



VANLANG
UNIVERSITY

VSTEP PRACTICE TEST

LEVEL B1-B2-C1

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VSTEP LISTENING PRACTICE TEST

Time allowance: approximately: 40 minutes
 Number of questions: 35 minutes

Directions: In this section of the test, you will have an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to understand conversations and talks in English. There are three parts in this section with special directions for each part. Answer all the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied by the speakers in the recording.
The recording will be played ONCE only.

LISTENING TEST 1

PART 1: Questions 1-8

Directions: In this part, you will hear EIGHT short announcements or instructions. There is one question for each announcement or instruction. For each question, choose the right answer A, B, C or D. Then, on the answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer that you have chosen.

Now, let's listen to an example. On the recording, you will hear:

Woman: Hello. This is the travel agency returning your call. You left a message about the holiday you've booked, asking which meals are included in the cost during your stay at Sunny Hotel. Lunch and dinner are free but if you wish to have breakfast in the hotel, you will need to pay an extra amount of money, depending on what you order. Let me know if I can help you with any other information. Goodbye.

On the test book, you will read:

Which meal is NOT included in the price of the holiday?

- A. Breakfast B. Lunch C. Dinner D. All meals

The correct answer is A. Breakfast. Now, let's begin with the first question.

Question 1: Who is probably making talking on the phone?

- A. The receptionist at a hotel
- B. The receptionist at a dentist's
- C. A travel agent
- D. A real estate agent

Question 2: Why has the meeting been relocated?

- A. Because a building is being renovated
- B. Because the North Tower is being painted
- C. Because the South Tower is sold
- D. Because the North Tower is more spacious

Question 3: What is the main cause of decreased domestic sales?

- A. A weak economy
- B. Competition
- C. Retail clothing sector
- D. Domestic economy

Question 4: What should the listeners do before they skate?

- A. Get permission from the safety coordinator
- B. Wear the proper safety equipment
- C. Pay a nominal fee
- D. Have membership cards

Question 5: What profession does the speaker work in?

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| A. Sports therapy | B. Sports broadcasting |
| C. Physical training | D. Sports fashion |

Question 6: What is the purpose of Ricardo's visit?

- A. To train staff members
- B. To oversee a project
- C. To learn business methods
- D. To see a client

Question 7: What kind of business would be making this announcement?

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| A. A gas station | B. A hotel |
| C. A restaurant | D. A store |

Question 8: Why has confidence increased?

- A. Because of increased investment
- B. Because of low inflation
- C. Because of higher production
- D. Because of government data

PART 2: Questions 9-20

Directions: In this part, you will hear THREE conversations. The conversations will not be repeated. There are four questions for each conversation. For each question, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

Questions 9 to 12 refer to the following conversation.

Question 9: What is the problem?

- A. The woman does not know how to get to the man's office.
- B. The copy machine is not working properly.
- C. The man is late for his appointment.
- D. The woman can't go to the office today.

Question 10: Who most likely is the man?

- A. An auto mechanic
- B. A photocopier technician
- C. A new assistant
- D. A coffee shop owner

Question 11: What does the man ask the woman to do?

- A. To have a clinic check-up
- B. To turn off the machine
- C. To check the inside paper jam
- D. To call another technician

Question 12: When will the man most likely get to the woman's office?

- A. In the morning
- B. During lunch
- C. In the afternoon
- D. In the evening

Questions 13 to 16 refer to the following conversation.

Question 13: What is the woman's problem?

- A. She lost a library book.
- B. She does not know where Germany is.
- C. The library does not have a book she needs.
- D. The library will not let her sign out a book.

Question 14: Why does the woman need to find the book?

- A. She wants to borrow it for a friend.
- B. She wants it for her essay.
- C. She wants to learn about computer systems.
- D. She wants to collect it.

Question 15: What does the man offer to do for the woman?

- A. He will help her to locate the material she wants from other libraries.
- B. He will ask his friends about the material she needs.
- C. He asks her to go to the nearest library.
- D. He asks her to go to the book store.

Question 16: What if the woman borrows more than 5 books from other libraries?

- A. She has to return the books earlier than usual.
- B. She has to pay a small service charge.
- C. She has to fill in a special form.
- D. She has to deposit.

Questions 17 to 20 refer to the following conversation.

Question 17: When is the woman supposed to meet James?

- A. At noon
- B. four o'clock
- C. At four fifteen
- D. At ten o'clock

Question 18: What can be inferred about James?

- A. He is very lazy.
- B. He is punctual
- C. He is not very punctual.
- D. He is very busy.

Question 19: What is true about the man?

- A. He is a friend of Jane's and James'.
- B. He is Jane's teacher.
- C. He doesn't know James.
- D. He is an irresponsible man.

Question 20: Why does Jane have this appointment?

- A. To meet her old friends
- B. To complain about James' behavior
- C. To prepare for her exam
- D. To have an interview

PART 3: Questions 21-35

Directions: In this part, you will hear THREE talks, lectures conversations. The talks, lectures, or conversations will not be repeated. There are five questions for each talk, lecture, conversation. For each question, choose the right answer A, B, C or D.

Questions 21 to 25 refer to the following conversation.

Question 21: What did the woman do last night?

- A. Studied for a final test
- B. Worked on her paper
- C. Stayed in the computer lab
- D. Turned the paper in early

Question 22: What is probably true about the woman?

- A. She called Professor Kensington and asked for an extension.
- B. She had her friend help to complete her paper.
- C. She had plenty of time to complete her paper last night.
- D. He completed his paper without help from anyone else.

Question 23: What can be inferred about the man?

- A. He is too unhappy to express his anger to the woman.
- B. He does not feel the extension was necessary at all.
- C. He understands the reasoning behind the extension.
- D. He is planning to hand in the paper today no matter what

Question 24: What is the extension for the assignment submission?

- A. They have 1 more day. B. They have 2 more days.
- C. They have 1 more week. D. They have 2 more weeks.

Question 25. What is the woman probably going to do next?

- A. She is going to revise the paper.
- B. She is going to talk with the professor.
- C. She is going to submit her paper.
- D. She is going to prepare for the exam.

Questions 26- 30 refer to the following conversation.

Question 26: Who is professor Atkins?

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. A math teacher | B. A physics teacher |
| C. A chemistry teacher | D. a laboratory manager |

Question 27: What is the acceptable range of difference off the textbook?

- | | |
|------------------|--------|
| A. 4% or 5% | B. 10% |
| C. Less than 10% | D. 45% |

Question 28: What will the woman most likely do?

- A. Redo the experiment in the evenings
- B. Ask the professor for more time
- C. Hand in the experiment as it is
- D. Lower her results by 10% from the textbook

Question 29: When is the experiment due day?

- A. Tomorrow B. Next week
C. Tuesday D. Friday

Question 30: What does the professor advise Julie to do?

- A. Spend more time in the lab
B. Clean the tubes before the experiment
C. Ask someone to help her
D. Meet him after class hours in the lab

Questions 31 to 35 refer to the following professor's talk.

Question 31: What is true about Alaska?

- A. It is the second largest state in the USA.
B. It is bordered by Canada on the East.
C. It is smaller than California and Texas combined.
D. It is populous.

Question 32: What is the average number of students in a middle school classroom?

- A. 10 B. 15
C. 20 D. 25

Question 33: Which of the following is a popular transportation system in Alaska?

- A. Airplanes
B. Ships
C. Railways
D. A complex highway system

Question 34: What will the professor probably talk about in the next class?

- A. The volcanic eruption of Mount Katmai in the early 20th century.
B. The type of airplanes used by Alaskans to move from point to point.
C. The amount of food imported by the Alaskans to balance out their minuscule farming production.
D. The effects of seismic sea waves that reach far inland and destroy communities.

Question 35: What does the professor feel about life in Alaska?

- A. It is a fantastic place to dwell for anyone.
B. It is probably not very desirable for some to live in.
C. It is not a place that he knows much about.
D. It is a peaceful place without any worries to think about.



LISTENING TEST 2

PART 1: Questions 1-8

Directions: In this part, you will hear EIGHT short announcements or instructions. There is one question for each announcement or instruction. For each question, choose the right answer A, B, C or D.

Now, let's listen to the example. On the recording, you will hear:

Man: *May I have your attention, please? Please be advised that there has been a change in the conference schedule. The speaker for the 2 o'clock presentation has a family emergency, so he won't be able to make it. So please note that there is no presentation at 2.*

On the screen, you will see:

- What is being announced?
- A. a change in a speaker
 - B. the cancelation of a lecture
 - C. the change of a venue
 - D. the confirmation of a schedule

The correct answer is B. the cancelation of a lecture. Now, let's begin with the first question.

1. What will be sold during the intermission?

- A. books
- B. posters
- C. CDs
- D. food

2. How long will it take to get to the destination?

- A. one hour
- B. two hours
- C. two and a half hours
- D. one and a half hours

3. What does the speaker recommend listeners do?

- A. take part in the events
- B. drive slowly
- C. take the highway
- D. keep away from the city center

4. What will the listeners hear after the song?

- A. an interview
- B. weather conditions
- C. a commercial
- D. traffic news

5. Who are the listeners?

- A. investors
- B. executive officers
- C. bankers
- D. shareholders

6. What does the speaker offer the listeners?

- A. overtime pay
- B. extra leaves
- C. free trips
- D. free vouchers

7. What has the company decided to do?

- A. shut down the operations in a certain region
- B. lay off employees in the St. Jones region
- C. start a new promotion in the Grandville region
- D. move the operations to a different region

8. Where most likely is the speaker?

- A. at a job fair
- B. at a medical conference
- C. at a retirement party
- D. at a welcoming party

PART 2: Questions 9-20

Directions: In this part, you will hear THREE conversations. The conversations will not be repeated. There are four questions for each conversation. For each question, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

Questions 9 to 12. Listen to a man talking to a sales assistant at a jewelry shop.

9. What does the man say about his sister?
 - A. She owns a lot of necklaces.
 - B. She has always wanted to have a pair of earrings for a long time.
 - C. She has been 18.
 - D. She wants a gift from her brother.

10. What does the sales assistant say about the pair of earrings?
 - A. It has got silver stones.
 - B. It has different styles.
 - C. It is blue.
 - D. It's impossible to find in any other place.

11. The price of the earrings now is _____.

A. £5	B. £10
C. £20	D. £30

12. How much does the customer pay for the gift wrapping?

A. £2	B. £4
C. £5	D. £7

Questions 13 to 16. Listen to a man and a woman talking about a tour she took.

13. What kind of tour did the woman do?

A. walking	B. orientation
C. cycle	D. bus

14. What did the woman say about the moment when she signed up for the tour?
 - A. Not many people registered.
 - B. She was the seventh person who enrolled.
 - C. The number of participants was limited.
 - D. She signed up on the website.

15. What did the woman say about the hire shop?

A. The hire cost does not include a lock.	B. Its address is at 22 Barclay Street.
C. It has two bike options to choose from.	D. The hire fee is \$50.

16. What is the website address which the man wanted to know more information about?

A. tradelectric.com	B. tradeelectric.com
C. tradelectric.com	D. trade-lectric.com

Questions 17 to 20. Listen to Jane and Bill, who are discussing the results of a survey about changes to their town, Ashtown, over the last 25 years.

17. In Bill's opinion, why are there fewer buses in Ashtown?

- A. The buses are old and uncomfortable.
- B. People turn to using cars.
- C. Fares have gone up too much.
- D. There are not so many routes.

18. What change does Bill think has benefited the town center the most?

- A. the construction of a bypass
- B. the development of cycle paths
- C. the banning of cars from certain areas
- D. the town center is not as polluted.

19. Which area does Bill think most people are employed in?

- A. manufacturing
- B. services
- C. education
- D. accounting

20. How has the railway station car park changed?

- A. It is more modern.
- B. The Grand Cinema was added in the station.
- C. There are no more buses.
- D. It has been expanded.

PART 3: Questions 21-35

Directions: In this part, you will hear THREE talks or lectures. The talks or lectures will not be repeated. There are five questions for each talk or lecture. For each question, choose the right answer A, B, C or D.

Questions 21 to 35. Listen to a tour guide talking to some tourists.

21. The Shopping Tour bus is outside _____

- A. the theatre.
- B. the train station.
- C. some cafes.
- D. the historic building.

22. Nowadays the theatre is popular because of _____

- A. its modern architecture.
- B. its music performances.
- C. the famous actors that appear there.
- D. its age

23. What can people buy in Market Place today?

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| A. fruit and vegetables | B. clothes |
| C. food | D. souvenirs |

24. The main purpose of the visit to the Regional Food Centre is _____

- A. to buy local fruit juices.
- B. to have a meal.
- C. to taste cheeses from the region.
- D. to shop for jams.

25. At the Fashion Fair, how will people on the tour know which building the footwear is in?

- A. It is a red building.
- B. It has a green roof.
- C. It has blue doors.
- D. It has a café in it.

Questions 26 to 30. Listen to the lecture about the American bullfrog.

26. Where was the American bullfrog first found in Britain?

- A. the east of America
- B. in some land plants
- C. in a large vehicle
- D. in England, Britain

27. What is the maximum weight of a male bullfrog?

- A. 750 grams
- B. much more than 600 grams
- C. over 750 grams
- D. around 600 grams

28. What is one difference between male and female bullfrogs?

- A. The male has brown bodies while the female has green bodies.
- B. The female's throat is yellow while the male's is white.
- C. The eardrums of the female are a lot smaller than those of the male.
- D. Only the female has dark spots on the top.

29. Which of the following is NOT the kind of food reported to be eaten by the American bullfrog?

- A. insects
- B. birds
- C. snakes
- D. other frogs

30. What is a problem caused by the American bullfrog?

- A. It destroys the environment where people live.
- B. It consumes the food sources of the native species.
- C. It costs the government £100,000 per year.
- D. It monitors the wild badly.

Questions 31 to 35. Listen to the lecturer talking about the future of fracking (a method of getting oil or gas from the rock below the surface of the ground by making large cracks in it) and other forms of energy.

31. The problem with tracking is that it _____

- A. has caused carbon dioxide levels to rise by more than a third.
- B. will not help countries meet their energy requirements.
- C. will make the world climate warmer by 1 degree Celsius.
- D. has had a bad effect on the weather in some places.

32. One result of climate change is _____

- A. lower levels of rain in some parts of Europe.
- B. serious problems for food production in some African regions.
- C. increased risk of ice in populated areas by the sea.
- D. winter storms in some areas of Asia.

33. A reason renewable energy sources are not being developed quickly is that _____

- A. fracking is the best way to reduce global warming at the moment.
- B. governments want to find other long-term solutions.
- C. environmentalists are against them.
- D. energy companies are afraid the cost will affect their businesses.

34. To develop renewable sources further _____

- A. commercial organizations need external help.
- B. governments need to produce less gas and oil.
- C. countries should work together to change their economies.
- D. environmental groups need to convince the governments.

35. Environmental groups believe that _____

- A. fracking can help reduce global warming in the short term.
- B. non-renewable sources can continue alongside renewable sources.
- C. only renewable sources will be able to provide energy in the future.
- D. fracking is relatively important in the future.

VSTEP READING PRACTICE TEST

Duration: 60 minutes
Number of questions: 40 minutes

Directions: In this section of the test, you will read FOUR different passages, each followed by 10 questions about it. For questions 1-40, you are to choose the best answer A, B, C, or D for each question. Answer all questions following a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.

You have 60 minutes to answer all the questions.

READING TEST 1

PASSAGE 1 – Questions 1-10

Scientists do not yet thoroughly understand just how the body of an individual becomes sensitive to a substance that is harmless or even wholesome for the average person. Milk, wheat, and egg, for example, rank among the most healthful and widely used foods. Yet these foods can cause persons sensitive to them to suffer greatly. At first, the body of the individual is not harmed by coming into contact with the substance. After a varying interval of time, usually longer than a few weeks, the body becomes sensitive to it, and an allergy has begun to develop. Sometimes it's hard to figure out if you have a food allergy, since it can show up so many different ways. Your **symptoms** could be caused by many other problems. You may have rashes, hives, joint pains mimicking arthritis, headaches, irritability, or depression. The most common food allergies are to milk, eggs, seafood, wheat, nuts, seeds, chocolate, oranges, and tomatoes. Many of these allergies will not develop if these foods are not fed to an infant until her or his intestines mature at around seven months. Breast milk also tends to be protective. Migraines can be **set off** by foods containing tyramine, phenethylamine, monosodium glutamate, or sodium nitrate. Common foods which contain these are chocolate, aged cheeses, sour cream, red wine, pickled herring, chicken livers, avocados, ripe bananas, cured meats, many Oriental and prepared foods (read the labels!). Some people have been successful in treating their migraines with supplements of B-vitamins, particularly B6 and niacin. Children who are **hyperactive** may benefit from eliminating **food additives**, especially colorings, and foods high in salicylates from their diets. A few of **these** are almonds, green peppers, peaches, tea, grapes. This is the diet made popular by Benjamin Feingold, who has written the book **Why Child is Hyperactive**. Other researchers have had mixed results when testing whether the diet is effective.

1. The topic of this passage is _____

- A. reactions to foods
- B. food and nutrition
- C. infants and allergies
- D. a good diet

2. According to the passage, the difficulty in diagnosing allergies to foods is due to _____.

- A. the vast number of different foods we eat
- B. lack of a proper treatment plan
- C. the similarity of symptoms of the allergy to other problems
- D. the use of prepared formula to feed babies

3. The word "symptoms" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| A. indications | B. diet |
| C. diagnosis | D. prescriptions |

4. The phrase "set off" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| A. relieved | B. identified |
| C. avoided | D. triggered |

5. What can be inferred about babies from this passage?

- A. They can eat almost anything.
- B. They should have a carefully restricted diet as infants.
- C. They gain little benefit from being breast fed.
- D. They may become hyperactive if fed solid food too early.

6. The word "hyperactive" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| A. overly active | B. unusually low activity |
| C. excited | D. inquisitive |

7. The author states that the reason that infants need to avoid certain foods related to allergies has to do with the infant's _____.

- A. lack of teeth
- B. poor metabolism
- C. underdeveloped intestinal tract
- D. inability to swallow solid foods

8. The word "these" in the passage refers to _____.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| A. food additives | B. food colorings |
| C. innutritious foods | D. foods high in salicylates |

9. Which of the following was a suggested treatment for migraines in the passage?

- A. Eating more ripe bananas
- B. Avoiding all Oriental foods
- C. Getting plenty of sodium nitrate
- D. Using Vitamin B in addition to a good diet

10. According to the article the Feingold diet is NOT _____.

- A. verified by researchers as being consistently effective
- B. available in book form
- C. beneficial for hyperactive children
- D. designed to eliminate foods containing certain food additives.

