

PASSAGE 2:

With age come changes in the structure and quality of our sleep. After about age 60, we have less deep (slow-wave) sleep and more rapid sleep cycles; we awaken more often, and we sleep an average of two hours less at night than we did as young adults. It was once thought that older people didn't need as much sleep as younger ones, but experts now agree that's not the case. Regardless of age, we typically need seven-and-a-half to eight hours of sleep to function at our best. So if you're not getting enough sleep at night, what about daytime naps? Or does napping disrupt the sleep cycle, ultimately yielding less sleep and more daytime drowsiness?

These questions were addressed by researchers in a study conducted in 2011. The authors concluded that napping not only increases older individuals' total sleep time—without producing daytime drowsiness—but also provides measurable cognitive benefits. This small but well-designed study involved 22 healthy women and men ages 50 to 83 who agreed to be evaluated in a sleep laboratory. During a one- or two-week preliminary period, participants kept sleep logs at home and wore monitors to track their nighttime movements. They were then brought into the sleep laboratory for three nights and two days and given a thorough sleep evaluation (using polysomnography and other techniques) and a battery of cognitive tests. After this initial laboratory session, participants started a month-long daily napping routine at home: half took short (45-minute) naps, and half took longer (two-hour) naps. After the second and fourth weeks, all returned to the lab for repeat assessments.

- 97- **The study mentioned in paragraph 2 was primarily carried out to determine -----.**
- 1) the effect of napping on people's overall sleep pattern
 - 2) the difference in men's and women's need for daily naps
 - 3) if age had any effect on people's need for afternoon naps
 - 4) young and old people's general attitude towards daily naps
- 98- **Which of the following statements about the time length people need to sleep every day is supported by the passage?**
- 1) It is disturbed by the amount of time people nap during the day.
 - 2) It varies from person to person, depending on their health.
 - 3) It is longer in young people than in old ones.
 - 4) It is independent of people's age.
- 99- **The people who took part in the study reported -----.**
- 1) included more men than women
 - 2) knew that they were part of the study
 - 3) were used to napping on a daily basis
 - 4) had problems with thinking and concentration
- 100- **There is enough information in the passage to answer which of the following questions?**
- 1) What made the 22 participants decide to be part of the study?
 - 2) Why do people experience changes in the structure and quality of their sleep as they age?
 - 3) Why is it argued that people in general need seven-and-a-half to eight hours of sleep per day?
 - 4) What are some of the cognitive benefits old people get if they manage to take naps during the day?