PASSAGE 2

Twenty-five years ago, as molecular biologists first honed the tools that now allow them to manipulate DNA at will, it was claimed that gene therapy could soon free humanity from the misery of countless conditions including hemophilia, Alzheimers and some cancers- simply by altering a person`s genetic make-up. It proved to be an overly ambitious goal, as gene therapy pioneer professor Eric Alton, of imperial College London, acknowledged. "Over the past couple of decades, the reputation of gene therapy has gone from being a cure for all known diseases to something that you wouldn't give your dog." Stunning gene therapy breakthroughs are a repost to our truth- tarnished times. Part of the problem lay with the deaths of some patients during trials of different gene therapies. However, the main reason for gene therapy`s fall from grace was it's simple failure to produce the goods as quickly as predicted. Fiddling with our genes proved to be a lot trickier than anticipated by some scientists.

We have to appreciate that the symptoms of the disease, like any other illness, are the end result of a long series of processes that take place inside the body. And it takes time to understand that pathway. It begins with the cause of a particular disease - an infection or the inheritance of a gene - and then leads through a series of knock-on effects that eventually produce symptoms. Researchers then have to pinpoint which stage is the one most susceptible to intervention. It has taken 25 years to get to this position with Huntington's disease.

Others may have dismissed the prospects of gene therapy, after its initial hyping, but its advocates still ploughed on, bouncing back after each setback, until success was eventually achieved. Apart from last developments, gene therapy has also helped treat immune conditions and some forms of blindness in each case, it has taken a great deal of hard graft to reach these goals. This is the way that science progresses of course - not along an unswerving trajectory towards the truth but by staggering through disappointments, reversals and reappraisals. "Progress is usually a very slow, drawn-out business that features many setbacks and occasional small advances," says professor Robert Lechler,

of King's College London. Eureka moments of triumphant discovery are certainly the exception.

1.Which of the following would be an appropriate title for this passage?

A) failures of gene therapy as a science

B) gene therapy's trail of success

C) slow but sure progress of gene therapy

D) slow pace of scientific discoveries

2. According to paragraph 2, what was the main reason why gene therapy lost initial credibility?

A) it failed to produce results in the time promised.

B) some scientists predicted its failure to cure cancer and other diseases.

C) it didn't offer any promising results.

D) patients being treated by gene therapy died.

3. It took so long for gene therapy to deliver some promising results because:

A) molecular biologists didn't have the tools to manipulate DNA at will.

B) there are numerous stages involved in understanding the cure.

C) some patients died during trials of different gene therapies.

D) the resources at disposal of gene therapy had been all dedicated to finding a cure for cancer.

4. The word "misery" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to:

A) humiliation B) mess

C) poverty D) affliction

5. The word "tarnished" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to:

A) endowed B) renounced C) discarded D) accepted

6. The author implies in the passage that :

A) it was not to advertise the impending triumph of gene therapy at its beginning

B) gene therapists tend to use the exclamation “eureka” after each break through

C) scientists are still in the preliminary stages of treating Huntington’s disease

D) fiddling with human genes has proved to be a dangerous path pursued by science

7. The word “pinpoint” in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to:

A) epitomize B) identify

C) recall D) convict

8. The word “dismissed” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to:

A) abandoned B) terminated

C) reproached D) falsified

9. The word “staggering” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to:

A) astonishing B) inhibiting

C) inducing D) stumbling

10. The author’s attitude towards gene therapy in this passage seems to be one of:

A) admiration B) pessimism

C) optimism D) criticism