PASSAGE 2 – Questions 11-20

Until recently, most American entrepreneurs were men. Discrimination against women in business, the demands of caring for families, and lack of business training had kept the number of women entrepreneurs small. Now, however, businesses owned by women account for more than \$40 billion in annual revenues, and this figure is likely to continue rising throughout the 1990s. As Carolyn Doppelt Gray, an official of the Small Business Administration, has noted, "The 1970s was the decade of women entering management, and the 1980s turned out to be the decade of the woman entrepreneur."

What are some of the factors behind this trend? For one thing, as more women earn advanced degrees in business and enter the corporate world, they are finding obstacles. Women are still **excluded** from most executive suites. Charlotte Taylor, a management consultant, had noted, "In the 1970s women believed if they got an MBA and worked hard they could become chairman of the board. Now they've found out **that** isn't going to happen, so they go out on their own".

In the past, most women entrepreneurs worked in "women's" fields cosmetics and clothing, for example. But **this** is changing. Consider ASK Computer Systems, a \$22-million-a-year computer software business. It was founded in 1973 by Sandra Kurtzig, who was then a housewife with degrees in math and engineering. When Kurtzig founded the business, her first product was software that let weekly newspapers **keep tabs on** their newspaper carriers and her office was a bedroom at home, with a **shoebox under the bed** to hold the company's cash. After she succeeded with the newspaper software system, she hired several bright computer-science graduates to develop additional programs. When these were marketed and sold, ASK began to grow. It now has 200 employees, and Sandra Kurtzig owns \$66.9 million of stock.

Of course, many women who start their own businesses fail, just as men often do. They still face hurdles in the business world, especially problems in raising money; the banking and finance world is still dominated by men, and old attitudes die hard. Most businesses owned by women are still quite small. But the situation is changing; there are likely to be many more Sandra Kurtzigs in the years ahead.

11. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Women today are better educated than in the past, making them more attractive to the business world.
- B. The computer is especially lucrative for women today.
- C. Women are better at small businesses than men are.
- D. Women today are opening more businesses of their own.

12. The word "excluded" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- A. not permitted in
- B. often invited to
- C. decorators of
- D. charged admission to

13. All of the following were mentioned in the passage as detriments to women in the business world EXCEPT _____.

- A. women were required to stay at home with their families
- B. women lacked ability to work in business
- C. women faced discrimination in business
- D. women were not trained in business

14. The word "that" in the passage refers to _____.

- A. a woman becomes chairman of the board
- B. women working hard
- C. women achieving advanced degrees
- D. women believing that business is a place for them

- 15. According to the passage, Charlotte Taylor believes that women in the 1970s _____.**
- A. were unrealistic about their opportunities in business management
 - B. were still more interested in education than business opportunities
 - C. had fewer obstacles in business than they do today
 - D. were unable to work hard enough to succeed in business
- 16. The author mentions the "shoebox under the bed" in the third paragraph in order to _____.**
- A. show the frugality of women in business
 - B. show the resourcefulness of Sandra Kurtzig
 - C. point out that initially the financial resources of Sandra Kurtzig's business were limited
 - D. suggest that the company needed to expand
- 17. The word "this" in the passage refers to _____.**
- A. women becoming entrepreneurs
 - B. women buying cosmetics and clothing
 - C. women working in "women's fields"
 - D. women staying at home
- 18. The expression "keep tabs on" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.**
- A. recognize title appearance of
 - B. keep records of
 - C. provide transportation for
 - D. pay the salaries of
- 19. It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes that businesses operated by women are small because _____.**
- A. women prefer a small intimate setting
 - B. women can't deal with money
 - C. women are not able to borrow money easily
 - D. many women fail at large businesses
- 20. The author's attitude about the future of women in business is _____.**
- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| A. skeptical | B. optimistic |
| C. frustrated | D. negative |

PASSAGE 3 – Questions 21-30

Symbiosis is a close ecological relationship between two dissimilar organisms. They assist each other with feeding, defending, and reproducing. In symbiosis, at least one of the pair benefits from the relationship. The other may be injured (parasitism), unaltered (commensalism), or may also benefit (mutualism).

An interesting mutually dependent relationship exists between the pine and the pinon jay. Blue pinon jays settle on the tops of pine trees and pick at the dark round seeds from the sticky cones. They store the seeds in their throats, fly off and hide them somewhere, and then return to repeat the process again. It seems the reproductive cycle of a pine jay corresponds with the ripening of the pine's seed. Similarly, the pine is dependent on the pinon jays for distribution of the seeds.

Seeds are stored in the bark of a tree or in the ground. Using their long bills, pinon jays plant and store them for later consumption. Their throats can expand to hold a large number of seeds; one pinon jay has been reported carrying 50 seeds in one trip. After they have planted the seeds, they return to eat them. Using their bills like a woodpecker, they hammer the seed until the shell breaks. Any unrecovered nuts are then grown into new trees. This fascinating relationship has been ongoing for thousands of years.

When both species benefit each other, this is called mutualism. An example of mutualism is a plant and fungi. The fungus occupies the cortex cells of the secondary roots of the plant. This relationship is called a ‘mycorrhiza.’ It helps the plant absorb inorganic nitrogen and phosphorus from the soil. Some fungi also produce antibiotics which may prevent the invasion of parasitic fungi and bacteria. Another example of mutualism is pollination. Bees carry pollen from one plant to the next when they seek out plants for nectar. They feed themselves on the nectar, and the plants reproduce after fertilization by the pollen from other plants.

Mutualism can also bring together two very different organisms, for example, a buffalo and an ox bird. These birds journey on the backs of African buffalo eating their parasites. The bird receives food, and the buffalo is rid of irritating insects. There are also a number of fish that provide an excellent example of mutualism. Known as ‘cleaner fish,’ these fish get rid of parasites and dead skin found on other fish. The best-known example is the ‘cleaner wrasse,’ which dwells in the Pacific and Indian oceans. They clean large predatory fish by eating tissue and parasites off their skin. This relationship provides food and protection for the wrasse and several health benefits for the other fish.

The other two types of symbiosis, besides mutualism, are commensalism and parasitism. [A] Commensalism refers to a symbiotic relationship where one organism eats the unused food of another. [B] One benefits, but the other is not affected. Examples include **the remora and the shark**. The remora attaches itself to the shark, when the shark feeds itself, the remora picks up scraps. [C] One example of commensalism in humans is bacteria living in our intestines that feed on food in our gut. [D]

In parasitism, one organism benefits and the other is harmed. **Parasites live off the body of other organisms and receive nourishment from their tissues, while also inflicting damage on their hosts.** Plants are parasitized by bacteria, fungi, and a handful of other plants. Parasites cause harm by entering the tissue of the host for their own nutritional benefit.

None of these relationships are fixed, and it is likely that what starts as a parasitic relationship may **gradually** evolve into a mutualistic one. For example, in 1966, amebas were discovered that had become infected with bacteria. However, after five years, it was found that the core of the amebas had become dependent on the bacteria; thus, parasitism had evolved into mutualism. Unfortunately, the inverse is also possible; mutualistic associations may evolve into parasitic ones.

21. According to paragraph 2, what does the pinon jay do for the pine tree?

- A. It gives the tree important nutrition.
- B. It provides a primary means of seed dissemination for pinon trees.
- C. It keeps the tree free from parasites.
- D. It helps the tree produce larger seeds.

22. The word "corresponds" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| A. matches | B. includes |
| C. exposes | D. protects |

23. According to paragraph 3, how does the blue pinon jay store the seeds for later?

- A. By holding up to 50 in its mouth
- B. By burying them in the ground
- C. By protecting them in its nest
- D. By allowing them to develop into new trees

24. The word "It" in the passage refers to _____.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| A. bacteria | B. mutualism |
| C. mycorrhiza | D. fungus |

25. According to paragraph 5, what is an example of a mutual relationship?

- A. An animal eating parasites from another
- B. An animal licking the body of another
- C. An animal providing protection for another
- D. An animal keeping another awake and alert

26. The author mentions "the remora and the shark" in the passage in order to _____.

- A. explain the details behind a mutualist association
- B. demonstrate a connection between an active parasite picker and host
- C. show how one animal can benefit from the acts of another
- D. give an example of one animal causing the suffering of another

27. Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence? Incorrect answer choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- A. There are many types of creatures that are very well developed and have the strength to support other species.
- B. Sometimes, the organisms supplying parasites are very harmful to their hosts.
- C. Some animals are selfish and only cause damage to their hosts.
- D. Organisms which must depend on others die easily because they are not strong.

28. The word "gradually" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| A. slowly | B. increasingly |
| C. constantly | D. rapidly |

29. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT an example of mutualism?

- A. plant and its fungi
- B. Pollen transfer from one plant to another
- C. The remora and the shark
- D. A buffalo and an ox bird

30. Look at the four squares [...] that indicate where the following sentence can be added to the passage.

They are completely safe and may possibly help US, hence a commensalism relationship.

Where would the sentence best fit?

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| A. [A] | B. [B] |
| C. [C] | D. [D] |

PASSAGE 4 – Questions 31-40

Earth has several distinct layers; the outermost of these is the crust, which has an inconsistent thickness of 35-70 km in the continents and 5-10 km in the ocean basins. The second layer is known as the mantle, which is about 2900 km thick, and divided into an upper and lower mantle. Most of Earth's internal heat is situated here. The upper mantle has an area known as the low-velocity zone, where secondary waves decrease rapidly and then gradually increase. The last layer is the core. This is a thick ball of iron and nickel divided into two layers, the inner core and the outer core.

The inner core is solid, whereas the outer core is so hot that the metal is always molten. However, because the force at the inner core is so **immense**, it cannot melt. Due to Earth's rotation, the outer core spins around the inner core, which causes the Earth's magnetism. The inner core consists of iron, nickel and other elements, probably a mix of carbon, oxygen, sulphur, silicon, and potassium. The temperature is extremely high, and due to pressure, the core is solid. Because the outer core is liquid, mainly consisting of iron, nickel and about 10% oxygen and sulphur, here the temperature is not as high.

Both the outer and inner cores together create the Earth's magnetism. The core has a huge influence on Earth. Because it is so hot, it radiates a natural heat to the upper layers, setting off a current of heat, which in turn causes the movement of the tectonic plates. Because of Earth's rotation, the outer core spins, but the inner core does not because it is solid. This provides a sort of dynamo effect and causes the Earth's magnetic force.

A seismic wave is a wave that travels through Earth; it is often the result of **a tectonic earthquake**. There are two kinds of seismic waves, "body waves" and "surface waves." Other waves do exist, but are of little importance. Body waves travel through the center of Earth, following ray paths which are bent by the unstable density and stiffness of Earth's interior. These differ according to temperature, **phase**, and structure. Body waves send out the first tremors of an earthquake as well as any later ones.

There are two kinds of body waves, "primary" and "secondary" waves. Primary waves are compression waves, meaning the ground is alternately compressed and expanded in the direction of propagation. These waves can travel slightly faster through solids than secondary waves can, and are also able to travel through any type of material. Through air, they take the form of sound waves and so travel at the speed of sound.

Primary waves, when created by an earthquake, are less destructive than sound waves due to their minor amplitudes. Secondary waves are tilted waves; in other words, the ground is shifted vertically in the direction of transmission. Here, the ground moves from one side to the other. Secondary waves are only able to travel through solids, not liquids or gases, and thus are unable to travel through Earth's core. Primary waves are faster than secondary waves. Primary and secondary waves are usually produced by earthquakes and volcanoes. However, they can also be produced by people using explosives or large machinery.

Surface waves are comparable to water waves traveling just under Earth's surface. They travel at slower speeds than body waves. Surface waves can be the most **devastating** type of seismic wave due to their low frequency, long duration, and large amplitude, hl theory, they are understood as a system which relates to primary and secondary waves.

- [A] The moment an earthquake occurs, seismographs try to record its primary and secondary waves, but often they cannot detect the secondary waves of a distant earthquake.
[B] This may be due to the fact that secondary waves are unable to pass through liquids. [C] This information about wave travel helps scientists determine the internal structure of the planet. [D]

31. In paragraph 1, what does the author say about the presence of the low-velocity zone in the Earth's interior?

- A. It causes the high-frequency stimulation.
- B. Its width is consistent with the fault zone.
- C. It induces regionally extensive oscillations.
- D. It is located just above the lower crustal boundary.

32. The word "immense" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- A. compressed
- B. dilated
- C. immeasurable'
- D. varied

33. According to paragraph 2, which of the following is NOT true about the inner core?

- A. It contributes to the Earth's magnetic field.
- B. It is always molten and liquid.
- C. It is under a lot of pressure.
- D. It mainly consists of iron, nickel and some lighter elements.

34. According to paragraph 3, which of the following is the reason for tectonic plate movement?

- A. The convection of heat from the core
- B. The gravitational effect of the core
- C. The powerful magnetic forces of the core
- D. The spinning of the inner and outer core together

35. Why does the author mention "a tectonic earthquake" in the passage?

- A. To show that primary waves are far more powerful than secondary waves
- B. To demonstrate the effect of seismic waves on the Earth
- C. To develop understanding of the structure of the Earth's interior
- D. To explain that scientific detection methods are very efficient

36. The word "phase" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- A. change
- B. period
- C. heat
- D. construction

37. The word "devastating" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

- A. faint
- B. destructive
- C. productive
- D. quiet

38. Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence? Incorrect answer choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- A. Although primary and secondary waves would be recorded, the secondary waves are not strong enough to be detected at a distance.
- B. Seismic waves are too small to be felt as a noticeable earthquake, but detectable by seismographs.

C. Secondary waves can be generated as a result of nonlinear interaction, so seismographs cannot detect them.

D. Because of extensive fault repetition, the primary wave is the most powerful force in an earthquake.

39. It can be inferred from the passage that the author most likely believes which of the following about earthquakes in the world?

- A. Volcanoes would not exist if earthquakes never happened
- B. They are caused by the force of primary waves hitting the crust
- C. They are primarily caused by the heat from the Earth's core
- D. There is no more destructive thing in the world

40. Look at the four squares [] that indicate where the following sentence can be added to the passage.

For example, with the use of secondary waves, scientists were able to suggest that Earth has a liquid outer core.

Where would the sentence best fit?

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| A. [A] | B. [B] |
| C. [C] | D. [D] |

THIS IS THE END OF THE READING PAPER.

NOW PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR TEST PAPER AND YOUR ANSWER SHEET.

READING TEST 2

PASSAGE 1 – Questions 1-10

The Decline of the English Cloth Trade

After 45 years of the queen's rule, James I succeeded Elizabeth I to the English throne in 1603, at which point the English economy was struggling. The population of England was welling, food production was insufficient, and prices were high. Despite its instability, a few industries brought reliable income to the English economy. In particular, many merchants relied on the export of cloth to continental Europe. For the first decade of James I's reign, the cloth trade prospered and was an important source of revenue for the English. However, the king was to make a serious mistake that would eventually lead to the fall of the English cloth trade.

In 1614, William Cockayne, an English merchant and politician, proposed that James I make a dramatic change to the way they English exported cloth. At the time, the English produced primarily unfinished cloth. This meant that they sold cloth that had not been dyed, bleached, or otherwise processed. Most often, companies in the Netherlands bought the plain cloth from England and finished it themselves. The Dutch were experts in the complex procedures and technologies required to finish cloth, and these processes added significant value to the unfinished cloth they had purchased from England. As a result, Dutch cloth companies could sell their goods at much higher prices than the English could. Hoping to transfer these profits to English companies, Cockayne proposed that the English finish the cloth themselves to increase the value of their cloth exports. He also asked James I to establish a company, which was to function under Cockayne's leadership, that would control and

monopolize the export of finished cloth to continental Europe. The king was in need of money, and the prospect of increased revenue appealed to him. Thus, he agreed to Cockayne's plan and, per Cockayne's request, founded the King's Merchant Adventurers, a company with a primary purpose of exporting finished cloth.

However, Cockayne's plan disrupted the previously steady English cloth trade and was ultimately ineffective for a number of reasons. First, James I's support of Cockayne's company created a rift between the king and many powerful English merchants, particularly the members of the unfinished cloth company called the Merchant Adventurers, which had been cast aside in favor of Cockayne's group. Furthermore, the Dutch, who had previously been Europe's main supplier of finished cloth, responded to English competition by refusing to purchase any English cloth products, and many other European nations did the same. In addition, merchants in other countries refused to ship English cloth or charged English businesspeople inflated fees for shipping. The resistance from abroad was particularly damaging to the King's Merchant Adventurers because it could not afford the ships that were necessary to transport its goods to European markets.

In addition to the difficulties caused by its widespread unpopularity, Cockayne's company was unable to produce quality goods. For one, Cockayne did not have the funds to acquire the machines needed to finish cloth. [A] Moreover, English cloth makers were not experts in the finishing process and could not match the high-quality finished cloth produced by their competitors in the Netherlands. [B] By 1617, just three years after the company was established, James I had dissolved the King's Merchant Adventurers.

[C] The failure of the King's Merchant Adventurers did more than bankrupt those who had supported its efforts. [D] The damage Cockayne's plan inflicted on the cloth trade had disastrous economic effects on other industries as well. Under the King's Merchant Adventurers, more than 500 families had begun producing finished cloth. However, because they could not sell it, their ventures failed. This caused unemployment to rise and even resulted in riots in London and elsewhere. Furthermore, formerly beneficial trade relationship had been destroyed, and sellers of unfinished cloth had to attempt to reestablish contacts with European buyers who were willing to purchase their goods. Though James I had returned power to the members of the Merchant Adventurers, the group resented the damage that had been done to its business. Business relations were strained both internationally and domestically as the English cloth trade made slow recovery from Cockayne's experiment.

1. In paragraph 1, the author describes insufficient food production as an indication of the

- A. need for the expansion of the English cloth trade.
- B. consequences of heavily emphasizing the cloth trade.
- C. poor state of the English economy in 1603.
- D. king's mismanagement of the country.

2. Based on the information in paragraphs 1 and 2, what can be inferred about the English cloth trade prior to the establishment of the King's Merchant Adventurers?

