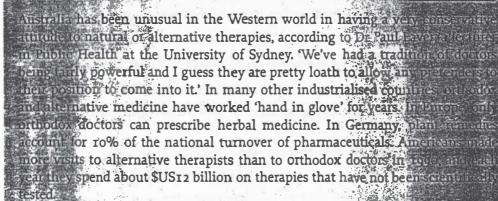
READING PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 14-26 which are based on Reading Passage 2 below

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE IN AUSTRALIA

The first students to study alternative medicine at university level in Australia began their four-year, full-time course at the University of Technology. Sydney, in early 1994. Their course covered, among other therapies, acupuncture. The heavy have the based on the traditional Chinese explanation of this ancient acuting at 1 that it say regulate the flow of 'Qi' or energy through pathology in the body. This course reflects how far some alternative therapies have come in their struggle for deceptance by the medical establishment.



Disence hantment with orthodox medicine has seen the popularity of alternative derapits in Australia climb steadily during the past 20 years. In a 1983 national health survey, 1.9% of people said they had contacted a chiropractor naturopath osteopath, acupuncturist or herbalist in the two weeks prior to the survey by 1000 this figure had risen to 2.6% of the population. The 550,000 consultations with alternative therapists reported in the 1990 survey represented about an eighth of the total number of consultations with medically qualified personnel coversally, the survey, according to Dr Laver and colleagues writing in the Australian lowered of Public Health in 1993. 'A better educated and less accepting public has become

disillusioned with the experts in general, and increasingly sceptical about science and empirically based knowledge,' they said. 'The high standing of professionals, belieflying doctors, has been eroded as a consequence.'

Rather than resisting or criticising this trend, increasing numbers of Australian doctors, particularly younger ones, are forming group practices with alternative therapists of taking courses themselves, particularly in acupuncture and herbalism Part of the incentive was financial, Dr Laver said. The bottom line is that most peneral practitioners are business people. If they see potential clientele going else-service, they might want to be able to offer a similar service.

in 1993; Dr Laver and his colleagues published a survey of 289 Sydney people who attended eight alternative therapists' practices in Sydney. These practices offered a vide range of alternative therapies from 25 therapists. Those surveyed had eightilenced chronic illnesses, for which orthodox medicine had been able to provide little folid. They commented that they liked the holistic approach of their alternative therapists and the triendly, concerned and detailed attention they had received. The told, impersonal manner of orthodox doctors featured in the survey. An increasing exodus from their clinics, coupled with this and a number of other relevant surveys carried out in Australia, all pointing to orthodox doctors' inadequacies, have led mainstream doctors themselves to begin to admit they could feather on the personal style of alternative therapists. Dr Patrick Store, President of the Royal College of General Practitioners, concurs that orthodox doctors could learn a lot about bedside manner and advising patients on preventative health from alternative therapists.

According to the Australian Journal of Public Health, 18% of patients visiting alternative therapists do so because they suffer from musculo-skeletal complaints, 12% suffer from digestive problems, which is only 1% more than those suffering from emotional problems. Those suffering from respiratory complaints represent 7% of their patients, and candida sufferers represent an equal percentage. Headache sufferers and trose complaining of general ill health represent 6% and 5% of patients respectively, and a further 2% see therapists for general health maintenance.

The survey suggested that complementary medicine is probably a better term than alternative medicine. Alternative medicine appears to be an adjunct sought in times of disenchantment when conventional medicine seems not to offer the answer.