

**Part two: Reading comprehension**

**Directions:** Read the following passages carefully. Each passage is followed by some questions. Complete the questions with the most suitable words or phrases (a, b, c & d) below each one. Base your answers on the information given only.

**Passage 1**

Scientists believe that they have made a major breakthrough in fighting HIV—they have shown what happens when an infection-fighting antibody attacks a gap in HIV's considerable defenses. Finding a vaccine against HIV has been very difficult because the proteins on the surface of the virus are continually mutating, but they have shown an antibody, called b12, attacking a weak spot of the virus where the protein is unstable. The virus is able to mutate rapidly to avoid detection by the immune system, and is also covered in sugary molecules which block access by antibodies. However, certain parts of the virus must remain relatively unchanged so that it can catch hold of and enter human cells. One protein that sticks out from the surface of the virus and binds to receptors on host cells is one such region, which makes it a target for vaccine development. Previous analyses of the blood of people that have been able to keep HIV from developing into AIDS for long periods of time have revealed a rare group of antibodies—including b12—that seem to fight HIV with some degree of success. The latest study showed how the antibody and the protein interact.

136 . According to the passage, the potential weak point of HIV's defense system is related to its .....

- a. cell receptors      b. constant mutation      c. unaltered portions      d. detection avoidance

137 . HIV takes advantage of ..... to stay safe from the immune system.

- a. defense gaps      b. cell receptors      c. rare antibodies      d. sugary molecules

138 . According to the author, HIV's defense system is .....

- a. very complicated      b. protein resistant      c. highly vulnerable      d. continually mutating

139 . Studies have shown that b12 attacks HIV on some of its .....

- a. access blocking proteins  
b. highly mutating surface proteins  
c. outermost proteins aiming at target cells  
d. innermost proteins interacting with sugary molecules

140 . If all HIV's parts continually changed, it would be impossible for it to .....

- a. hide from antibodies  
b. grasp target cells in the body  
c. block immune system's access  
d. prevent detection by the immune system