- A. It was neglected in favor of the shipping and agriculture industries.
- B. It was the only profitable sector of the English economy.
- C. It was responsible for driving up prices for necessary items in England.
- D. It consisted of multiple companies working with international partners.

3. According to paragraph 2, William Cockayne proposed all of the following changes to the English cloth trade EXCEPT:

- A. The establishment of a company that would exclusively handle the cloth trade
- B. A focus on increasing the value of cloth created in England
- C. The interruption of cloth supply to merchants in the Netherlands
- D. A shift in the primary activities of the English cloth industry

4. Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 2? Incorrect answer options change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- A. The procedures and technologies used to create finished cloth, which were often very complex, were primarily used by Dutch workers.
- B. Unfinished cloth from England was typically finished by the Dutch, who were experts in the complicated procedures that resulted in more value cloth.
- C. Finished cloth from England was often more valuable than Dutch cloth due to the complicated processes used to treat the cloth.
- D. Unfinished cloth from England lost its value because the Dutch were able to create finished cloth by using expert techniques.

5. Based on the information in paragraph 2, why did the king agree to Cockayne's proposals?

- A. He was desperate to improve the English economy quickly.
- B. He believed that the changes would allow England to expand the cloth industry.
- C. He worried about England's overreliance on trade partnerships with the Netherlands.
- D. He wanted to encourage technological advancement in English industries.

6. According to 3, what is true about the Merchant Adventurers?

- A. It continued to sell cloth to the Dutch after the execution of Cockayne's plan.
- B. Its members objected to the changes proposed by Cockayne.
- C. It was forced to focus primarily on shipping instead of the cloth trade.
- D. It became the top English trader due to the unpopularity of Cockayne's plan.

7. According to paragraph 4, which of the following was a factor in the King's Merchant Adventurer's inability to create quality goods?

- A. Its employees didn't have the necessary knowledge about finishing cloth.
- B. It couldn't afford to pay cloth-finishing experts.
- C. It did not have financial support from the king.
- D. It had an inadequate supply of unfinished cloth.

8. According to paragraph 5, people in London rioted in response to

- A. the restoration of the Merchant Adventurers.
- B. the high rate of joblessness.
- C. the unavailability of jobs in the cloth industry.
- D. the bankruptcy of the King's Merchant Adventurers.

9. Look at the part of the passage that is displayed above. The letters [A], [B], [C], and [D] indicate where the following sentence could be added.

He also reinstated the previous cloth export company, the Merchant Adventurers.
Where would the sentence best fit?

- A. Choice A
- B. Choice B
- C. Choice C
- D. Choice D

10. Which of the following is NOT an effect of the fall of the English Cloth Trade?

- A. People who supported the King's Merchant Adventurers lost a lot of money.
- B. Companies in other countries were unwilling to purchase goods from England.
- C. English makers of unfinished cloth had a strained relationship with the king.
- D. The king created the Merchant Adventurers and made William Cockayne responsible for managing it.

PASSAGE 2 – Questions 11-20

Capital Punishment

Proponents of capital punishment argue that it deters crime, but the deterrent argument fails. No statistical study has ever turned up any significant correlation between the absence of capital punishment is any more effective as a deterrent than long-term imprisonment.

With this in mind, supporters of capital punishment sometimes move from the argument that it deters, to the argument that it might deter. That is, even if we grant that there is no firm evidence to establish a deterrent effect, it must still be admitted that it could deter. We should gamble on this possibility, the argument goes, since it is a good tradeoff to execute murders on the chance that innocent lives will thereby be saved. There are two replies to this. First, the wager is not stated properly. By having capital punishment, we not only have the chance to save innocent lives, we also risk putting innocent people to death; therefore, it is not a “no lose” gamble. Second, capital punishment is not only a practice which puts the innocent at risk; it is also an enormously cruel one. Justification on the grounds of deterrence calls for certain and substantial benefits. It is not sufficient merely to hold out the possibility that some good may come of it.

The retributive justification for capital punishment is backward-looking: It seeks to justify the **practice** by pointing to some past action of the prisoner. Retributivists argue that the fact that a person who has killed another morally entitles us to kill that person. This argument presupposes that people are deserving beings, and that, in turn, presupposes a particular view of human beings. Specifically, it presupposes that they are capable of determining their destiny by free choices. This view can be challenged, as it was with conspicuous success by Clarence Darrow. He took the determinist view that all our actions are the inevitable consequence of our genetics and environment, and hence we are not agents but objects, pushed and pulled through the world by forces out of our control. If this view is correct, the retributive argument clearly must be rejected, for it would then be fallacious to claim that anyone ever deserves anything. We can still punish people to reform them, or to deter others, or to protect society. But we cannot do so because they deserve it.

The protection argument is based on the premise that some murderers are truly dangerous characters, who can never again be trusted around others. Since long-term, isolated incarceration is both cruel to the prisoner and costly to society, capital punishment is the preferable solution. The problem with the protection view is that it cannot apply only to murderers. There are all kinds of non-murderers who are highly dangerous. If we extend capital punishment to all dangerous

criminals, the executioner will have very full days, and the civil nature of our society will be seriously called into question.

11. According to the passage, which argument presupposes that fear of capital punishment will prevent some people from committing murder?

- A. The deterrent argument
- B. The retributive argument
- C. The protection argument
- D. All of the above

12. It can be inferred that the author believes

- A. that people determine their own destinies by their choices
- B. that capital punishment is only justified in rare cases
- C. that Clarence Darrow's argument was fallacious
- D. that the determinist view is probably correct

13. According to the author, why does the deterrent argument fail?

- A. Because there is no statistical evidence that capital punishment deters murder
- B. Because it wrongly presupposes that people are capable of free choices
- C. Because execution is less effective than long-term imprisonment
- D. Because it presupposes that there is no risk of putting innocent people to death

14. The word “wager” in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to

- A. gamble
- B. practice
- C. possibility
- D. argument

15. According to the author, what is the problem with the protection argument?

- A. Long-term incarceration is very expensive.
- B. It is based on the premise that some murderers are too dangerous to be around other people.
- C. It does not make sense to apply it only to murders.
- D. None of the above.

16. The word “conspicuous” in paragraph 3 could best be replaced by

- A. questionable
- B. unknown
- C. notable
- D. surprising

17. The phrase “do so” in paragraph 3 refers to

- A. protect society
- B. reform them
- C. punish people
- D. claim that anyone ever deserves anything

18. Why does the author use the phrase “cruel to the prisoner and costly to society” in paragraph 4?

- A. To point out why long-term imprisonment is preferable to execution
- B. To summarize the arguments of those who oppose long-term imprisonment

- C. To argue that execution is preferable to long-term imprisonment
- D. To emphasize the disadvantages of capital punishment.

19. Which of the following does NOT contain the most important information in the passage?

- A. The deterrent argument wrongly assumes that despite the lack of evidence for its effectiveness, capital punishment might deter some murders.
- B. The determinist view of human behavior implies that people do not control their actions, so the determinist argument must be rejected.
- C. The protection argument must be rejected because it cannot be applied consistently to all dangerous criminals.
- D. Arguments for based on deterrence fail because there is no evidence that capital punishment deters murder, and because the risks outweigh the possible benefits.

20. Which of the following is an argument both for and against capital punishment.

- A. Cruelty
- B. Just punishment for past action
- C. Prevention of murder
- D. Protection of innocent life

PASSAGE 3 – Questions 21-30

The Controversy of a Hoax: the Lost Colony of Roanoke

Settled by English colonists in the late sixteenth century, Roanoke Island lies off the coast of what is now the state of North Carolina. It is best known as the home of “the Lost Colony.” In 1587, the explorer Sir Walter Raleigh dispatched a ship bound for the New World, carrying a group of approximately 117 people – including their new governor, John White. The captain was supposed to take them farther north, to Chesapeake Bay near Massachusetts, but instead dropped the passengers at Roanoke Island – the site of the first, unsuccessful English colony. Governor White realized that supplies were low and sailed back to England to acquire more food, promising to return in three months. However, the war between England and Spain prevented White from voyaging back to the island for three years. When White finally returned to Roanoke in 1590, he found that the settlers had disappeared. The entire site had been abandoned without a trace of the colonists having been there. The only clue that White found was the word “CROATIAN” carved into a fence post, and the letters CRO etched into a tree trunk. There was nothing else to indicate where the colonists had gone or the manner in which they had left.

This centuries-old case of the Lost Colony has long puzzled scholars who have tried to reconstruct the events that led to the colonists’ vanishing act. Both historians and archeologists have been unable to piece together exactly what happened to the colonists. The most popular theory holds that they simply abandoned the area. It has long been believed that they went to Croatoan Island – known today as Hatteras. Scholars speculated that the colonists may have gone to live with the Croatoans – a tribe of Native Americans with whom they had had very friendly relations.

However, any scholarly inquiries regarding this 350-year-old mystery nearly came to a halt in 1940 when the Saturday Evening Post newspaper published a story claiming that it was “solved.” The story upheld the angle that a few of the colonists had survived – among them, Governor John White’s daughter Eleanor Dare, her husband Ananias, and their infant daughter Virginia. Eleanor had allegedly inscribed her story on a series of 48 stones so that her father would know what had happened

to them. The article included photographs of some of the stones that the reporter said had been found in swamps and various other places in North and South Carolina, as well as Georgia, all within a 400-mile radius of each other. The stones were given to Dr. Haywood Pearce, a professor of American History at the University of Atlanta, who examined them and took his story to the media. The text on the stones was simple, but written in what appeared to be sixteenth-century Roman letters. Pearce thought that the stones were authentic and the Post printed the story.

In 1941, an investigative reporter named Boyden Sparkes published a follow-up story declaring the Dare stones to be a hoax. He systematically proved, with supporting evidence from experts, that the words written on the rocks in an Elizabeth-era Roman script had been fabricated, and the dates on the rocks could not be scientifically proven. After Sparkes's exposé on the hoax, Professor Pearce's academic integrity was compromised in the fraud, and he subsequently dropped out of sight.

Fifty years later, Robert W. White's book *A Witness for Eleanor Dare* revisited the story of the Dare stones. White raised the question of the stone's authenticity by stating that Sparkes had created the controversy in order to get publicity about the mystery of the Lost Colony, but moreover, to seek monetary gain for himself. White's examination of the evidence reintroduced the possibility that the stones were not fake. However, historians and archeologists alike have still not reached an agreement about this potential physical evidence of the Lost Colony. Despite the controversy, one of the infamous Dare stones is now on exhibit at the Lost Colony Center for Science and Research in Williamston, North Carolina.

Questions about the colonists' fate still exist: Did they assimilate with the Croatoan Indians? Did they attempt to sail back to England and were lost at sea? Did they all succumb to disease or harsh weather? These questions and the authenticity of the Dare stones continue to be one of the most enduring unsolved mysteries of early American history.

21. According to paragraph 1, the “Lost Colony” is

- A. the island of Roanoke.
- B. a group of English settlers.
- C. the state of North Carolina.
- D. an area of Chesapeake Bay.

22. According to paragraph 1, the author implies that the colonists

- A. were governed by Sir Walter Raleigh.
- B. forced John White to return to England.
- C. had planned to land on Roanoke Island.
- D. had originally intended to settle in Chesapeake Bay.

23. The word “etched” in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to

- A. cut into.
- B. drawn.
- C. printed.
- D. erased.

24. In paragraph 2, why does the author mention the theory about the colonists’ disappearance?

- A. to connect the word “CROATOAN” with the possible whereabouts of the colonists
- B. to contrast the different opinions of the historians and archeologists.
- C. to offer more speculation about where they might have gone
- D. to support the work done by scholars to solve the mystery

25. The word “allegedly” in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to

- A. irrefutably
- B. illegally.
- C. unbelievably.
- D. supposedly.

26. In paragraph 4, what does the author say about the script on the stones?

- A. It was from the Elizabeth era.
- B. It was not easy for experts to read.
- C. No one could prove it was from the sixteenth century.
- D. Scientists could not sequence the stones by their dates.

27. According to paragraph 4, what does the author imply about Professor Pearce after Boyden Sparkes published his hoax story?

- A. He tried to reach an agreement with Sparkes.
- B. He left his position at university.
- C. He was fired from his job.
- D. He lost his sight.

28. Why does the author mention White’s examination of the evidence in paragraph 5?

- A. to make people aware of the unsolved mystery
- B. to show that the Lost Colony was not completely forgotten
- C. so that readers will reconsider the authenticity of the Dare stones
- D. to exemplify how Sparkes’s desire for money might have harmed history

29. The word “infamous” in paragraph 5 is closest in meaning to

- A. unknown.
- B. notorious
- C. memorable.
- D. disreputable.

30. In paragraph 6, the author raises several questions on theories about the colonists’ fate EXCEPT

- A. they could have settled with a Native American tribes on the island.
- B. they may all have died from a fatal illness.
- C. they attempted to return to England.
- D. they moved south to warmer climates.

PASSAGE 4 – Questions 31-40

Desert Formation

The deserts, which already occupy approximately a fourth of the Earth’s land surface, have in recent decades been increasing at an alarming pace. The expansion of desert-like conditions into areas where they did not previously exist is called desertification. It has been estimated that an additional one-fourth of the Earth’s land surface is threatened by this process.

Desertification is accomplished primarily through the loss of stabilizing natural vegetation and the subsequent accelerated erosion of the soil by wind and water. In some cases the loose soil is

blown completely away, leaving a stony surface. In other cases, the finer particles may be removed, while the sand-sized particles are accumulated to form mobile hills or ridges of land.

Even in the areas that retain a soil cover, the reduction of vegetation typically results in the loss of the soil's ability to absorb substantial quantities of water. The impact of raindrops on the loose soil tends to transfer fine clay particles into the tiniest soil spaces, sealing them and producing a surface that allows very little water penetration. Water absorption is greatly reduced, consequently runoff is increased, resulting in accelerated erosion rates. The gradual drying of the soil caused by its diminished ability to absorb water results in the further loss of vegetation, so that a cycle of progressive surface deterioration is established.

In some regions, the increase in desert areas is occurring largely as the result of a trend toward drier climatic conditions. Continued gradual global warming has produced an increase in aridity for some areas over the past few thousand years. The process may be accelerated in subsequent decades if global warming resulting from air pollution seriously increases.

There is little doubt, however, that desertification in most areas results primarily from human activities rather than natural processes. The semiarid lands bordering the deserts exist in a delicate ecological balance and are limited in their potential to adjust to increased environmental pressures. Expanding populations are subjecting the land to increasing pressures to provide them with food and fuel. In wet periods, the land may be able to respond to these stresses. During the dry periods that are common phenomena along the desert margins, though, the pressure on the land is often far in excess of its diminished capacity, and desertification results.

Four specific activities have been identified as major contributors to the desertification processes: overcultivation, overgrazing, firewood gathering, and overirrigation. The cultivation of crops has expanded into progressively drier regions as population densities have grown. These regions are especially likely to have periods of severe dryness, so that crop failures are common. Since the raising of most crops necessitates the prior removal of the natural vegetation, crop failures leave extensive tracts of land devoid of a plant cover and susceptible to wind and water erosion.

The raising of livestock is a major economic activity in semiarid lands, where grasses are generally the dominant type of natural vegetation. The consequences of an excessive number of livestock grazing in an area are the reduction of the vegetation cover and the trampling and pulverization of the soil. This is usually followed by the drying of the soil and accelerated erosion.

Firewood is the chief fuel used for cooking and heating in many countries. The increased pressures of expanding populations have led to the removal of woody plants so that many cities and towns are surrounded by large areas completely lacking in trees and shrubs. The increasing use of dried animal waste as a substitute fuel has also hurt the soil because this valuable soil conditioner and source of plant nutrients is no longer being returned to the land.

The final major human cause of desertification is soil salinization resulting from overirrigation. Excess water from irrigation sinks down into the water table. If no drainage system exists, the water table rises, bringing dissolved salts to the surface. The water evaporates and the salts are left behind, creating a white crustal layer that prevents air and water from reaching the underlying soil.

The extreme seriousness of desertification results from the vast areas of land and the tremendous numbers of people affected, as well as from the great difficulty of reversing or even slowing the process. Once the soil has been removed by erosion, only the passage of centuries or millennia will enable new soil to form. In areas where considerable soil still remains, though, a rigorously enforced

program of land protection and cover-crop planning may make it possible to reverse the present deterioration of the surface.

31. According to paragraph 3, the loss of natural vegetation has which of the following consequences for soil?

- A. increased stony content
- B. reduced water absorption
- C. increased numbers of spaces in the soil
- D. reduce water runoff

32. The word “delicate” in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. fragile
- B. predictable
- C. complex
- D. valuable

33. According to paragraph 5, in dry periods, border areas have difficulty

- A. adjusting to stresses created by settlement
- B. retaining their fertility after desertification
- C. providing water for irrigating crops
- D. attracting populations in search of food and fuel

34. According to paragraph 6, which of the following is often associated with raising crops?

- A. Lack of proper irrigation techniques.
- B. Failure to plant crops suited to the particular area.
- C. Removal of the original vegetation.
- D. Excessive use of dried animal waste.

35. The phrase “devoid of” in the passage is closest in meaning to

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| A. consisting of | C. except for |
| B. hidden by | D. lacking in |

36. According to paragraph 9, the ground’s absorption of excess water is a factor in desertification because it can

- A. interfere with the irrigation of land
- B. require more absorption of air by the soil
- C. limit the evaporation of water
- D. bring salts to the surface

37. All of the following are mentioned in the passage as contributing to desertification EXCEPT

- A. soil erosion
- B. global warming
- C. insufficient irrigation
- D. the raising of livestock

38. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- A. Desertification is a significant problem because it is so hard to reverse and affects large areas of land and great numbers of people.

- B. Slowing down the process of desertification is difficult because of population growth that has spread over large areas of land.
- C. The spread of deserts is considered a very serious problem that can be solved only if large numbers of people in various countries are involved in the effort.
- D. Desertification is extremely hard to reverse unless the population is reduced in the vast areas affected.

39. It can be inferred from the passage that the author most likely believes which of the following about the future of desertification?

- A. Governments will act quickly to control further desertification.
- B. The factors influencing desertification occur in cycles and will change in the future.
- C. Desertification will continue to increase.
- D. Desertification will soon occur in all areas of the world.

