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LNAT Practice Test 2 Questions

Many historical accounts describing the inhumane treatment of the mentally ill or the "mad". Foucault's *History of Madness* describes how, in the Middle Ages, madness played an important role within the range of human possibilities. This role was as an alternative to the rational human's behaviour. Madness needed to be understood just like any other domain of human experience. Over time though, Foucault argues that madness came to be perceived as any beliefs or behaviour that deviated markedly from societal standards of normality. It was during the seventeenth century, that so-called *Age of Reason*, that madness came to be seen as *unreason*; as the opposite of reason. Thus the mad began to be excluded from the rest of humanity. Their madness was no longer considered to be of any significant value.

Foucault's book concludes that mental illness is a challenge to the confines of normality. As someone who had worked with the mentally ill, many people find Foucault's position surprising. Surely the dysfunctional behaviour of psychotics and schizophrenics is not a rebellion against society. Or against anything else for that matter?

1. Which two of the following facts are presented in the passage?
(COMPREHENSION)
 - Foucault's position eliminates any possibility of sane, meaningful alternatives to normal behaviour.
 - Foucault had direct experience of how the mad behaved.
 - There were more mad people in the seventeenth century.
 - Foucault argues that the mad are those whose behaviour deviates from what's considered normal.
 - In the past, the mentally ill have been treated as animals.
2. Which one or more of the following is an opinion expressed by the passage's author?
(INTERPRETATION)
 - In the modern world, you would expect the mentally ill to be better treated.
 - Psychotic and schizophrenic behaviour are poor examples of mental illness.
 - People who've worked with the mentally ill can more easily understand them.
 - Foucault's *History of Madness* chronicles the ill-treatment of the mentally ill.
3. Which of the following best summarizes the passage?
(SYNTHESIS)
 - Treating the mad inhumanely makes them act as if they are mad.
 - There are different historical interpretations of how the mad have been treated.
 - Foucault sets out the case for treating the mad the same as everyone else.
 - The mad have been perceived differently across the centuries.



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4. Which of the following sentences or phrases does the passage's author make sarcastically?
(INTERPRETATION)
- Their madness was no longer considered to be of any significant value.
 - Or against anything else for that matter
 - It was during the seventeenth century, that so-called *Age of Reason*.
 - Madness needed to be understood just like any other domain of human experience.
5. According to the passage, Foucault's arguments supporting his *History of Madness conclusions* refer to each of the following, except which one?
(ANALYSIS)
- The treatment of the mentally ill in the Middle Ages.
 - The notion of society's normal standards of behaviour.
 - The value placed by society on rational behaviour.
 - The layman's view that the mad were possessed by devils.

The human brain must be the most complex living thing in the world. It is particularly effective at continually sifting and interpreting an immense amount of sensory information. The brain's parallel processing is aided by different parts of the brain having their own specialist functionality, such as the visual, speech, auditory and motor control areas. Unlike a computer's central processing facility, the human brain operates more like a huge set of interconnected neural networks. The billions of interconnections between the brain's billion neurons fire at different times and at different speeds. Such brain activity can be represented as the brain's *consciousness, unconsciousness* or *sub-consciousness*. These three terms describe three brain functions - rather than "parts" of the brain with a specific location.

The *unitary* model of consciousness encompasses three key elements of consciousness: (i) uniformity over time (across a "lifetime" if you like); (ii) unity to what is currently being experienced; and that the same person experiences (i) and (ii). It's known that the brain must control consciousness since changes can be induced in the brain - by, an accident or by taking psychoactive drugs - that are then known to affect consciousness. Although, the functional specificity of different brain areas does not apply to human consciousness. More scientific research is needed to resolve the unanswered questions concerning the stream of experiences that we refer to as *consciousness*. Questions as basic as, why humans are conscious in the first place. Also, how does our unique self-consciousness separate us from the thinking of all other animal species?

6. According to the passage, psychoactive drugs can do what?
(DEDUCTION)
- Demonstrate the stability of someone's consciousness over time
 - Raise someone's conscious awareness.
 - Demonstrate someone's level of arousal.
 - Indicate that the brain controls consciousness.



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7. The passage includes which one or more of the following facts about the human brain?
(COMPREHENSION)
- Unlike a computer, the human brain has a central processor.
 - There is a specialised part of the human brain for hearing.
 - The firing of neuron interconnections in the brain is the best indication of consciousness.
 - Brain neurons may fire but this activity remains unconscious.
 - Speech and hearing are controlled by the same area of the brain.
8. What is the author indicating by putting "parts" and "lifetime" in speech marks?
(INTERPRETATION)
- It's only the author's opinion - other people may not agree.
 - That scientific research is still ongoing to validate these statements.
 - Not to interpret the words literally.
 - That you could insert an alternative word if you preferred.
9. The author expresses which one or more of the following opinions? (INTERPRETATION)
- Unconsciousness research provides the best evidence for human consciousness.
 - The unity of human consciousness is only a theoretical concept.
 - Continuity is the determinate characteristic of human consciousness.
 - The stability of someone's consciousness over time indicates their very existence.
10. Which one of the following inferences *cannot* be made on the basis of the passage?
(INDUCTION)
- Humans are the only species that is aware of its own consciousness.
 - Human behaviour is controlled by different regions of the brain.
 - Brain cells activity doesn't have to be conscious or unconscious.
 - Questions remain about why humans have consciousness.
 - The best evidence that the brain controls consciousness comes from drug research.