

## RC TEST PAPER 3

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### Passage –1

Ian Fleming's evil globe-fish – also known as puffer, blowfish, swellfish, or in Japanese, fugu – is one of the most mysterious creatures of the sea. It is perhaps the world's most deadly fish, yet in Japan the honorable fugu is the epitome of gourmet dining.

About 100 species of puffers in several closely related families can be found throughout the world. Their most obvious characteristic is their ability to balloon out from a reasonable fish shape into a sphere two or three times large. When frightened, excited, or annoyed, they gulp water, or even air, into a sac on the belly. It swells inside their tough, elastic skin, like an inner tube inside a tire, so as to discourage predators or intimidate rivals. When the fish feels safe, it squirts out the water or releases the air, deflating to its normal shape.

In Japan, eating fugu has been the gastronomic version of Russian roulette for centuries. Sometimes a diner stills loses the gamble. His chopsticks clatter to the table from nerveless fingers; he pales; his breathing labours. It is often the subject of traditional senryu verse. Last night he and I ate fugu; Today, I help carry his coffin  
 "It's a terrible death," a Japanese restaurant owner told me. "Even though you can think very clearly, your arms and legs become numb. It becomes impossible to sit up. You can think but cannot speak, cannot move, and soon cannot breathe."

Why the Japanese, who venerate hygiene, should make a ritual of eating deadly poisonous fish, is difficult for foreigners to comprehend. fugu ovaries, intestine, and liver can be so deadly that if even a tiny touch of them is left in the flesh, the gourmet dies, often within minutes. About 60 percent of puffer poisonings prove fatal.

When eating fugu, the diner puts his life in the hands of the chef. Before practicing their risky art, all fugu cooks must be licensed and must take intensive courses, extensive apprenticeship, and written exams.

To eat fugu liver is the height of exotica. It is one of the most poisonous parts of the fish, and techniques for detoxifying it are not dependable. Chefs are prohibited from serving fugu liver, but they sometimes relent under the impassioned pleas of gourmets. Mitsugoro Bando had four servings and paid the ultimate price.

Despite the danger, demand for puffers is increasing so fast that the Japanese fishing grounds are being depleted. Today the Japanese are successfully culturing the fish.

Every year from October through March, millions of diners bet their lives on not getting fatally poisoned. Thanks to strict regulation of restaurants and wholesalers, the number that loses decreases each year. But this droll and perposterous fish with the goggling eyes, swollen belly, and floppy fins remains the world's most deadly feast. The enigma of the fugu is summed up in the traditional verse:

Those who eat fugu soap are stupid

But whose who don't eat fugu soup are also stupid.

1. A fugu eater is likely to lose his life

- Almost always    sometimes    often    rarely.

2. All the following are the symptoms of fugu poisoning except, not being able to

- speak    think    move    breathe.

3. Of the least poisonous parts of fugu is/are its  
 ovaries  intestines  heart  liver.
4. Of those affected by fugu poisoning, the survival rate is about.  
 50%  60%  30%  40%
5. The height of fugu season is during the  
 summer  rainy season  spring  winter
6. What the traditional verse really implies is  
 wise people eat fugu soup  wise people don't eat fugu soup.  
 [1] and [2]  none of the above.

### Passage – 2

A majority of scientists now agree that the "ozone hole" developed over the Antarctica due to the greatly increased use of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Though they were regarded as chemically inert materials, under conditions in the atmosphere with intense solar radiation CFCs have reacted with ozone. As the chlorine oxide amounts increased,, the ozone amount in the stratosphere (which protect the earth from the sun's ultraviolet radiation) fell. A wide range of effects through "ozone hole" was expected: skin cancers, damage to crops and animals and changes in the worlds weather patterns. Some international agreements including the Earth Summit (1992) contain provisions to reduce the release of CFSs and other harmful chemicals drastically by 2000 AD. The limit set by the European Union include complete phasing out by 1994 of Halons, the range of compounds containing Bromine used in fire extinguishers, as these are considered very harmful to atmospheric ozone. The heightened awareness in recent years keep earth's environment free of pollutants has produced one salutary effect in the form of two innovations: (1) the first CFC-free refrigerator made by a German firm DKK in 1992, using propane and butane as the coolant and pentane for the insulating foam (2)New engine fitted to jet aircraft to generate less oxides of nitrogen (NOX) which are damaging to ozone.

7. the European Union envisaged  
 the total ban on CFC's by 2000 AD.  
 The complete phasing out of Halons.  
 Increasing "Eco-system" awareness among the peoples in the European Union <1i>  
 all of the above.
8. All the following are damaging to Ozone except <>  
 Oxides of Nitrogen (NOX)  
 Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)  
 Bromine  
 Citric acid.
9. The development of the "ozone hole' over Antarctica was mainly due to <>  
 increase in the level of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in the atmosphere.  
 Increase in the use of Oxides of Nitrogen.  
 Damage caused by humans (viz) construction, waste and fuel spillage.  
 Indiscriminate felling of trees
10. The harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation through the "ozone hole" are <>  
 storms and cyclones on the earth  
 skin cancers.  
 damage to crops and animals

[2] and [3] only.

### **Explanatory answers to paper III**

1. Para 1 states that eating puffer fish is a gamble where sometimes the diner may lose his life. Hence, the answer is [2].
2. Not being able to speak, move and breathe are symptoms of fugu poisoning. Not being able to think is not a symptom of fugu poisoning because para 1 states that one can think but cannot speak, etc. Hence, the answer is [2].
3. Ovaries, intestines, and liver are stated as being the most poisonous parts of a fugu. Hence, by a simple process of elimination, option [3] is the logical choice.
4. It is stated in para 4 that about 60 per cent who eat the puffer are poisoned to death. Therefore the rate of people who survive puffer poisoning is 40%. Hence, the answer is [4].
5. The last para states that millions of diners gamble their lives by eating puffer fish from October to March. In the Northern Hemisphere, where Japan is situated, it is winter during this period. Hence, the answer is [4].
6. What the traditional verse actually implies is that the choice between eating or not eating fugu is like choosing between the devil and the deep sea. You lose out on the gourmet experience if you don't eat it and if you eat it you may lose out on your life. None of the 3 statements explain the correct meaning of the quotation. Hence, the answer is [4].
7. Refer to line 10 of the passage. Hence the answer is [2].
8. Except for citric acid which is an absolutely harmless acid and not mentioned in the passage at all, the harmful effects of all the other chemicals are laid out clearly in the passage. Hence, the answer is [4].
9. The very first sentence of the passage states that the 'ozone hole' over the continent of Antarctica was caused due to the increase in the use of chlorofluorocarbon in the atmosphere. Hence, the answer is [1].
10. The author enumerates the harmful effects of the ozone layer as causing skin cancers in human being and damage to crops and animals. Its destructive effect on climactic conditions is not mentioned to all, for changes in weather conditions do not automatically imply storms and cyclones. Hence the answer is [4].