40. Which of the following does not express the most important ideas in the passage.

- A. Growing human populations and the agricultural demands that come with such growth have upset the ecological balance in some areas and led to the spread of deserts.
- B. Excessive numbers of cattle and the need for firewood for fuel have reduced grasses and trees, leaving the land unprotected and vulnerable.
- C. Extensive irrigation with poor drainage brings salt to the surface of the soil, a process that reduces water and air absorption.
- D. As periods of severe dryness have become more common, failures of a number of different crops have increased.

VSTEP SPEAKING PRACTICE TEST

SPEAKING TEST 1

PART 1: Social Interaction (3')

Let's talk about walking.

- Do you like walking? When and where do you walk?
- Do you think walking is important?
- Do you think walking in the countryside is better than walking in the city?

Let's talk about your eating habits.

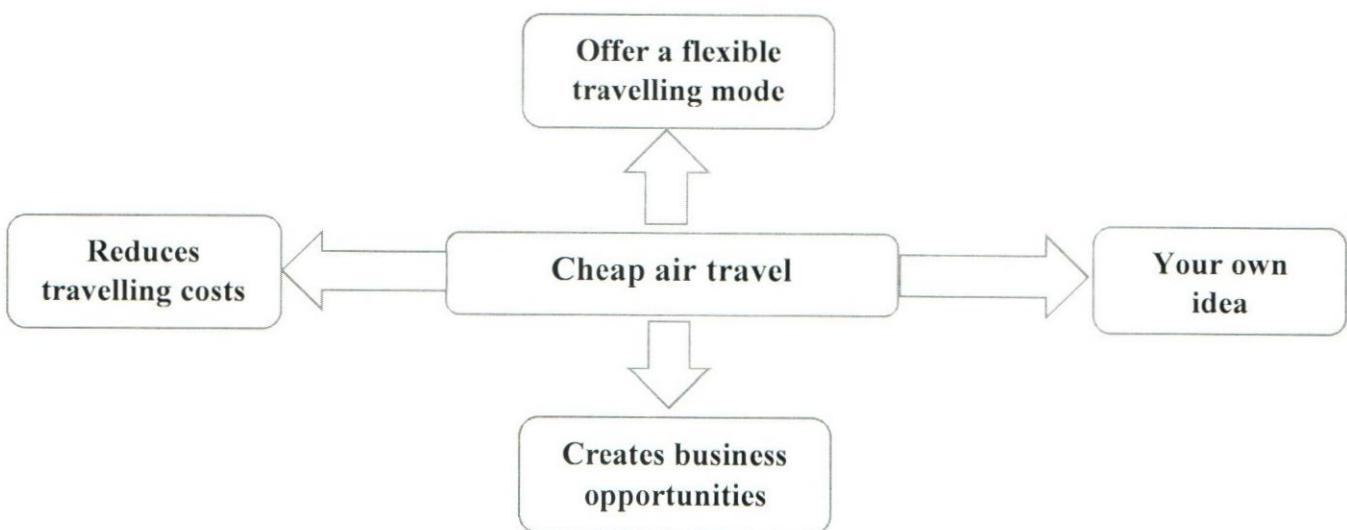
- Do you often eat healthy food?
- What do you usually eat at school/ at work?
- What is the unhealthiest food you can think of?

PART 2: Solution Discussion (4')

Situation: You are choosing a birthday gift for your friend. There are three suggestions: **a book, a music show ticket, and a shopping coupon**. Which do you think is the best choice?

PART 3: Topic Development (5')

Topic: Cheap air travel should be promoted.



- Do you think that governments should encourage cheap flights?
- Are there any problems with low-cost air travel?
- Cheap air tickets should be offered on domestic flights or international flights?

SPEAKING TEST 2

PART 1: Social Interaction (3')

Let's talk about your family.

- Do you have any brothers or sisters?
- Do you like to have many siblings? If yes, why? And if no, why not?
- Do you look more like your mother or your father?

Let's talk about your relationship.

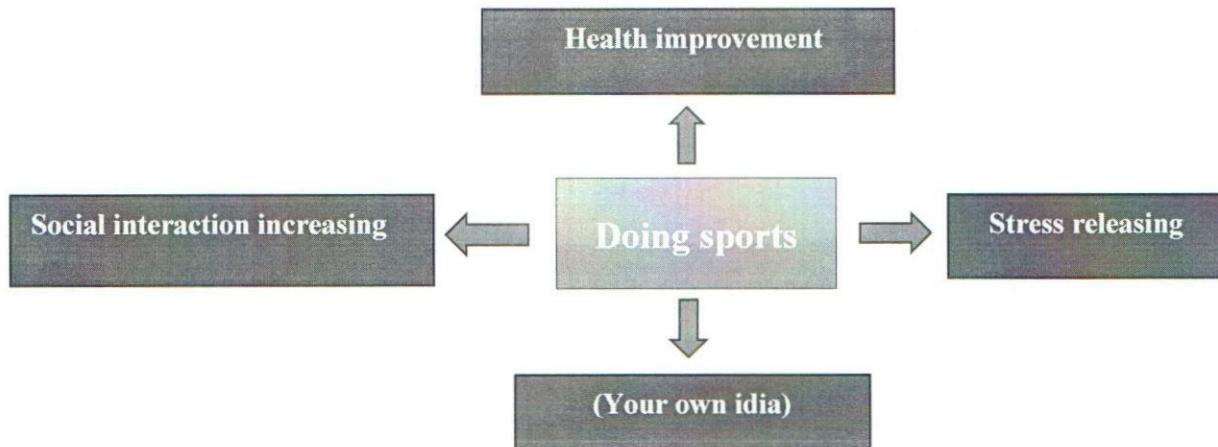
- Who do you get on well best in your family?
- Who do you think knows you better, your family or your friends? Why?
- What do you usually do when you stay with your family?

PART 2: Solution Discussion (4')

Situation: You have to make a decision of the university you are going to apply to. There are three groups of people you can ask for advice: family, teachers and friends. Who do you think you could receive the most appropriate advice?

PART 3: Topic Development (5')

Topic: Doing sports has a lot of benefits.



- Do you think famous sportspeople are good role models for children?
- Do you think the types of sport that are popular will change in the future?
- How can sports bring people from different countries closer together?

SPEAKING TEST 3**PART 1: Social Interaction (3')**

Let's talk about your study.

- What are you studying?
- What do you like about your studies?
- What do you like about learning English?
- How often do you use English?

Let's talk about your hometown.

- What part of your country do you come from?
- What's the weather like in your hometown?
- Can you describe your hometown?

PART 2: Solution Discussion (4')

Situation: You are making a plan for your holiday. Where do you prefer to go: to the beach, to the mountain or to the countryside?

PART 3: Topic Development (5')

Topic: Mobile phones are necessary for people.

**Follow-up questions:**

- Which kinds of jobs have the highest salary in your country? And why?
- Are there any kinds of job you think should have high salary? And why do you think so?
- Some people say that it would be better for the society if everyone has the same salary. What do you think?

SPEAKING TEST 4**PART 1: Social Interaction (3')****Let's talk about yourself.**

- Can you tell me about your typical working day?
- What do you like most about your studying/job?
- How do you spend the weekends?

Let's talk about your reading habit.

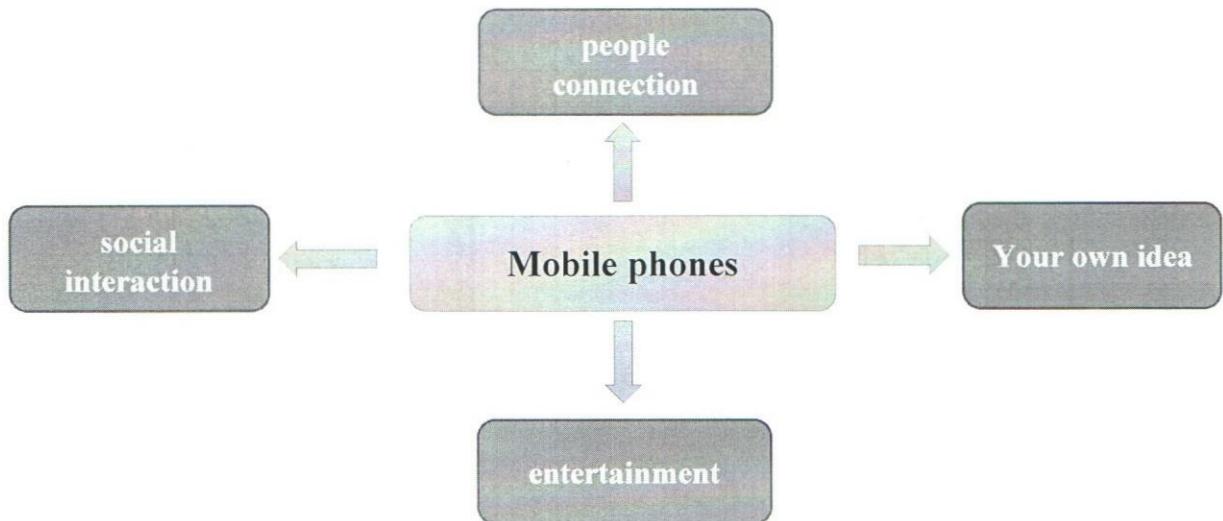
- What do you like to read the best?
- Do you often read newspapers?
- Where do you like to read?

PART 2: Solution Discussion (4')

Situation: Your foreign friend is visiting Hanoi. You are going to take him/ her around Hanoi. Which means of transport do you choose, motorbike, bus or car? And why?

PART 3: Topic Development (5')

Topic: Mobile phones are necessary for people.

**Follow-up questions:**

- What differences are there between the attitudes of older and younger people to technology for communication?
- Do you think that the advance of technology has improved standards of education in schools?
- Would you agree that the rapid development of digital technology has had a positive impact on the world of work?

SPEAKING TEST 5**PART 1: Social Interaction (3')****Let's talk about noise.**

- Do you like to live in a noisy place or a quiet place?
- What kind of noise disturbs you most?
- Does noise affect your health?

Let's talk about your favorite photograph.

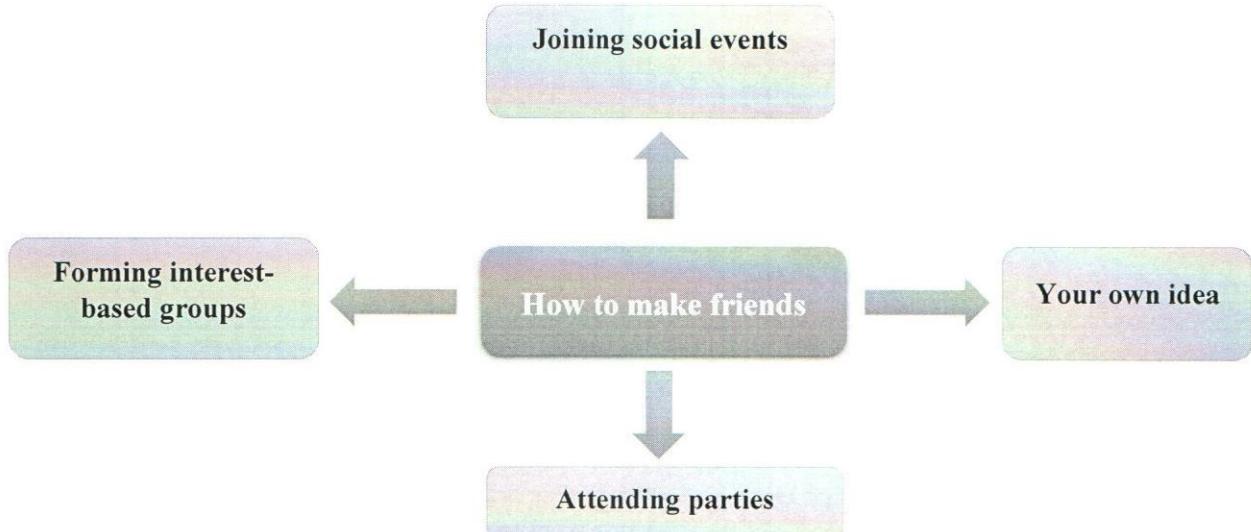
- What is your favorite photograph?
- When was it taken?
- What makes the photograph special to you?

PART 2: Solution Discussion (4')

Situation: You are thinking about how to spend your evening. There are three options: **hanging out with friends, reading books, and surfing the Internet**. Explain your choice.

PART 3: Topic Development (5')

Topic: There are several ways for people to make friends.

**Follow-up questions:**

- Should people trust online friends? Why or why not?
- What factors can contribute to a true friendship?
- Which one is more important: family or friends?

SPEAKING TEST 6**PART 1: Social Interaction (3')****Let's talk about weather.**

- What kind of weather do you like?
- Does weather affect your mood/ feeling?
- What do you usually do in hot/ cold weather?

Let's talk about your favorite childhood game.

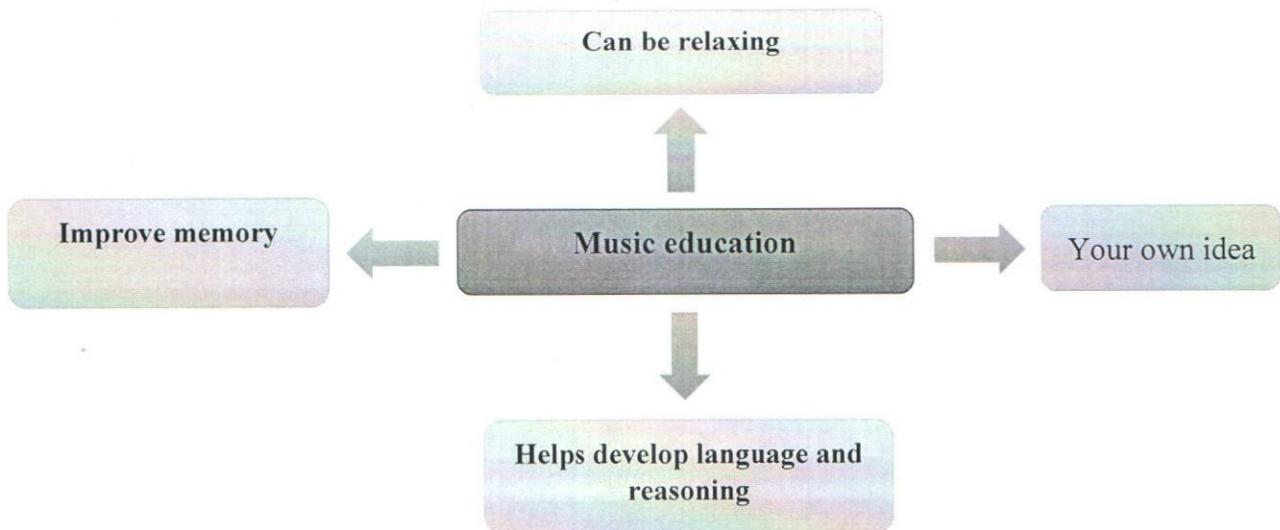
- What game(s) did you enjoy playing when you were a child?
- Who did you play with?
- Did you need any skills to play the game?

PART 2: Solution Discussion (4')

Situation: You are planning your holiday. There are three suggestions: **a beach holiday, a climbing holiday, and a sight-seeing holiday**. Which do you think is the best choice for you?

PART 3: Topic Development (5')

Topic: Music should be taught in schools.

**Follow-up questions:**

- Should children be encouraged to learn music early?
- Do you agree that music can change people's moods/ feelings?
- How would life be like without music?

VSTEP WRITING PRACTICE TEST

WRITING TEST 1

TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You live in Ho Chi Minh City. You moved to Manchester to study English three months ago. You have just received an email from a friend of mine, Sara from London. Read part of her email below.

.....
What's Manchester like? I bet the weather's not too good!
Have you still got that part-time job in the fast-food restaurant?
It must be a good way of speaking to new people and making friends.
What about the family you're staying with? Do you go out much in the evening? I hope the English classes are going well.

.....
Sara

Write a reply to Sara. In your email, you have to describe Manchester and the weather there, tell her about job, the family you are staying with, and your activities in the evening, and finally you have to write about your English classes there.

You should write at least 120 words.

TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In order to solve traffic problems, Vietnamese government should tax private car owners heavily and use the money to improve public transportation.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of such a solution?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.

MODEL ANSWER- WRITING TEST 1

TASK 1

Dear Sara,

Manchester is a really interesting city. There are a lot of shops here. The people are friendly and the night life is fantastic. It's a pity it's always raining!

As you know, I'm working in a fast-food restaurant. I go to work from 5 to 9 in the evening, so I don't go out with my friends very often. I go straight home after work to review the lessons and get ready for the class the next day. However, I love my job because I have lots of chances to practice speaking English with the customers. I believe that I can improve my spoken English so much. However, I don't like my boss because he's too strict.

I was living with an English family, but I didn't get on very well with them. Therefore, now I'm sharing a flat with 4 French students. We have a lot of fun together, but I'm not speaking much English at home because we always use French.

I'm going to English classes every morning in a language school next to my flat. I can learn a lot here and make great progress.

Well, it's time for work now.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Word count: 200

TASK 2

Traffic congestion in many big cities of Viet Nam is getting more and more serious. Many people believe that one possible solution to this problem is to impose heavy taxes on car drivers and spend this money on making public transport better. However, there are both pros and cons to decide to do this. **This essay will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of such a measure and draw a conclusion.**

Let's begin by looking at the positive aspects of such a solution. One of the main advantages would be that the heavy taxes would discourage car owners from using their cars because it would become very expensive to drive. This would mean that they would begin to make use of public transport instead to travel here and there, thus reducing road accidents and pollution as-well.

Another good point -Would he that more people would use public transport if it were improved. In feet, public transport in major cities like Hanoi and Saigon is very poor. For example, we often see old and dirty buses and trains that no one wants to take a ride on. High taxes would create enough money to make the necessary changes.

On the other hand, there are some negative points of such a measure. First, there would be a heavy burden on car drivers. At present, taxes on private cars are already high for a lot of people, and so further taxes would only mean less money at the end of the month for most people who may have no choice but to drive every day. Another problem is that this type of tax would likely be set

at a fixed amount for all who use car as a means of transport. This would mean that it would hit those with less money harder, while the rich could afford it. It is, therefore, not a fair tax.

In conclusion, there are two sides to everything and applying this solution is not an exception. However, personally I think it's time for us to do something to tackle the problem of traffic jams in big cities of Viet Nam. This measure is, therefore, obviously worth considering to improve the current situation.

Word count: 341

WRITING TEST 2

TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You have just received a letter from an English friend and this is part of the letter.

