conducted by the colonial government. While the passage states that the human contact with the monkey is the main cause, the lecturer denounces it because it does not explain rapid and widespread HIV infections. I will state the lecturer's idea in more detail.

Conventional theory states that monkey hunters' blood was mixed with that of the carrier monkey. With regard to this theory, the lecturer agrees that it is undeniable. However, the lecturer casts doubts on the cause of the real problem: what brought about such a widespread pandemic in such a short time.

Furthermore, the current monkey meat market cannot explain the cause of the rapid growth of HIV. Because the custom of hunting monkeys dates back to some hundred years, it is questionable that this custom is the only cause of the HIV pandemic.

Rather, the lecturer points out that the main cause was the conducting of unsanitary vaccination practices on African people in the late 1950's. Thus, the lecturer implies that HIV itself is not so dangerous as we believe today. Sanitary health procedures are key to stopping the pandemic of HIV.

(216 words)