

Directions: *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

In the age of the internet, there's no such thing as a private debate. But is that bad for science? Some scientists have had concerns. When debates in any sector move beyond the halls of universities and government agencies, there's potential for information to be used incorrectly, leading to public confusion; yet, open debate can also promote communication between the scientific community and the public. Recent open debates on scientific research, health, and policy have aroused greater public attention and encouraged more diverse voices. If this trend spurs scientists to agree more quickly about the best solutions to our problems—and at the same time helps the public observe the process of scientific discourse more clearly—then this is good for everyone, including scientists.

A recent debate published in The New York Times discussed the question of how quickly medicine should be developed and produced. Issues such as safety of the product and perception of the public were examined and considered. But some experts worried that such public speculation might lead people to believe that disagreement about the details meant a lack of adequate scientific consensus over the safety and efficiency of modern-day medicine.

The anxiety seems misplaced. Gone are the days of going to a conference and debating scientific issues, and that's good because those gatherings were not diverse enough and excluded many important voices. These days, the public can access debates about science regardless of where they take place.

For many scientists, public debate is a new frontier and it may feel like a place with few restraints or rules. But rather than avoiding such conversations, let the debates be transparent and vigorous, wherever they are held. If the public is to understand that science is an honorably self-correcting process, the idea that science is a fixed set of facts in a textbook needs to be dismissed. With the validity of science coming under attack, there's a need for scientific debates to be perceived as open and true to life. Let everyone see the noisy, messy deliberations that advance science and lead to decisions that benefit us all.

51. What does the author think open debate can do?

- A) Help the public to better understand science.
- B) Clear up confusion in the scientific community.
- C) Settle disputes between universities and government agencies.
- D) Prevent information from being used incorrectly by the public.

52. Why did a recent debate published in The New York Times arouse concerns among experts?

- A) It might hinder the progress in medical research.
- B) It might breed public distrust in modern medicine.
- C) It might add to the difficulty of getting research funds.
- D) It might prevent medical scientists reaching consensus.

53. Why does the author say some experts' anxiety seems misplaced?
- A) Debating scientific issues at a conference is now old-fashioned.
 - B) Diverse topics can be debated by both scientists and the public.
 - C) Debates about science are accessible to the public anyway.
 - D) Scientists can voice their opinions whatever way they like.
54. What does the author suggest scientists do about public debate?
- A) Have more discussions about it.
 - B) Embrace it with open arms.
 - C) Formulate new rules for it.
 - D) Restrain it to a rational degree.
55. What does the author say about science in the last paragraph?
- A) It is transmitted through textbooks.
 - B) It is what proves valid and true to life.
 - C) It is a dynamic and self-improving process.
 - D) It is a collection of facts and established rules.