A new restaurant has just opened in my town and it's wonderful. Have you got a favourite restaurant? Tell me about it. Where is it located? What kind of restaurant is it? How is the food, what is special about the restaurant and what do you like about the restaurant?

Now write a letter responding to your friend about your favourite restaurant by answering your friend's questions.

TASK 2

Modern technology plays an important role in our life. It has changed our life a lot. But why is it necessary to be computer-literate nowadays?

Write an essay to discuss how technology has changed our life and why people should be computer-literate nowadays.

You should write between 250 – 300 words.

Your response will be evaluated in terms of Task Fulfillment, Organization, Vocabulary and Grammar.

WRITING TEST 3

TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You have just returned from a trip to Florida. You flew there and back with "Ocean Air". You decide to write to the airline to complain about your flight and ask for some money back.

Read the advertisement and the notes you made and then, use the information to write a letter to the airline. You may add other relevant points of your own.

FLY OCEAN AIR TO FLORIDA

We offer:

- 4 flights a day (*late boarding*)
- Wide, comfortable seats
- Friendly, well-trained staff. (*quite rude*)
- A good choice of food, no problem with special diet (*no vegetarian option for me*)
- The latest in-flight entertainment (*movies already on TV*)

TASK 2

Some people think that businesses should hire employees for their entire lives. Meanwhile, others have opposing ideas that businesses should not hire employees for their entire lives.

Write an essay to discuss to what extent you agree or disagree with this opinion. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

You should write between 250 – 300 words.

Your response will be evaluated in terms of Task Fulfillment, Organization, Vocabulary and Grammar.

WRITING TEST 4

TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You received an email from your relative's friend, Allie. She asked you for some information about your house. Read part of his email below.

I am going to take a two-year Vietnamese intensive course in Hanoi next month. I want to look for an apartment near the university. My friend said that you have a flat for rent. Can you tell me a bit about your flat (things like the number of rooms, its special characteristics, the neighbourhood)? I want to see if the house will be suitable for me.

Write an email responding to Allie.

You should write at least 120 words. You do not need to include your name or addresses. Your response will be evaluated in terms of Task Fulfillment, Organization, Vocabulary and Grammar.

TASK 2

Read the following text from a book about information technology.

Today, computer has become an indispensable tool in the day-to-day activities. In fact, we find it very difficult to get through a working day without it. Some people argue that computer brings us a lot of benefits; others think that this dependence on computers has negative effects on the society.

Write an essay to discuss both advantages and disadvantages of computers on the society. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. You should write between 250 – 300 words. Your response will be evaluated in terms of Task Fulfillment, Organization, Vocabulary and Grammar.

WRITING TEST 5**TASK 1**

Your English-speaking friend, Clare, has recently gone to live in another city. Read part of her email below:

.....
Well, I've now been here for two weeks and I'm beginning to get used to my new life here. I've certainly been very busy since I moved here - there have been all sorts of things happening!

I'm quite happy in my new home although lots of my belongings are still in bags and boxes! I'm hoping to find time to unpack everything soon.

I'm glad I decided to come and live here - it's a really good city. But there are some things and people that I miss of course!

It would be really good if you could come and stay with me here, perhaps in a couple of months when I really settle down. What do you think?

Keep in touch.

Clare.

Write a reply to Clare. In your email, you have to ask her what is happening to her, tell her to describe her new home, ask her to tell you what and who she misses after she moves there and suggest the time when you can visit her.

You should write at least 120 words.

TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people argue that we have to think twice before deciding to eat fast food because of some health problems it may cause, while others believe that this kind of food is a good choice for those with a very busy life.

Which opinion do you agree with?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. You should write at least 250 words.

WRITING TEST 6**TASK 1**

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You live in Ho Chi Minh city. You just took a trip to Ha Long Bay with an English friend named Daisy. You received an email from her after she returned to London. Read part of her email below.

I hope you like the photos we took in Ha Long Bay. Did you get home all right?

I'm back at work now, but it's a bit difficult to start again. I wish we were still on holiday.

Why don't we plan another trip this spring if you've got time and money? Any suggestions where we could go?

Daisy

Write a reply to Daisy. In your email, you have to tell her that you really like the photos and the time you got together, describe a problem you had at the airport to her and suggest the time and place for the next trip.

You should write at least 120 words.

TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Recent advances in technology leads the fact that human workforce is gradually replaced with machinery. What are some problems caused by this trend, and how could they be dealt with?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.

SKILL PRACTICE

LISTENING – SKILL PRACTICE

PART 1: SHORT TALKS

1. LISTENING FOR MAIN IDEA

1.1. Identifying The Topic

You will read questions that ask about topics. A topic is the main subject of the talk.

Look for these words in a questions that asks about the topic: **topic, purpose, about, talk about, discussing, kind**

PRACTICE 1.1

Directions: Listen to the talk and then choose the statement that best answers the question

1. What will Mr. Kim talk about?

- A. Law.
- B. Retirement.
- C. Photography.
- D. Traveling.

2. What is the topic of the meeting?

- A. Office expenses.
- B. Going out for lunch.
- C. Riding in taxis.
- D. Buying equipment.

3. What is the purpose of this announcement?

- A. To give the weather report.
- B. To talk about traffic problems.
- C. To announce that schools are closed.
- D. To report the news.

4. What is the magazine about?

- A. Commercials.
- B. Sports.
- C. Television.
- D. News.

5. What kind of business is advertised?

- A. A conference planning service.
- B. A hotel.
- C. A catering service.
- D. An entertainment business.

6. What is this announcement about?

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| A. Weather. | C. Books. |
| B. Vacations. | D. Mail. |

1.2. Identifying The Audience

You will read questions that ask about audience. The audience is the person or persons listening to the talk.

Look for these words in a question that asks about audience: **who, directed to, talking to**

PRACTICE 1.2

DIRECTIONS: Listen to the talk and then choose the statement that best answers the question.

1. Who is this talk directed to?
 - A. Bookstore owners.
 - B. Professors.
 - C. Students.
 - D. Economists.

2. Who is the speaker talking to?
 - A. Store employees.
 - B. Customers.
 - C. Police officers.
 - D. Bank tellers.

3. Who is this message for?
 - A. Ambulance drivers.
 - B. Patients.
 - C. Medical advisors.
 - D. Office workers.

4. Who is the speaker talking to?
 - A. Airline pilots.
 - B. Flight attendants.
 - C. Airplane passengers.
 - D. People with small children.

5. Who is this talk directed to?
 - A. Radio station employees.
 - B. Public servants.
 - C. Government officials.
 - D. All city residents.

6. Who would call this telephone number?
 - A. People who want information about entertainment.
 - B. People who want to hear a weather report.
 - C. People who need jobs.
 - D. People who need bus and train schedules.

1.3. Identifying A Location

You will read questions that ask about location. A location is the place where an announcement is made.

PRACTICE 1.3

DIRECTIONS: Listen to the talk and then choose the statement that best answers the question.

1. Where would you hear this announcement?

- A. At a coffee shop.
- B. At a grocery store.
- C. At an airport.
- D. At a factory.

2. Where is this announcement being made?

- A. On a subway.
- B. At the airport.
- C. On a bus.
- D. In a taxi.

3. Where would you hear this announcement?

- A. At a bus station.
- B. At a school.
- C. At a nightclub.
- D. At a soccer stadium.

4. Where is Martha going?

- A. To the park.
- B. To the gym.
- C. Home.
- D. To a restaurant.

5. Where would you hear this announcement?

- A. On an elevator.
- B. At a theater.
- C. In a store.
- D. On a bus.

6. Where can this talk be heard?

- A. In a restaurant.
- B. In a private home.
- C. At a museum.
- D. At a university.

2. LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION**PRACTICE 2**

DIRECTIONS: Listen to the talk and then choose the statement that best answers the question.

TALK 1**1. What can be seen from the window?**

- A. A cemetery.
- B. Radar screens.
- C. Some woods.
- D. A mountain.

2. What does the pilot ask the passengers to do?

- A. Stand up and move around
- B. Fasten their seat belts
- C. Read the emergency guide
- D. Turn off all the electronic devices.

TALK 2**3. What does the tour guide ask the participants to do?**

- A. Pick some flowers
- B. Wear warm clothes
- C. Stay in their seats
- D. Clean the windows

4. Where is the first stop?

- A. Under the trees.
- B. On the left.
- C. By a river branch.
- D. To the rear.

TALK 3**5. What was the clean-up drive like last year?**

- A. There were free refreshments.
- B. Fifty people showed up.
- C. It wasn't successful.
- D. There were no participants.

6. What time will the clean-up drive begin?

- A. 10:00 A.M.
- B. 1:00 P.M.
- C. 3:00 P.M.
- D. 3:15 P.M.

TALK 4**7. What is Dr. Quimby Jones's profession?**

- A. Radio show host.
- B. Medical doctor.
- C. Professor.
- D. Farmer

8. How long does the entire radio show last?

- A. Ten minutes.
- B. Thirty minutes.
- C. One hour.
- D. One hour and ten minutes.

TALK 5**9. What will the class do today?**

- A. Read books.
- B. Look at slides.
- C. Watch a video.
- D. Visit an art museum.

10. Who is Dr. Smith?

- A. the university president
- B. a historian
- C. a psychology professor
- D. a writer

PRACTICE 3: REVIEW

Listen to the talks, and then answer each of the three questions about them by marking the correct choice – (A), (B), C. or (D).

1. Where is this announcement being made?

- A. On an aircraft
- B. In Glasgow
- C. At an airport
- D. On a shuttle bus

2. Why is Mr. Kim being paged?

- A. There's a message for him.
- B. His flight has been delayed.
- C. Someone has found his ticket.
- D. There is an emergency.

3. Where are the white telephones located?

- A. On board the aircraft
- B. At the ticket counter
- C. All over the airport
- D. At an information booth

4. Who is the audience for this talk?

- A. People at a cafeteria
- B. Shoppers at a grocery store
- C. Guests at a party
- D. People who want to go fishing

5. What is being offered at a special price?

- A. Meat
- B. Bread
- C. Charcoal
- D. Fish

6. How long is the special price being offered?

- A. One day
- B. Two days

- C. One week
 - D. One month
- 7. Where is this announcement being made?**
- A. On an airplane
 - B. At a shopping center
 - C. Aboard a ship
 - D. In a seaside restaurant
- 8. Who is Nicholas?**
- A. A lost child
 - B. A waiter
 - C. Someone's father
 - D. The purser
- 9. What problem is mentioned?**
- A. High waves
 - B. Strong winds
 - C. Long delays
 - D. High prices
- 10. What will people see on the tour?**
- A. A skyscraper
 - B. A national monument
 - C. A cavern
 - D. A factory
- 11. How long does the tour last?**
- A. 15 minutes
 - B. 2 hours
 - C. 4 hours
 - D. All day
- 12. At what age must someone purchase a full-price ticket?**
- A. 4
 - B. 6
 - C. 12
 - D. 13
- 13. What is the destination of this flight?**
- A. Los Angeles
 - B. The Grand Canyon
 - C. Flagstaff
 - D. Denver
- 14. When will this plane be landing?**
- A. In a few minutes
 - B. In around 20 minutes
 - C. In about 2 hours
 - D. In around 9 hours

15. What will probably be served on this flight?

- A. Breakfast
- B. Lunch
- C. Dinner
- D. Late-night snack

EXTENDED CONVERSATIONS

ANSWERING OVERVIEW QUESTIONS ABOUT EXTENDED CONVERSATIONS

After each extended conversation in Part 2, there are four to five questions. Usually the first and sometimes the last question are overview questions. To answer these questions, you need an understanding of the whole conversation rather than of any specific point.

Overview Questions for the Extended Conversations

- What is the main topic of this conversation?
- What are these people primarily discussing?
- Where does this conversation take place?
- When does this conversation take place?
- What is the relationship between the speakers?
- What is the man's/woman's occupation?
- What is one speaker's attitude toward the other speaker?

Main topic questions must correctly summarize the conversation. Incorrect answers for these questions are too general, too specific, or incorrect according to the conversation. Although these questions require an overall understanding of the conversations, the first few sentences often "set the scene." In other words, the opening lines of the talk establish the time, place, and main topic. Read the opening lines of the extended conversation given below:

M1: (Answering phone) Hello?

F1: Hi, Rod, this is Rita-I'm in your nine o'clock class. I missed class because of a cold, and I was wondering if I could borrow your notes.

M1: I don't know if you could read my notes-I have terrible handwriting. But I can tell you what happened. Professor Phillips went over the material in Chapter 4, about different types of stars in our galaxy. And she talked about what the mid-term exam is going to be like.

F1: Uh-oh, you better tell me all about the mid-term-I really need to do well on it.

From this portion of a conversation, we learn that

- .. both of the speakers are students
- .. they are probably taking a course in astronomy
- .. the class is about halfway over (because they are taking mid-term exams)
- .. the rest of the talk will probably deal with the material that will be on the examination

Not all conversations begin with so much detail. However, it is important to concentrate on the opening lines to learn this kind of information.

PRACTICE 4

Focus: Listening to the opening lines of extended conversations, and answering overview questions about the topics, settings, and speakers.

Directions: Listen to the conversations and the questions about them. Then mark the answer choice - (A), (B), or (C) - that correctly completes the sentence.

Now start the audio.

- 1. What will the main topic of this talk probably be?**
A. Methods of predicting earthquakes.
B. Ways to improve the man's presentation.
C. The many new uses of computer graphics.

- 2. For what class is the man probably preparing a presentation?**
A. Statistics.
B. Computer science.
C. Geology.

- 3. Who are the people taking part in this conversation?**
A. A language teacher and a student.
B. A dean and a teacher.
C. A teacher and an assistant.

- 4. What will the rest of the conversation probably be about?**
A. The language of the deaf.
B. Methods of teaching German.
C. Communication networks.

- 5. What will the main topic of this conversation probably be?**
A. Professor Quinn's approach to teaching.
B. The process of getting a student identification card.
C. Procedures for checking out reserve material.

- 6. Where does this conversation probably take place?**
A. At a university library.
B. In a psychology class.
C. In a laboratory.

- 7. Why does the woman want to talk to Dr. Marshall?**
A. To ask for a job.
B. To get some advice.
C. To discuss medical research.

- 8. What is Dr. Marshall's occupation?**
A. Academic advisor.
B. Physician.
C. Administrator.

- 9. What is Dr. Marshall's attitude toward the woman?**
A. Helpful.
B. Discouraging.
C. Inconsiderate.

10. What will the main topic of this conversation probably be?

- A. The art of raising dogs.
- B. A softball game.
- C. A dogsled race.

11. Who is Tina?

- A. An archaeologist.
- B. An anthropologist.
- C. A university student.

12. What will the two speakers probably discuss?

- A. Their plans for the coming school year.
- B. Tina's volunteer position.
- C. Tina's trip to Europe.

13. Who is the woman who answers the phone?

- A. A clerk at a bookstore.
- B. A librarian
- C. A publisher's sales officer.

14. When does this conversation take place?

- A. Before the spring term begins.
- B. In the middle of the spring term.
- C. After the spring term ends.

15. Where does the man probably work?

- A. In Nicholson Hall.
- B. In the Graduate Admissions Office.
- C. In the Financial Aid Office.

16. What will the rest of the conversation probably deal with?

- A. Requirements for graduate admission.
- B. Directions to another office.
- C. The woman's need for a scholarship.

ANSWERING DETAIL QUESTIONS ABOUT EXTENDED CONVERSATIONS

Most of the questions in Part 2 are detail questions that require an understanding of specific points in the conversation. A majority of these questions are factual questions, asking *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how much*. To answer the question, you need to listen carefully.

Other questions are inference questions. As previously explained, the answers to inference questions are not directly stated, but are suggested by information in the lecture. Many of these questions begin, "What do the speakers imply about ..." or "What can be inferred from the conversation about ... "

Remember that the order of detail questions follows the order of the conversation. In other words, the first detail question will be about something mentioned early in the conversation while the last one is about something mentioned near the end of the conversation.

If anything in the conversation is emphasized, it will probably be asked about. In other words, if something one speaker says is repeated by the second speaker, or if one speaker talks about

something in an emphatic tone of voice, there will probably be a question about that information, as in this section of a conversation:

M1: My project for my film-making class took me six weeks to finish.

F1: Six weeks! I can hardly believe it. Doesn't the teacher realize you have other classes too? You can be fairly sure that there will be a question such as this: "How long did the man's project take to complete?"

PRACTICE 5

Focus: Answering detail and inference questions based on specific points in short portions of extended conversations.

Directions: You will hear three extended conversations, each one divided into several short portions. After each portion, there will be a number of questions based on that part of the talk. Mark the best answer choice- (A), (B), or (C) -for each question.

Now start the audio.

- 1. From what source did the woman get her information about exercising?**
 - A. A doctor.
 - B. A newspaper.
 - C. A magazine.

- 2. According to the woman, what is one of the disadvantages of jogging?**
 - A. It's too tiring.
 - B. It can cause injuries.
 - C. It's not demanding enough.

- 3. What form of exercise did the article recommend?**
 - A. Downhill skiing.
 - B. Jogging.
 - C. Cross-country skiing.

- 4. What can be inferred about cross-country skiing from this conversation?**
 - A. It doesn't require much snow.
 - B. It is a recently developed sport.
 - C. It can be done in flat areas.

- 5. What does the article suggest people to do if there isn't enough snow for skiing?**
 - A. Use a cross-country ski machine.
 - B. Travel to ski resorts.
 - C. Take up jogging.

- 6. What is one disadvantage of a cross-country skiing machine?**
 - A. The expense.
 - B. The weather conditions.
 - C. The danger.

- 7. Why is Steve tired?**
 - A. He stayed up most of the night.
 - B. He's been studying all morning.
 - C. He took an exam last night.

