**Sicko (ANSWERS)**

*Note: Definitions for the italic words/phrases are provided in the Glossary (p.3).*

**Task 1: Synopsis**

*Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>activist</th>
<th>ailments</th>
<th>disarray</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pharmaceutical</td>
<td>plight</td>
<td>predominance</td>
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After exploring the **1. predominance** of violence in American culture in Bowling for Columbine and taking a critical look at the September 11th attacks in Fahrenheit 9/11, **2. activist** filmmaker Michael Moore turns his attentions toward the topic of health care in the United States in this documentary that weighs the **3. plight** of the uninsured (and the insured who must deal with abuse from insurance companies) against the record-breaking profits of the **4. pharmaceutical** industry. Moore interviews a number of people who have been left broke by medical bills even though they were fully insured, and explains how the corporate drive for profits has left numerous people in financial and medical **5. disarray**. After hearing that **detainees** in Guantanamo have access to free health care, Moore assembles a group of World Trade Center rescue workers to travel to Cuba in order to get the medical help they need for **6. ailments** they incurred in 2001.

**Task 2: Listening**

*Watch the below clip from Sicko.*

- Sicko DVD at Language Learning Oasis (OEM707): 19'35” – 22'40”
- YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2siUQgR-mA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2siUQgR-mA): 0'01” – 3'04”

*Fill in the blanks as you listen to the clip.*

**Moore:** This is Tarsha Harris. BlueCross didn't deny her her treatment, and actually approved her **1. operation**. But then they discovered that in the distant past, she had had a yeast infection.

**Harris:** Apparently it's common. Men, women can get a yeast infection. So I was **2. prescribed** the yeast**6** infection cream, general cream, and it went away.

**McKeon:** She later applied for health insurance and that's what you're supposed to be disclosing – serious *ailments*. The yeast infection was independent. It is not a serious *ailment*. There was nothing else she could have done. It wasn't until they were gonna have to spend money that they looked. If they'd taken five minutes beforehand and wanted to clear up the yeast infection, they could've looked at her **3. medical records**. They could've talked to her doctor.

**Moore:** Because of the **4. undisclosed** yeast infection, BlueCross dropped Tarsha Harris.

**McKeon:** She thinks she's put this behind her. And then BlueCross changes their mind, tells the doctors, "We're taking the money back, go get the money from Tarsha."

**Harris:** The fact of the matter is it was a yeast infection, that's all it was. I'm still a little **5. bitter** because I don't trust insurance companies now. To me, it seems they're always gonna be looking for a way out. What happened to helping the person that's sick? Don't make their problems worse.
Moore: This is Lee Einer. If they weren't able to weed you out in the application process, or deny you the care your doctor said you needed, and somehow ended up paying for the operation. They send in Lee. Their 6. hitman. His job is to get the company's money back any way he can. All he has to do is find one slip-up on your application, or a pre-existing condition you didn't know you had.

Lee: We're gonna go after this like it's a 7. murder case. And I mean the whole unit dedicated to going through your health history for the last five years, looking for anything that would indicate that you concealed something, you misrepresented something, so that they can cancel the policy or 8. jack the rates so high that you can't pay them. And if we couldn't find anything you didn't disclose on the application, you can still get hit with a pre-existing 9. denial, because you don't even have to have sought medical treatment for it. In some states, it's legal to have a prudent person pre-existing condition. And that's a 10. mouthful. I know, but what that says is if prior to your insurance kicking in, you had any symptom which would incline a normally prudent person to have sought medical care, then the condition of which that symptom was a symptom is excluded.

**Task 3: Vocabulary In Use**

Learn at least 5 words/phrases from the Glossary.

Go to online dictionaries (e.g. [http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/); [http://dictionary.cambridge.org/](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/); [http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary](http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary)) to see example sentences. Then, write your own sentences below. You can make an appointment with our Teaching Assistant at the Language Learning Oasis (OEM707) to check your work.

1. ____________________________________________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________________________________________________

Now, go to Language Learning Oasis at OEM 707 to watch the whole film.

Enjoy!
Glossary:

1 activist: (n) a person who believes strongly in political or social change and works hard to try and make this happen
2 ailment: (n) an illness, typically a minor one
3 disarray: (n) a state of disorganization or untidiness
4 pharmaceutical: (adj) relating to medicinal drugs, or their preparation, use, or sale
5 plight: (n) a dangerous, difficult, or otherwise unfortunate situation
6 a predominance of something: (n) a situation in which one type of person or thing within a set is the largest in number
7 detainee: (n) a person held in custody, especially for political reasons
8 yeast: (n) a type of fungus which is used in making alcoholic drinks
9 weed somebody out: (ph v) to get rid of unwanted things or people from a group
10 slip-up: (n) a mistake or something which goes wrong
11 conceal: (v) to prevent something from being seen or known about; to hide something
12 prudent: (adj) avoiding risks and uncertainties; careful

Sources:
- http://www.fandango.com/sicko_103931/plotsummary
- http://dictionary.cambridge.org/
- http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/