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CLAT 2024 **RANBHOOMI** *THE FINAL SPRINT*

— THE CLAT COMBAT —
THE VERBAL WIZARD



ENGLISH LANGUAGE (RC)

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THE CLAT COMBAT

Reading Comprehension 6

Alice in Wonderland syndrome is thought to be very rare. Fewer than 200 case descriptions have been published in the medical literature since Todd named it as such in 1955. The vast majority of these cases involve children, the average age of them being nine. In children, the syndrome is most often associated with encephalitis [caused by infection with the Epstein-Barr virus](#); in adults, migraine is the most common cause, with the syndrome occurring in approximately 15 percent of those with migraines. Other causes include brain tumor, brain hemorrhage, scarlet fever, stroke, depression, and schizophrenia; and in 2011, doctors in Israel reported [the case of an 11-year-old](#) who developed Alice in Wonderland syndrome after being infected with swine flu (“H1N1 influenza”). The syndrome has also been reported during sensory deprivation, as well as during hypnotherapy and the altered states of consciousness that occur just before falling asleep and just before waking (the “hypnagogic” and “hypnopompic” states).

Lewis Carroll accurately depicted some of the most common symptoms of the syndrome, namely, the feeling that one’s body is larger or smaller than it actually is (“macro-” or “microsomatognosia”) and objects appearing larger or smaller than they actually are (“macro- or micropsia”). But patients have reported myriad other symptoms, including the inability to perceive color or motion, enhanced depth perception, illusory movement, the illusion that objects have been split vertically, objects appearing flattened and elongated, objects appearing rotated by 90 or 180 degrees, and seeing multiple images as if looking through an insect’s compound eye. Usually, such symptoms are not long-lasting, disappearing within a few minutes or days, either spontaneously or after treatment of the underlying cause; in cases of migraine and epilepsy, however, they may persist for years, or even throughout the patient’s lifetime. One or more of these individual symptoms [are experienced](#) more commonly in the general population, with one 1999 study showing that over one-third of the 297 adults sampled had experienced two such symptoms over the course of their lifetime.

We do not perceive the world as it really is; rather, our perception of the world is our brain’s best guess at reality, a neural construct built from the limited information it receives through our senses.

The distortions of body image experienced in Alice in Wonderland syndrome are usually consequences of some other affliction and can be disorienting, or perhaps a little frightening, but are otherwise harmless. They can, however, be a root cause, rather than a consequence, of other conditions, and, in some cases, they may be damaging, or even life-threatening — a prime example being anorexia nervosa.

As I write in [“Body Am I,”](#) we do not perceive the world as it really is; rather, our perception of the world is our brain’s best guess at reality, a neural construct built from the limited information it receives through our senses. This is also true of our body. To a large extent, we perceive our body in the same way that we perceive an object in the outside world, through multiple channels of sensory information that enter our brain: the sight of our body as it moves, the sounds it makes, the touch and pain signals that arise from our skin, our muscle sense, and our internal sensations. Consequently, interruptions in the stream of sensory information or disturbances in how the brain processes that information can alter our perception of the body, Alice in Wonderland syndrome being just one example of many. Indeed, we do not perceive our body objectively; we perceive it subjectively, from the inside, and the end result of our bodily perception is what each of us calls “me.”(source with edits and revisions <https://science.thewire.in/the-sciences/alice-in-wonderland-syndrome->)

1. According to the passage which of the following is not mentioned as some causes of Alice in wonderland syndrome, except?

- (a) Brain tumour, brain haemorrhage, scarlet fever, stroke.
- (b) Awakened states of consciousness, hypnotherapy, sensory deprivation.
- (c) Swine flu Epstein barr virus.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

2. Which of the following statements does not support author’s argument based on ‘perception of body’, as mentioned in the passage?

- (a) Perception is based on sensations in our muscles.
- (b) Perception is based on neuronal construct that our brain creates.
- (c) Perception is based on chemical and psychological reactions going on in our brain.
- (d) Perception is based on what one feels inside.

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3. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage as the general population's experience of symptoms similar to those of Alice in Wonderland syndrome?

- (a) Over one-third of adults have experienced it at least once.
- (b) Only a small percentage of adults have ever experienced it.
- (c) It is unique to those with Alice in Wonderland syndrome.
- (d) It is more common in children than adults.

4. Which of the following is an underlying cause of the distortions of body image experienced in Alice in Wonderland syndrome?

- (a) They are the underlying factors in other conditions.
- (b) They are a side effect of another illness.
- (c) They are harmless.
- (d) All of the above.

5. According to the statement, "our perception of the world is our brain's best guess at reality," which of the following is true?

- (a) We see things precisely as they are.
- (b) We have a skewed view of how the world really is.
- (c) Our perception of the environment is independent of our brain.
- (d) Different people are capable of having different perceptions.

1.Ans: (d)

Sol: Option (d) is correct. Consider first paragraph, it mentions causes of the Alice in Wonderland syndrome. Options (a) and (b) both are mentioned except (c) which are not causes but different conditions. Hence (d).

2.Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. Consider the last paragraph of the passage, author's argument is that our view of the world is a neuronal construct that our brain creates based on information that we get from our senses. Options (a), (b) and (d) are explicitly mentioned. Option (c) is not discussed in the passage. Hence (c).

3.Ans: (a)

Sol: Option (a) is correct. Consider the concluding lines of the second paragraph, "One or more of these individual symptoms are experienced more commonly in the general population, with one 1999 study showing that over one-thirdlifetime." Thus option (a) is correct and other options can be ruled out.

4.Ans: (d)

Sol: Option (d) is correct. Consider the lines from the third paragraph, "the distortions of body image experienced.....nervosa." All the options given can be inferred. Hence (d).

5.Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. In the final paragraph the author has discussed as to how one's perception is based on the sensory information that enter our brain and the internal feelings. So options (a), (c) and (d) do not support this and are incorrect except option (b) which talks about having a different perception of the world than what it actually is. Hence (b).