- 8. How does Steve feel about the grade he received on the test?**
- A. It was an improvement.
 - B. It was disappointing.
 - C. It was unfair.
- 9. Who are the Study Skills Center's seminars designed to help?**
- A. Undergraduate students.
 - B. Teachers.
 - C. Graduate students.
- 10. How was the woman helped by the seminar that she took?**
- A. She learned how to do research.
 - B. She was prepared for her sociology test.
 - C. She learned teaching techniques.
- 11. What is one type of seminar that the woman thinks Steve would find useful?**
- A. Basic scientific research.
 - B. Business management.
 - C. Test-taking skills.
- 12. Where is the Study Skills Center's main office?**
- A. In the library.
 - B. In the Physics Tower.
 - C. In Staunton Hall.
- 13. What does the woman suggest Steve do next?**
- A. Study for his next exam.
 - B. Go to the Study Skills Center.
 - C. Get some sleep.
- 14. Why is the television station trying to raise money?**
- A. To buy something at an auction.
 - B. To pay for employees' salaries.
 - C. To improve their broadcasts.
- 15. What does the woman suggest that Roger do?**
- A. Apply for a job at the station.
 - B. Donate his services for the station's auction.
 - C. Direct the construction of a new tower.
- 16. What excuse does the woman make for not donating a service?**
- A. She must work on her own research project.
 - B. She has to help her parents.
 - C. She must study for exams.
- 17. What does the woman imply about her parents?**
- A. They seldom attend auctions.
 - B. They might bid on the man's services.
 - C. They use the library often.

MINI-TALKS

After each talk in Part 3, there are three or four questions. Usually the first question is an overview question. To answer this type of question, you need an understanding of the whole talk rather than of any specific point.

Overview Questions for the Mini-Talks

- What is the main idea/main point/main topic of the lecture?
- What is the purpose of this talk?
- Where was this lecture given?
- When was this talk given?
- In what course was this lecture given?
- What is the speaker's occupation?
- Who is the audience for this talk?

Main idea, main topic, and main point questions must correctly summarize the talk. Incorrect answers for these questions are usually too general, too specific, or incorrect according to the lecture.

Although these questions require an overall understanding of the talks, the first few sentences often "set the scene." In other words, the opening lines of the talk frequently establish the time, place, and main topic. Read the opening lines of the Mini-Talk given below:

Good morning, everyone. As you probably know, this class is a continuation of a course that began last term. Last term we focused on American writers of the nineteenth century. Today we'll begin our study of twentieth-century novelists with a look at Ernest Hemingway.

From this introduction, we know that

- .. the speaker is a teacher
- .. the audience is a group of students
- .. the course is in American literature
- .. the talk will concern Ernest Hemingway

Not all talks will begin with so much detail. However, it is important to concentrate on the opening lines to learn this kind of information.

PRACTICE 6

Focus: Listening to the opening lines of Mini-Talks and answering overview questions about the main ideas, speakers and audiences, settings, and so on.

Directions: Listen to the introductions and the questions about them. Then mark the answer choice-(A), (B), or (C)-that correctly completes the sentence.

Now start the audio.

1. Who is the speaker?

- A. A teacher.
- B. A tour guide.
- C. A photographer.

2. What will the talk probably be about?

- A. A description of the wildlife preserve.
- B. Advice about outdoor photography.
- C. The scientific classification of buffaloes.

3. What is the purpose of this talk?

- A. To explain the traditions of handball.
- B. To give information about the rules of tennis.
- C. To discuss the rules of handball.

4. When is this talk being given?

- A. At the end of a tournament.
- B. Before an exhibition game.
- C. During a game.

5. Who is the audience for this talk?

- A. Factory workers.
- B. Visitors to a factory.
- C. Management trainees.

6. What will the main topic for this talk probably be?

- A. The process of canning soft drinks.
- B. Management-labor teamwork.
- C. The life cycle of plants.

7. What will the main topic of this talk probably be?

- A. The physical rewards of dancing.
- B. The importance of the program to the university.
- C. The disadvantages of being in the program.

8. What is the speaker's probable occupation?

- A. Director of a dance program.
- B. Professor of psychology.
- C. Athletics coach.

9. Who is the speaker?

- A. A host at a party.
- B. The president of a society.
- C. The captain of a ship.

10. What will this talk probably concern?

- A. The role of the State Historical Society.
- B. The history of New England.
- C. The story of some shipwrecks.

ANSWERING DETAIL QUESTIONS ABOUT MINI-TALKS

Most of the questions about Part 3 talks are detail questions that ask about specific points in the talk. The majority of these questions are factual questions, asking about facts, reasons, places, or dates mentioned by the speaker. This type of question often begins, "According to the speaker, ... " Incorrect answers are often mentioned at some point in the talk but are not appropriate answers to the questions as asked.

You are not permitted to take written notes while listening to the lecture.

A few questions about the Part 3 talks are inference questions. Many of these questions begin, "What does the speaker imply about ... " or "What can be inferred from the lecture about ... "

As in Part 2, if a speaker emphasizes a point in the lecture by going back to it or repeating it, there will probably be a question about it.

M: ... Now, in the days of the California Gold Rush, the journey by ship from the East Coast to San Francisco took about six months. Can you imagine that-gold-seekers spent six months at sea just getting to California!

There will almost certainly be a question about how long it took to get from the East Coast to San Francisco during the Gold Rush.

PRACTICE 7

Focus: Answering detail and inference questions based on specific points in Part 3 talks.

Directions: You will hear three talks, each one divided into several short portions. After each portion, there will be a number of questions based on that part of the talk. Mark the best answer choice-(A), (B), or (C)-for each question.

Now start the audio.

Talk A

- 1. What does the speaker imply about the course?**
A. It covers some difficult topics.
B. It's unlike other biology courses.
C. It has never been offered by this department.

- 2. How will students do research in this class?**
A. By visiting a coral reef.
B. By going to the library.
C. By going to a farm.

- 3. Which of the following will be studied in a formal classroom setting?**
A. Diving.
B. Photography.
C. Biology.

- 4. How does the speaker characterize tropical reefs?**
A. As harmful.
B. As easily damaged.
C. As frightening.

- 5. What will the department provide the students in this class?**
A. Transportation.
B. Housing.
C. Basic equipment.

- 6. What does the speaker suggest for those who might have problems with the costs of this course?**
A. Traveling by ship.
B. Trying to get financial aid.
C. Applying to another university.

Talk B

- 7. The speaker suggests that bears are interesting to humans for what reason?**
 - A. They have such impressive appetites.
 - B. They sometimes walk on two legs.
 - C. They frequently attack people.
- 8. What does the speaker imply about the eating habits of bears?**
 - A. They will eat anything except plants.
 - B. They eat only honey.
 - C. They aren't limited to a few types of food.
- 9. How tall can kodiak bears be when they are standing?**
 - A. Five feet.
 - B. Ten feet.
 - C. Fifteen feet.
- 10. Where do most grizzly bears live?**
 - A. In Alaska.
 - B. In Yellowstone National Park.
 - C. Allover the United States.
- 11. What is the most common type of bear in the United States?**
 - A. The kodiak bear.
 - B. The grizzly bear.
 - C. The black bear.
- 12. Which of the following can be inferred from the lecture about black bears?**
 - A. They are sometimes not as friendly as they seem.
 - B. They are much more dangerous than grizzly bears.
 - C. They look dangerous but are usually friendly.

Talk C

- 13. When did orbital debris first become a problem?**
 - A. In the 1950's.
 - B. In the 1970's.
 - C. In the 1990's.
- 14. What happens to most pieces of orbital debris?**
 - A. They fly off into deep space.
 - B. They remain in orbit forever.
 - C. They burn up in the atmosphere.
- 15. How many orbital bodies are being monitored today?**
 - A. Three to four hundred.
 - B. Eight thousand.
 - C. Half a million.

- 16. Why is it impossible to monitor most pieces of orbital debris?**
- A. They are too small.
 - B. They are too far away.
 - C. They are moving too fast.
- 17. Which of the following is probably most dangerous to astronauts on a spacecraft?**
- A. A large booster rocket.
 - B. A piece of metal the size of an aspirin.
 - C. A tiny fleck of paint.
- 18. What makes particles in space so dangerous?**
- A. Their high speed.
 - B. Their jagged shape.
 - C. Their tremendous size.
- 19. What did the speaker bring with her?**
- A. An aspirin.
 - B. A piece of debris.
 - C. A model of the debris collector.
- 20. What role do the cones play in the device described in this portion of the talk?**
- A. They detect the debris.
 - B. They store the debris.
 - C. They collect the debris.
- 21. What can be inferred about the device described in this portion of the talk?**
- A. It has already been tested on Earth.
 - B. It has not been built yet.
 - C. It has already been used on a spacecraft.

READING – SKILL PRACTICE

READING QUESTION TYPES

Question type 1

VOCABULARY

In the passage, one or two words will be underlined or put in bold, and you will be asked to choose an option that is closest in meaning to those. The best way to succeed on this question type is to know as many vocabulary words as possible, but if you really don't know the meaning of the word, we have 3 simple strategies that can help you conquer this type of question.

Question forms

The word/ phrase _____ in paragraph X is closest in meaning to

The word/ phrase _____ in paragraph X could be best replaced by

Based on the information in paragraph X, which of the following best explains the term _____?

Strategy 1: Connect the word to the one you already know.

This strategy means you can always try to connect the unknown word with a word in the same sentence that you do know.

Sample Questions

The assessment of past rises and falls in sea level requires study of submerged land surfaces off the coast and of elevated beaches on land. Raised beaches are **remnants** of former coastlines at higher levels relative to the present shoreline and visible, for instance, along the California coast north of San Francisco, the height of a raised beach above the present shoreline, however, does not generally give a straightforward indication of the height of a former sea level.

The word "remnants" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. remains
- B. regions
- C. pints
- D. origins

Strategy 2: Understand through context

Understanding the context of a passage is another helpful strategy for capturing the meaning of the highlighted word in this type of question.

Sample Questions

At night, the solar energy (stored as vast quantities of heat in city buildings and roads) is slowly released into the city air. Additional city heat is given off at night (and during the day) by vehicles and factories, as well as by industrial and domestic heating and cooling units. The release of heat energy is **retarded** by the tall vertical city walls that do not allow infrared radiation to escape as readily as does the relatively level surface of the surrounding countryside. The slow release of heat tends to keep nighttime city temperatures higher than those of the faster-cooling rural areas.

The word "retarded" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| A. disguised | C. made possible |
| B. added to | D. slowed down |

Strategy 3: Check if the word is an adjective, adverb, verb, or noun and eliminate incorrect choices

Keep in mind this strategy is only to help you eliminate incorrect choices. You still need to rely on other techniques to solve this question.

Sample Questions

Several dinosaur fossil localities preserve coprolites. Coprolites yield **unequivocal** evidence about the dietary habits of dinosaurs. Many parts of plants and animals are extremely resistant to the digestive systems of animals and pass completely through the body with little or no alteration. Study of coprolites has indicated that the diets of some herbivorous dinosaurs were relatively diverse, while other dinosaurs appear to have been specialists, feeding on particular types of plants. The problem with inferring diets from coprolites is the difficulty in accurately associating a particular coprolite with a specific dinosaur.

The word "**unequivocal**" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. deniable
- B. unambiguous
- C. unclear
- D. largely

PRACTICE 1

Human Anatomy

Human anatomy is the scientific study of the body's structures. Some of these structures are very small and can only be observed and analyzed with the assistance of a microscope. Other larger structures can readily be seen, manipulated, measured, and weighed. The word "anatomy" comes from a Greek root that means "to cut apart." Human anatomy was first studied by observing the exterior of the body and observing the wounds of soldiers and other injuries. Later, physicians were allowed to dissect bodies of the dead to augment their knowledge. When a body is dissected, its structures are cut apart in order to observe their physical attributes and their relationships to one another. Dissection is still used in medical schools, anatomy courses, and in pathology labs.

Q. The word *augment* is closest in meaning to:

- a. Prove
- b. Increase
- c. Validate
- d. Spread

PRACTICE 2

The Ideal Gas Law

During the seventeenth and especially eighteenth centuries, driven both by a desire to understand nature and a quest to make balloons in which they could fly, a number of scientists established the relationships between the macroscopic physical properties of gases, that is, pressure, volume, temperature, and amount of gas. Although their measurements were not precise by today's standards, they were able to determine the mathematical relationships between pairs of these variables (e.g., pressure and temperature, pressure and volume) that hold for an ideal gas—a hypothetical construct that real gases approximate under certain conditions. Eventually, these individual laws were combined into a single equation—the ideal gas law—that relates gas quantities for gases and is quite accurate for low pressures and moderate temperatures.

Q. The word **precise is closest in meaning to ...**

- a. Known
- b. Certain
- c. Accurate
- d. Proper

PRACTICE 3

Human Movement

Human movement includes not only actions at the joints of the body, but also the motion of individual organs and even individual cells. As you read these words, red and white blood cells are moving throughout your body, muscle cells are contracting and relaxing to maintain your posture and to focus your vision, and glands are secreting chemicals to regulate body functions. Your body is coordinating the action of entire muscle groups to enable you to move air into and out of your lungs, to push blood throughout your body, and to propel the food you have eaten through your digestive tract. Consciously, of course, you contract your skeletal muscles to move the bones of your skeleton to get from one place to another, and to carry out all of the activities of your daily life.

Q. The word **contracting is closest in meaning to ...**

- a. Loosening
- b. Strengthening
- c. Releasing
- d. Tightening

Question type 2: REFERENCE

In a "Reference" question, you are asked what the highlighted word refers to. If it's a pronoun then you need to identify what word the pronoun is replacing. Here are highlighted words you might be asked about:

1. Subject pronoun: it, they
2. Object pronoun: it, them
3. Demonstrative pronoun: these, those, this, that
4. Possessive adjectives: its, their
5. Other reference words: the former, the latter, one, ones, another, other, others

Question forms

The word/ phrase _____ in paragraph X refers to

Strategy

- The referent usually appears before the pronoun in the same sentence or shows up in an earlier sentence. Sometimes, however, the referent might be found after the pronoun.
- Substitute your answer for the highlighted word or words in the passage.
- Make sure that your answer is the same number (singular or plural), gender (male, female), case (first, second, or third person) as the highlighted pronoun.

Sample Question

[3] Economic contact between Native Americans and Europeans can be traced back to the English and French fishermen off the coast of Canada in the 1500s. **They** traded guns and other weapons for beaver fur. The first explorers to trade with the Native Americans were Giovanni da Verrazano and Jacques Cartier in the 1520s and 1530s. In Verrazano's book he notes, "If we wanted to trade with them for some of their things, they would come to the seashore on some rocks where the breakers were most violent while we remained on the little boat, and they sent us what they wanted to give on a rope, continually shouting to us not to approach the land."

The word '**They**' in paragraph 3 refers to?

- A. English and French fishermen
- B. Beavers
- C. Europeans
- D. Traits and characteristics

PRACTICE 1

Technological Globalization

Technological globalization is impacted in large part by technological diffusion, the spread of technology across borders. In the last two decades, there has been rapid improvement in the spread of technology to peripheral and semi-peripheral nations, and a 2008 World Bank report discusses both the benefits and ongoing challenges of **this diffusion**. In general, the report found that technological progress and economic growth rates were linked, and that the rise in technological progress has helped improve the situations of many living in absolute poverty. The report recognizes that rural and low-tech products such as corn can benefit from new technological innovations, and that, conversely, technologies like mobile banking can aid those whose rural existence consists of low-tech market vending. In addition, technological advances in areas like mobile phones can lead to competition, lowered prices, and concurrent improvements in related areas such as mobile banking and information sharing.

The words **this diffusion** refers to ...

- A. The spread of technology
- B. A 2008 World Bank report
- C. The last two decades
- D. Rapid improvement

PRACTICE 2

The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis is based on the idea that people experience their world through their language, and that they therefore understand their world through the culture embedded in their language. The hypothesis, which has also been called linguistic relativity, states that language shapes thought. Studies have shown, for instance, that unless people have access to the word "ambivalent," **they** don't recognize an experience of uncertainty due to conflicting positive and negative feelings about one issue. Essentially, the hypothesis argues, if a person can't describe the experience, the person is not having the experience.

The word **they** refers to ...

- Studies
- People
- Positive and negative feelings
- Shapes

Question type 3: FACTUAL INFORMATION

Factual Information questions ask you to recognize information that is explicitly stated in the text. These may include facts such as major ideas, supporting details, or definitions.

Question forms

- According to the passage, which of the following is true of _____?
- According to paragraph A, who/ when/ where/ what/ how/ why _____?
- According to the passage, X did Y because _____?
- The author's description of X mentions which of the following?

Strategy

- Read the question first to know what exactly is being asked and identify keywords.
- Scan the passage for keywords, which is where the relevant information is in the passage.
- Remove the choices that are not relevant to the passage.
- Do not choose an answer just because it is mentioned in the passage.

Sample Questions

The Invention of the X-Ray

German physicist Wilhelm Röntgen (1845–1923) was experimenting with electrical current when he discovered that a mysterious and invisible “ray” would pass through his flesh but leave an outline of his bones on a screen coated with a metal compound. In 1895, Röntgen made the first durable record of the internal parts of a living human: an “X-ray” image (as it came to be called) of his wife’s hand. Scientists around the world quickly began their own experiments with X-rays, and by 1900, X-rays were widely used to detect a variety of injuries and diseases. In 1901, Röntgen was awarded the first Nobel Prize for physics for his work in this field. The X-ray is a form of high energy electromagnetic radiation with a short wavelength capable of penetrating solids and ionizing gases. As they are used in medicine, X-rays are emitted from an X-ray machine and directed toward a specially treated metallic plate placed behind the patient’s body. The beam of radiation results in darkening of the X-ray plate. X-rays are slightly impeded by soft tissues, which show up as gray on the X-ray plate, whereas hard tissues, such as bone, largely block the rays, producing a light-toned “shadow.” Thus, X-rays are best used to visualize hard body structures such as teeth and bones. Like many forms of high energy radiation, however, X-rays are capable of damaging cells and initiating changes that can lead to cancer. This danger of excessive exposure to X-rays was not fully appreciated for many years after their widespread use.

Q. The paragraph states that x-rays...

- Were invented by a female scientist in the 19th century
- Were commonly used in medicine to find diseases and injuries as early as the 1900's
- Are typically used for observing the exterior structures of the body
- Were only widely appreciated several years following their invention

PRACTICE 1**Human Anatomy**

Human anatomy is the scientific study of the body's structures. Some of these structures are very small and can only be observed and analyzed with the assistance of a microscope. Other larger structures can readily be seen, manipulated, measured, and weighed. The word "anatomy" comes from a Greek root that means "to cut apart." Human anatomy was first studied by observing the exterior of the body and observing the wounds of soldiers and other injuries. Later, physicians were allowed to dissect bodies of the dead to augment their knowledge. When a body is dissected, its structures are cut apart in order to observe their physical attributes and their relationships to one another. Dissection is still used in medical schools, anatomy courses, and in pathology labs.

