

Reading Passage

The profession of pharmacy was founded in the art and science of compounding medications. The beginning of compounding dates back to medieval times with priests, monks, and medicine men, and specialization first occurred in the early 9th century in the civilized world around Baghdad. In Europe alchemy evolved into chemistry as doctors began to abandon beliefs that were not demonstrable in the physical world. During this time, doctors began prescribing medications to patients. Pharmacists then began compounding these prescriptions and producing them in mass quantities for general sale. It was not until the 19th century that there was a distinct difference between the pharmacist as a compounder of medications and the physician as the therapist.

In the 1930s and 1940s, approximately 60 percent of all medications dispensed were compounded. Then in the 1950s and 1960s, with the creation of commercial drug manufacturers, compounding declined. It was during this time that a pharmacist, known as a compounder or apothecary, became known as a dispenser of manufactured drugs. However, today patients and doctors are realizing the need for specific doses and customized medications, and because of this pharmacists are once again gaining the reputation once bestowed upon them prior to the commercialization of generic compound drugs in the 1950s.

Questions

1. Which of the following is the best main idea of the passage?
 - a. The mass quantities of generic drugs produced in the 1950s were the cause of pharmacists become less knowledgeable about compounding.
 - b. Pharmacy is an ancient occupation.
 - c. Pharmacists' perceived roles have wavered over the last few centuries.
 - d. Iraq is the birthplace of modern pharmacology.
 - e. A pharmacist is a compounder of medicines.

2. Which of the following is not stated or implied in the passage?
 - a. Compounding is the science of combining medicines.
 - b. Commercial drug manufacturers first abounded in the 1950s and 1960.
 - c. In Europe, pharmacy evolved as doctors gained better knowledge about experimental procedures.
 - d. Compounding dates back to ancient times.
 - e. Specific doses are best handled on a case-by-case basis.

3. According to the passage, which of the following is the intended meaning of the word "therapist" in the last sentence of the first paragraph?
 - a. A medically trained individual skilled at deciphering patients' moods and psychological states.
 - b. A layman who diagnoses illnesses and prescribes medications.
 - c. A trusted individual who makes informed medicinal decisions.
 - d. A medical doctor who can diagnose an illness but who has limited knowledge on the specific medicine that should be prescribed.
 - e. Somebody who has knowledge about the proper ratio in which two medicines should be combined.