Q. Which of the following is true about human anatomy?

- a. The word "anatomy" is derived from a French root that means "cut"
- b. The observation of soldiers' wounds were originally used to study human anatomy
- c. Human and animal bodies were dissected in labs to understand human anatomy
- d. The smaller structures of the human body need to be observed with a telescope

PRACTICE 2**Exercise and Bone Tissue**

During long space missions, astronauts can lose approximately 1 to 2 percent of their bone mass per month. This loss of bone mass is thought to be caused by the lack of mechanical stress on astronauts' bones due to the low gravitational forces in space. Lack of mechanical stress causes bones to lose mineral salts and collagen fibers, and thus strength. Similarly, mechanical stress stimulates the deposition of mineral salts and collagen fibers. The internal and external structure of a bone will change as stress increases or decreases so that the bone is an ideal size and weight for the amount of activity it endures. That is why people who exercise regularly have thicker bones than people who are more sedentary. It is also why a broken bone in a cast atrophies while its contralateral mate maintains its concentration of mineral salts and collagen fibers. The bones undergo remodeling as a result of forces (or lack of forces) placed on them.

Q. What does the author say about bones?

- a. They go through changes based on the amount of mechanical stress applied to them
- b. They lose 1-2 percent of their mass monthly
- c. They fluctuate in size and weight based on a human's body size
- d. They are thicker in people who are less physically active

Question type 4: NEGATIVE FACTUAL INFORMATION**Question forms**

- According to the passage, which of the following is NOT true of _____?
- All of the following are mentioned in paragraph X as _____ EXCEPT:
- The author's description of _____ mentions all of the following EXCEPT.
- Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage?

Strategy:

- Read, scan for keywords and synonyms, and simplify the question.
- Eliminate incorrect choices.
- Don't forget that the necessary information may be spread out over an entire paragraph or several paragraphs.

Sample Questions

[4] Darwin's theory is that 'selective breeding' occurs in nature as 'natural selection' is the engine behind evolution. Thus, the theory provides an excellent basis for understanding how organisms change over time. Nevertheless, it is just a theory and elusive difficult to prove. One of the major holes in Darwin's theory revolves around "irreducibly complex systems." An irreducibly complex system is known as a system where many different parts must all operate together. As a result, in the absence of one, the system as a whole collapses. Consequently, as modern technology improves, science can identify these "irreducibly complex systems" even at microscopic levels. These complex systems, if so inter-reliant, would be resistant to Darwin's supposition of how evolution occurs. As Darwin himself admitted, "To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus for different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I free confess, absurd in the highest degree.

All of the following are mentioned in paragraph 4 as a viewpoint to state the natural selection is difficult to prove EXCEPT

- A. The belief that the complexity of the human eye could have been formed by natural selection seems highly unlikely
- B. The presence of irreducibly complex system contradicts how evolution occurs
- C. Modern microbiology proves that irreducibly complex systems exist
- D. Selective breeding is the major hole in the theory of natural selection

PRACTICE 1

Types of Pressure

Pressure is a force exerted by a substance that is in contact with another substance. Atmospheric pressure is pressure exerted by the mixture of gases (primarily nitrogen and oxygen) in the Earth's atmosphere. Although you may not perceive it, atmospheric pressure is constantly pressing down on your body. This pressure keeps gases within your body, such as the gaseous nitrogen in body fluids, dissolved. If you were suddenly ejected from a spaceship above Earth's atmosphere, you would go from a situation of normal pressure to one of very low pressure. The pressure of the nitrogen gas in your blood would be much higher than the pressure of nitrogen in the space surrounding your body. As a result, the nitrogen gas in your blood would expand, forming bubbles that could block blood vessels and even cause cells to break apart.

Atmospheric pressure does more than just keep blood gases dissolved. Your ability to breathe—that is, to take in oxygen and release carbon dioxide—also depends upon a precise atmospheric pressure. Altitude sickness occurs in part because the atmosphere at high altitudes exerts less pressure, reducing the exchange of these gases, and causing shortness of breath, confusion, headache, lethargy, and nausea. Mountain climbers carry oxygen to reduce the effects of both low oxygen levels and low barometric pressure at higher altitudes.

- Q. According to paragraph 2, which of the following is NOT true about atmospheric pressure?**
- a. The lower pressure at high altitudes is the sole cause of altitude
 - b. A very specific level of pressure is required for humans to breathe

- c. sickness It is responsible for more than the dissolution of blood gases
- d. Some of the symptoms of altitude sickness are confusion, nausea, and being short of breath

PRACTICE 2

The common name for a disruption of blood supply to the brain is a stroke. It is caused by a blockage to an artery in the brain. The blockage is from some type of embolus: a blood clot, a fat embolus, or an air bubble. When the blood cannot travel through the artery, the surrounding tissue that is deprived starves and dies. Strokes will often result in the loss of very specific functions. A stroke in the lateral medulla, for example, can cause a loss in the ability to swallow. Sometimes, seemingly unrelated functions will be lost because they are dependent on structures in the same region. Along with the swallowing in the previous example, a stroke in that region could affect sensory functions from the face or extremities because important white matter pathways also pass through the lateral medulla. Loss of blood flow to specific regions of the cortex can lead to the loss of specific higher functions, from the ability to recognize faces to the ability to move a particular region of the body. Severe or limited memory loss can be the result of a temporal lobe stroke.

Q. All of the following are true of strokes EXCEPT ...

- a. They occur when there is a blockage of blood supply to an artery in the brain
- b. Tissues rely on the blood flow through arteries and will die from lack of nourishment if there is a disruption
- c. Various levels of memory loss can result from certain types of strokes
- d. While some functions are disrupted for a time, there are no real long-term effects of having a stroke

Question type 5: INFERENCE

An inference question requires you to make logical assumptions and connections by using the information in the passage to come up with a new conclusion. In other words, an inference question asks you to pick up on information that is indirectly given, rather than being directly stated in the passage.

Question forms

- Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph _____ about X?
- According to the passage, it can be inferred that
- The author of the passage implies that
- It can be inferred from the passage that the author most likely believes which of the following about X?
- Which of the following statements most accurately reflects the author's opinion about X?
- The author's attitude toward X could be best described as

Strategy:

- Read the question carefully and understand what you are being asked
- Make sure you understand the main idea of the whole paragraph.
- Use the process of elimination. The answer is incorrect if it is beyond the scope of the information in the passage. In other words, you can't really make this inference based only on the passage. You must use your logical thinking.

- Pay attention to answers containing extreme language such as always, forever, never, all, totally, completely or extreme phrases such as "this is the only (x)," or "this is the limit of (y)," and so on. They are used as traps and are often INCORRECT.
- Pay attention to answers only repeating words from the passage but don't answer the question. These answers look appealing because they contain technical words that you saw in the passage. But, if you read them carefully, they aren't correct!

Sample Questions

The body that impacted Earth at the end of the Cretaceous period was a meteorite with a mass of more than a trillion tons and a diameter of at least 10 kilometers. Scientists first identified this impact in 1980 from the worldwide layer of sediment deposited from the dust cloud that enveloped the planet after the impact. This sediment layer is enriched in the rare metal iridium and other elements that are relatively abundant in a meteorite but very rare in the crust of Earth. Even diluted by the terrestrial material excavated from the crater, this component of meteorites is easily identified. By 1990 geologists had located the impact site itself in the Yucatán region of Mexico. The crater, now deeply buried in sediment, was originally about 200 kilometers in diameter.

Question: Which of the following can be inferred from the paragraph about the location of the meteorite impact in Mexico?

- A. The location of the impact site in Mexico was kept secret by geologists from 1980 to 1990.
- B. It was a well-known fact that the impact had occurred in the Yucatán region.
- C. Geologists knew that there had been an impact before they knew where it had occurred.
- D. The Yucatán region was chosen by geologists as the most probable impact site because of its climate.

PRACTICE 1

The need for knowledge of the constitution and functions, in the concrete, of human nature is great just because the teacher's attitude to subject matter is so different from that of the pupil. The teacher presents in actuality what the pupil represents only in posse. That is, the teacher already knows the things which the student is only learning. Hence the problem of the two is radically unlike. When engaged in the direct act of teaching, the instructor needs to have subject matter at his fingers' ends; his attention should be upon the attitude and response of the pupil. To understand the latter in its interplay with subject matter is his task, while the pupil's mind, naturally, should be not on itself but on the topic in hand. Or to state the same point in a somewhat different manner: the teacher should be occupied not with subject matter in itself but in its interaction with the pupils' present needs and capacities. Hence simple scholarship is not enough.

Question: It can be inferred from the paragraph that:

- A. simple scholarship is lop-sided in its focus
- B. simple scholarship might overlook the subject matter and focus purely on the student
- C. simple scholarship, with a narrow focus, might not place enough emphasis on the student's needs
- D. simple scholarship will always be lopsided in nature because of its ambiguous stand on problems

PRACTICE 2

A being whose activities are associated with others has a social environment. What he does and what he can do depend upon the expectations, demands, approvals, and condemnations of others. A being connected with other beings cannot perform his own activities without taking the activities of others into account. For they are the indispensable conditions of the realization of his tendencies. When he moves he stirs them and reciprocally. We might as well try to imagine a businessman doing business, buying and selling, all by himself, as to conceive it possible to define the activities of an individual in terms of his isolated actions. The manufacturer moreover is as truly socially guided in his activities when he is laying plans in the privacy of his own counting house as when he is buying his raw material or selling his finished goods. Thinking and feeling that have to do with action in association with others is as much a social mode of behavior as is the most overt cooperative or hostile act.

Question: It can be inferred from the paragraph that:

- A. In our social world, one's thinking, feelings and actions cannot stand in isolation to actions of others
- B. In our social world, thinking, feelings and actions of an individual are driven by motivations and thoughts of others
- C. In our social world, thinking, feelings and actions of a person cannot stand in isolation to those of others
- D. In our social world, thinking, feelings and actions of a single person are juxtaposed retrospectively to those of others

Question type 6: SENTENCE INSERTION

In a "Sentence Insertion" question, you will be asked to decide where a new sentence best fits into the reading passage. This question type tests your understanding of the logic in the passage. It also tests your ability to understand the grammatical connections from one sentence to another.

Question forms

- In which space (marked [A], [B], [C] and [D] in the passage) will the following sentence fit?

Strategy:

1. Ideas in the paragraph are written in a general → specific formula, meaning that an idea is introduced with general details, and then more specific details will follow.
2. Pronouns are often included in the prompt sentence. Therefore, when you see a word like "they", "these", "those", or "this", look for the sentence that contains the information that these pronouns refer to. Then, the prompt sentence must be inserted after that sentence.
3. Be familiar with connecting words such as "and", "so", "therefore" (share the same ideas and opinions with the prompt sentence; "yet", "on the contrary", "in contrast" (contradict the ideas or opinions from the prompt sentence).

Sample Questions

Examine the four █ in the selection below and indicate at which block the following sentence could be inserted into the passage:

Seagrasses grow together in dense patches, or beds, with as many as 4,000 blades per square meter.

Many areas of the shallow sea bottom are covered with a lush growth of aquatic flowering plants adapted to live submerged in seawater. ■ [A] These plants are collectively called seagrasses. ■ [B] Seagrass beds are strongly influenced by several physical factors. ■ [C] The most significant is water motion: currents and waves. ■ [D] Since seagrass systems exist in both sheltered and relatively open areas, they are subject to differing amounts of water motion.

Choose the place where the sentence fits best.

PRACTICE 1

Examine the four ■ in the selection below and indicate at which block the following sentence could be inserted into the passage:

Thanks to radiocarbon dating and technological development in studying evidence, researchers can now give a more precise age on this type of art.

■ [A] The age of rock art in Australia has been revised several times, with earlier dates suggested recently after new discoveries. ■ [B] Accurate scientific proof has dated the first appearance of surface rock in Australia to approximately 30,000 to 50,000 years ago. ■ [C] This lengthy and astounding history of rock art in Australia makes it the oldest art tradition known today in the world. ■ [D]

Choose the place where the sentence fits best.

PRACTICE 2

Chemistry: The Central Science

Chemistry is sometimes referred to as “the central science” due to its interconnectedness with a vast array of other STEM disciplines (STEM stands for areas of study in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields). Chemistry and the language of chemists play vital roles in biology, medicine, materials science, forensics, environmental science, and many other fields.

■ [A] The basic principles of physics are essential for understanding many aspects of chemistry, and there is extensive overlap between many subdisciplines within the two fields, such as chemical physics and nuclear chemistry. ■ [B] Mathematics, computer science, and information theory provide important tools that help us calculate, interpret, describe, and generally make sense of the chemical world. ■ [C] Biology and chemistry converge in biochemistry, which is crucial to understanding the many complex factors and processes that keep living organisms (such as us) alive. ■ [D] Chemical engineering, materials science, and nanotechnology combine chemical principles and empirical findings to produce useful substances, ranging from gasoline to fabrics to electronics. Agriculture, food science, veterinary science, and brewing and winemaking help provide sustenance in the form of food and drink to the world’s population. Medicine, pharmacology, biotechnology, and botany identify and produce substances that help keep us healthy. Environmental science, geology, oceanography, and atmospheric science incorporate many chemical ideas to help us better understand and protect our physical world. Chemistry’s usefulness also extends outside of our own world to help us better understand the universe and the composition of space in disciplines like astronomy and cosmology.

Q. In paragraph 2 there is a missing sentence. Look at the four squares [A, B, C, D] that indicate where the sentence could be added. Where would the sentence best fit?

Biochemistry is one of the five major branches of chemistry, which can be divided into many sub-branches.

- a. A
- b. B
- c. C
- d. D

WRITING – STRUCTURES AND EXPRESSIONS

PART 1: EMAIL/ LETTER

A. GENERAL STRUCTURE OF AN EMAIL/ A LETTER

Greeting/ Salutation (Lời chào):

- Dear Tom,

***1st paragraph (mở đầu):** Starting your email (Bắt đầu bức thư). Use one of the following phrases to start your email:

- Thanks for your letter/ email. (Cảm ơn bạn đã viết thư)
- It's lovely to hear from you. (Rất vui khi nhận được tin tức từ bạn)
- How are you? (Bạn khỏe không?)
- How are things? (Mọi việc thế nào)
- I hope you're well. (Minh hi vọng bạn khỏe.)

And comment on the information mentioned in the email that you received from your friend (Và nhận xét về một thông tin trong bức thư mà người bạn viết cho bạn)

- I'm sorry to hear/learn ... Minh rất tiếc khi nghe được/ biết rằng...
- I'm so pleased to hear ... Minh rất vui khi biết rằng
- I'm so pleased to hear that *you are getting married next month*
 you have got a new job.
- It's great to hear Thật vui khi biết rằng
- What wonderful news about Tin tức về thì thật là tuyệt

Example:

Thank you for your letter. I'm sorry I haven't written for so long but I've been really busy studying English to pass B1 test. It's great to hear that your all family are fine.

2nd paragraph: Focus on the main ideas and answer the questions as requested. You can start by stating the reasons for writing: (Viết vào nội dung chính, trả lời các câu hỏi trong đề bài. Sử dụng một số cách chuyển câu như sau)

- Anyway, the reason I'm writing ...
- I thought I'd write to tell/ask you
- Anyway, I was wondering ...

3rd paragraph: Use one of the following ways:

- Well, that's all for now.
- I will write back soon.
- I'm looking forward to hearing from you again.
- All the best/ Best wishes/ See you soon/ Take care/ Yours/ Love/ Lots of love
- Yours sincerely,
- Yours faithfully,

(Tất cả các từ/ cụm từ này đều có dấu phẩy (,) phía sau)

Example:

I have to get back to work now. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

B. TYPES OF EMAIL/ LETTER**B1. Formal letters/ Emails:****AN EMAIL OF COMPLAINT**

Beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why are you writing the letter? - When and where did the purchase or the service in the question take place? - How much did you have to pay for the goods or the service?
Body	<p>Mention the date, the place and the cost of the purchase or service in here if this has not been in the beginning</p> <p>When the details are about a chronological sequence of events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How did you discover the problem? - What did you do after you discovered the problem? - Did you try to do anything to make those responsible to know about the problem? What are their reactions? <p>When the details fall into groups of different inconvenience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What was the first inconvenience? - What was the second inconvenience? - What was the final inconvenience?
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What do you feel about the situation? - What do you think you should get in compensation for the inconvenience you had to suffer? Do you need to enclose anything, for example, the receipt? - Do you intend to take any further action if your demands are not fulfilled?

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

Beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I am <u>writing to complain about/ express my concern about a hair-dryer which I bought/ purchased</u> in your shop last Saturday. - I am writing because I am not really <u>please with/ satisfied with</u> the quality as well as the service in the student's restaurant at your college in recent months 			
Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making a complaint : simple present - Describing the matter : past tenses 			
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50px;"></td> <td data-bbox="680 884 817 923">Demands</td> <td data-bbox="887 691 1456 1140"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I demand that you <i>refund my money immediately</i> - I must ask you, therefore, either <i>to replace the guitar or refund the price I paid for it, \$50</i> - I feel that at the very least you <i>owe my parents and me an apology</i>. We await an answer from you. </td> </tr> </table>		Demands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I demand that you <i>refund my money immediately</i> - I must ask you, therefore, either <i>to replace the guitar or refund the price I paid for it, \$50</i> - I feel that at the very least you <i>owe my parents and me an apology</i>. We await an answer from you.
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Closing	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50px;"></td> <td data-bbox="696 1365 801 1403">Threats</td> <td data-bbox="887 1140 1456 1644"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you do not refund my money immediately, I will <i>contact to my solicitor</i>. - Unless I hear from you within ten days, I shall have to <i>take legal advice on the matter</i> - If the letter does not get any response, I intend to take up the matter with the <i>Department of Home Affairs</i> </td> </tr> </table>		Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you do not refund my money immediately, I will <i>contact to my solicitor</i>. - Unless I hear from you within ten days, I shall have to <i>take legal advice on the matter</i> - If the letter does not get any response, I intend to take up the matter with the <i>Department of Home Affairs</i>
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EMAIL OF APOLOGY

BEGINNING	<p><i>STATE THE REASON FOR YOUR LETTER</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why are you writing the letter? - Give a brief details and express your regret about the trouble caused to the writer
BODY Arrange your point in paragraph	<p><i>EXPLAIN THE WHOLE CIRCUMSTANCES AND OFFER AN APOLOGY</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give explanation - Give appropriate apology <p><i>STATE ANY PROMISE YOU CAN MAKE TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you promise any refund? - Do you offer any discount to compensate the inconvenience caused to the writer? - Do you assure any improvement in the future? - How do you feel about the situation?
CLOSING	<p>Once again express your regret about the situation and your expectation to serve the writer again in the future.</p>

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Give a brief description of the issue

- I am afraid I...
- I regret to say that...
- We are very sorry that you received a defective...
- Thank you for your letter informing me that.....
- With reference to your letter of November 20th, I.....

Apologize for an action, mistake or omission

- I apologize for/ for not
- I must apologize for
- I am extremely sorry for

Explanation

- This was due to
- This was because if
- This reason for this was
- The reason for this has been that I forgot / misunderstood.....
- I can offer no excuse to except that.....

Promise to rectify the situation (if possible)

- I am coming to..... next week, so I.....
- I am pleased to inform you that we are prepared to replace your faulty..... with a new one.
- I wonder if you bring with you the..... and our receipt to any showrooms during business hours. Our staff will then replace the faulty..... with a new one for you.

The conclusion

- Please accept our apologies for having delivered a fault product to you**
- We very much regret for the inconvenience the holiday..... has caused to you**
- We hope that the refund/replacement will restore your confidence in us and establish goodwill**

EMAIL OF APPLICATION**1. An application letter for a job**

Beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why are you writing the letter? - What is the post you desire to consider for? - When and where did you hear or learn about the vacancy? <p>=> Write in details</p>
Body	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How old are you and what is your marital status? 2. What is your education background? What relevant qualification have you got? 3. Have you got any experiences relevant to the job? If yes, what are they? 4. Why have you decided to change your job (2 lines) 5. Do you enclose any references
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make some reference to hearing from the employer

2. An application letter for a course

Beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Why are you writing the letter?- What is the course you are applying for?- When and where do you know about the course?
Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How old are you? (if you are not required to specify this)- What are your educational background and qualification?- Have you got any experiences relevant to the course?- What are the reasons for your application?
Closing	Make some reference to hearing from the employer

USEFUL LANGUAGES

Beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With reference to your advertisement in <i>the Morning Post</i> issued on 24th April, 2016 for the post of <i>tourist guide</i>, I would like to apply for the job - I wish to apply for the post of <i>Housekeeping Supervisor</i>, I saw advertised in <i>yesterday's New York Times</i>. - I am writing in <i>reply/in response</i> to your advertisement in the <i>the Daily News</i> of 26th April, 2016 for the post of office clerk
Explain your educations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I feel that my qualifications match your requirements as I will show you briefly as follows - My qualifications are as follows - I feel I am the right person for the post because my qualifications and experiences are extremely appropriate - I feel I would be suitable for this post/course because - My qualification and experience, as you will see from my curriculum vitae, make me a particular suitable applicant for the post
Explain your experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Having already worked as.....for.....I wish to extend my experience/ I feel I could be useful for you - Recent experience: I have been working as.....for the last.....years - General experience: I have had experience of..... - Past experience: In 2009 I worked.....
Explain your reason for the application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One of the reasons I am applying.....is that..... - One of the reasons for applying is.....
Mention enclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please find enclosed my curriculum vitae and two references as requested - I enclose my qualifications and the names and addresses of two referees who can testify to my conduct and character. - Enclosed is my résumé giving more details about my qualifications and experiences
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I could come for an interview at any time which would suit you - I am available for an interview at any time convenient to you. - I hope my application will receive your favorable consideration and that you will select me for an interview.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

Reason for writing	To inform good news	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I am writing to inform you that/ let you know that..... - I feel delighted to inform you - I would like to inform you that - We are pleased to announce that - You will be pleased to learn that.....
	To inform bad news	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We regret to inform you that - I am afraid it would not be possible to..... -I feel obliged to inform you.....
	To response information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I am writing in response to your letter requesting information about..... - I am writing to provide you with information about..... - I am writing to reply to your enquiry about..... - I am writing with regard to/ in connection with - I am writing (to you) on behalf of..... - I am writing in my capacity as.....
First point		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The first thing I would like to inform you of is..... - The first thing I would like to tell you is..... - The first thing I wish to inform you of is..... - I would like to begin by informing you..... - Firstly, I would like to inform you that.....
Further points		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I would also like to let you know that..... - I would also like to inform you that..... - You might also find the following information useful..... - It might also be useful for you to know that..... - Another piece of information that might be useful is.....
Ending the letter		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I hope that I have been able to answer all of your questions - I would be pleased to provide you with additional information - I look forward to being able to help you again in the future - Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions - Please do not hesitate to ask should you need further assistance

AN EMAIL OF REQUEST

COMMON STRUCTURE OF AN EMAIL OF REQUEST

Beginning	<p>State the reason for the letter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you writing the letter in reply to an advertisement to ask for further information about a course, goods, services or anything else? - How, when and where do you know about the advertisement?
Body	<p>What are your requests?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The first request? - The second request? - ... - Do you need to enclose anything, ex: a cheque, a deposit if you want to order goods or services?
Closing	Make some reference to hearing from a recipient

USEFUL LANGUAGES

1. Request for goods and services

Beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I am writing because I am interested <i>in your advertisement for the new models of computers sold in your company</i> - I am writing on account of - I am writing to
First request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could you possibly send me..... as soon as possible? - I would like you to - I would be grateful if you could/would.....without delay - Would it be possible for you to send/sell..... - I would like to order..... from your company. - We would appreciate if you could.....immediately

Second request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could you also please send me/deliver..... - Another thing/matter I need is.....
Making reference to hearing from the recipient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I look forward to receiving your reply. - I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience - I am looking forward to hearing from you at any time which is convenient to you
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please call me at.....if you require further information. - If you wish to confirm the above with me, I can be reached at 3245865 - If you have any requires, please give me al call at.....I look forward to hearing from you soon. - Please do not hesitate to call me at.....if you wish to raise any questions. I hope to receive your prompt reply - Should you have any questions, I could be reached at.....

2. Request letters for information

Beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With reference to your advertisement for <i>the course of English on Facebook</i>. I am writing to ask for further information about the <i>course</i>
First request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could you please tell me how long the course lasts/the length of the course? - Could you please explain.....? - I would like instruction about..... - I would appreciate information about..... - Would it be possible for you to clarify.....? - I would be very grateful if you could send me information/ directions/ instructions...
Second request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Another matter I need information on is..... - Another point I am not certain about is..... - I would also like some help/ information/ clarification on
Making reference to hearing from the recipient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I look forward to receiving your reply. - I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience - I am looking forward to hearing from you at any time which is convenient to you

AN EMAIL OF GIVING OPINION

Beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I am writing to response/ in reply to your letter asking for advice - I hope the following advice/ suggestions will be of some help to you - I would like to give me views on.....
Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I strongly recommend (+V-ing) that..... - I believe that the best course of action is..... - I would advise you to..... - You ought to.....
Suggestions/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I would suggest that..... - I would like to offer one/ two suggestions concerning - I would venture to suggest doing.....
Opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I agree/ disagree with.....because..... - I am for the plan because..... - I am against the plan because..... -In my view/ it seems to me that..... - I would like to point out that
Ending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I hope you will accept this advice - Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any problems.

B2. Informal letters:

Informal letters are usually written to family members, friends, relatives etc.

Useful language

Useful phrases for the opening

- How are you? / How have the family been? / I hope you are well.
- Thank you / Many thanks for your (recent/last) letter / postcard.
- It was good / nice / great to hear from you again.
- I was so surprised to hear that.....
- I'm sorry I haven't written / haven't been in touch for such a long time
- It's ages since I've heard from you. I hope you're well / you and your family are well.
How are things? / How are you? / How's it going?

Other useful phrases

Referring to news

- Great news about.....Glad to hear that.....Sorry to hear about.....

Giving news

- Listen, did I tell you about.....? You'll never believe what..... Oh, and another thing.....This is just to let you know that.....

- I thought you might be interested to hear about / know that.....
- By the way, have you heard about/ did you know that.....?

Apologies

- I'm writing to apologize for missing your party but I'm afraid I was with flu.
- I'm really sorry that I forgot to send you a birthday card but I was busy with my new job

Invitations

- I'm/ we're having a party on Friday 19th and I/ we hope you'll be able to come.
- I was wondering if you'd like to go to the theatre / come on holiday with us.
- Thank you for asking / inviting me to.....but I'm afraid I won't be able to.....

Requests

- I'm writing to ask for your help / you (if you could do me) a favor.
- I wonder if / I was wondering if you could help me / do me a favor.

Thank you / Congratulations / Good luck

- I'm writing to thank you for your hospitality / the wonderful present. It was so kind of you to invite me to stay with you.
- I really appreciated all your help / advice.
- Congratulations on passing your exams / your excellent exam results!

Making suggestions and recommendations

- Why don't you.....? / Maybe you could? / How about.....? You can't leave New York without (.....doing sth)

Closing

- Give a reason why you're ending the letter: Anyway, I must go and get on with my work! / I guess it's time I got on with that studying I've been avoiding.
- Send greetings and / or make reference for future contact
- Closing statement such as *Love, Lots of Love, All the best, Take care, Best wishes*, should be written on a new line. If you used a comma after the opening greeting, use a comma here too.

PART 2: WRITING – OUTLINES FOR ESSAYS**ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES****1. Introduction**

- ✓ Opening sentence
- ✓ Thesis statement

Some people contend that the advantages of outweigh the disadvantages. I strongly agree/ disagree and will outline both views in my essay.

2. Body

- a. Topic sentence 1

One of the first benefits of such a measure is that....

Explanation 1.1: advantage

Example 1.1: advantage

b. Topic sentence 2

Another benefit would be that ...

Explanation 2.1: advantage

Example 2.1: advantage

c. Topic sentence 3

Nevertheless, there are drawbacks to such a solution. First and foremost, ...

Explanation 2.1: disadvantage 1

Example 2.1: disadvantage 1

d. Topic sentence 4

Moreover/ In addition/ another matter of concern with,

Explanation 2.1: disadvantage 2

Example 2.1: disadvantage 2

3. Conclusion

Summary

In conclusion, the benefits of ... outweigh its drawbacks ; however, their downsides cannot be overlooked.

AGREE or DISAGREE

TYPE 1

1. Introduction

- ✓ Introduce the topic by paraphrasing
- ✓ Thesis statement

Personally, I am (not) in agreement with this idea.

2. Body

- a. Topic sentence 1

The first reason for this is because

Explanation 1.1: If

Example 1.1: For example,

- b. Topic sentence 2

In addition to the reason above, I also believe that ...

Explanation 1.1: If

Example 1.1: For example,

3. Conclusion

Summary

In conclusion/ to recapitulate, I do (not) believe that ... because of ...

TYPE 2

1. Introduction

- ✓ Introduce the topic by paraphrasing
- ✓ Thesis statement

To a certain extent I agree that... However, I also think that...

2. Body

a. Topic sentence 1

On the one hand, I would agree that ...

Good point 1: **In other words**, ...

Good point 2: **For example**, .../ **For instance**, ...

Good point 3: **If** ...

b. Topic sentence 2

On the other hand/ Nevertheless, I also think that

Bad point 1: **First**, ... **It means that** ...

Bad point 2 : **Second**, ... **In particular**, ...

Bad point 3: **Finally**, ... **For example**, ...

3. Conclusion

Summary

In conclusion/ to recapitulate, while ..., I (do not) believe that ...

CAUSES

1. Introduction

- ✓ Introduce the topic by paraphrasing
- ✓ Thesis statement

No one can deny that This leading tendency is caused by several factors such as (cause 1), (cause 2), and (cause 3)

2. Body

a. Topic sentence 1

(cause 1) is one reason attributable to (topic)

Explanation 1.1: cause 1

Example 1.1: cause 1

b. Topic sentence 2

Another contributing factor to mention is that ...

Explanation 2.1: cause 2

Example 2.1: cause 2

c. Topic sentence 3

Lastly, one of the causes of (topic) is (cause 3)

Explanation 2.1: cause 3

Example 2.1: cause 3

3. Conclusion

Summary

In conclusion/ to recapitulate, (paraphrase the topic) There are various causes, some of which include (cause 1), (cause 2), and (cause 3)

CAUSES & SOLUTIONS

1. Introduction

- ✓ Opening sentences
- ✓ Thesis statement

In this essay, two major causes to ...will be presented with proper solutions.

2. Body

- a. Topic sentence 1

The first cause and measure is regarding

Explanation 1.1: cause

Example 1.1: cause

To solve this,...

Explanation 1.2: solution

Example 1.2: solution

- b. Topic sentence 2

The second cause and measure is concerning ...

Explanation 2.1: cause

Example 2.1: cause

To tackle such important/ macro-scale issue,...

Explanation 2.2: solution

Example 2.2: solution

3. Conclusion

Summary

In conclusion, (topic)... is caused mainly by (causes).... and these can be solved by (solutions)....

Final comment:

It is important that these causes should be carefully examined and suggested measures be taken promptly.

CAUSES & EFFECTS

1. Introduction

- ✓ Opening sentence
- ✓ Thesis statement

This essay will discuss the main reasons of...(topic) and then describe the possible effects of the problem.

2. Body

- a. Topic sentence 1

In my opinion, the foremost cause of ... is ...

Explanation 1.1: (cause 1)

Example 1.1: (cause 1)

- b. Topic sentence 2

Moreover, the problem is accentuated by ...

Explanation 2.1: (cause 2)

Example 2.1: (cause 2)

- c. Topic sentence 3

The possible effects of this problem include ... and ...

Explanation 2.1: *First of all, ... (effect 1)*

Example 2.1: *For example, ... (effect 1)*

Explanation 2.2: **Secondly**, ... (effect 2)

Example 2.2: **For example**, ... (effect 2)

3. Conclusion

Summary

To sum up, (topic)...is mainly caused by ... (cause 1) and ... (cause 2) and results in ... (effect 1) and ... (effect 2)

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ESSAY

Example: Some universities now offer their courses on the Internet so that people can study online. Is this a positive or negative development?

Outline:

Paragraph 1 – The Introduction

- Introduce the topic: rewrite the question in your own words using synonyms.
- Outline what you're going to discuss in the body paragraphs + state your viewpoint.

Paragraph 2 – The Body 1

- Topic sentence 1: negatives
- Explain
- Examples

Paragraph 3 – The Body 2

- Topic sentence 2: positives
- Explain
- Examples

Paragraph 4 – The Conclusion

Useful expressions

I/ Introduction

- First sentence - It is true that ... are becoming a common feature of ... (State the problem/topic)
- Second sentence - Although there are some (drawbacks of) ..., I would argue that there are far more (benefits).
- Third sentence - This essay will first explain the positive aspects of ...such as... , then outline the its negative sides like ...

II/Body

Paragraph 1:

- On the one hand, the main drawback of ... is that
- Similarly,...
- For example,...

Paragraph 2:

- Despite the negatives mentioned above, I believe that ...is/ are a positive development for various reasons.
- Firstly,...
- Secondly,...
- Finally,...
- For example,...

III/ Conclusion

- In conclusion, while I recognize the possible disadvantages of online learning such as, I consider it to be a positive development overall. (ủng hộ mặt tích cực)
- To sum up, although ... still has/ have some advantages, I believe that its drawbacks outweigh those merits. (ủng hộ mặt tiêu cực).

SPEAKING – STRUCTURES AND EXPRESSIONS

OVERVIEW OF VSTEP – SPEAKING

PART	DURATION	FORMAT
Part 1: Social interaction	3 minutes	Answer 3-6 questions about 2 different familiar topics (Hobbies, family, etc.)
Part 2: Solution discussion	4 minutes (1 minute to prepare and 3 minutes to speak)	Choose 1 of 3 given solutions for the problem
Part 3: Topic development	5 minutes (1 minute to prepare and 4 minutes to speak)	Give own opinions on a given topic and answer extended questions.

USEFUL LANGUAGES FOR VSTEP SPEAKING

COMMON CONNECTIVE WORDS

Addition	Sequence	Consequence	Contrast
In addition and similarly likewise as well as besides furthermore also moreover and then too not only ... but also besides this/that	Firstly Initially secondly To begin with Then Next Earlier/ Later After this/ that Following this/ that Afterwards	As a result Thus So Therefore Consequently It follows that Thereby Eventually Then In that case Admittedly	However On the other hand Despite In spite of Though Although But On the contrary Otherwise Yet
Certainly	Condition	Definition	
Obviously Certainly Plainly Of course Undoubtedly	If Unless Whether Provided that For So that Depending on	Is Refers to Means That is Consists of	Instead of Rather Whereas Nevertheless Compared with In contrast Alternatively
Example	Reason	Time	Summary
For Instance One example For example Just as In particular Namely To illustrate	Since As So Because Due to Owning to The reason why In other words Leads to Cause	Before Since As Until Meanwhile At the moment When Whenever As soon as	In conclusion In summary Lastly Finally To sum up To conclude In short

PART 1 – SOCIAL INTERACTION

In this part, you will be answered 3-6 questions about 2 different topics.

TIPS:

- Answer at least 2-3 sentences for each question.
- Stay on the topic and give extra information (reason for your answer as well).
- Use linking words.
- Never speak as if you memorize the answer.

Question types:

1. Like/ dislike

- Using expressing feelings expressions
- Listing ideas by using linking words or phrases

Example: What do you like about your hometown?

=> The best thing about living here is that *everything is at your fingertips*. Moreover, I just adore the local cuisine. However, I'm afraid *I can't stand* the traffic jams during rush hours.

2. Yes/ No questions

- Confirm the answer: yes/ no/ it depends
- State the reasons
- Clarify the reason by using example (Optional)

This kind of question partly similar to like/dislike questions except from the confirmation part

Example: Do you think people should use public transport?

=> Yes, I totally agree that people should use buses or train since it would save a huge amount of money. Another reason is that it might reduce pollution.

3. Wh-Questions

- You might give the answer and then supporting ideas for it. (interrogative words: what, where)

Example: Where does your family live?

We live in Danang city, the largest city of Central Vietnam. This beautiful place is famous for sandy beaches and annual festival.

- You might give the answer and the reason for your answer

Example: How did you come here today?

=> I came here by motorbike as it is my only vehicle. Furthermore, it's quite convenient because it's easy to find a parking lot.

PART 2 – SOLUTION DISCUSSIONS

Question requirements

In this part of the test, you are given **A SITUATION** and **THREE OPTIONS** for you to choose from. You need to decide on **THE BEST** choice and **JUSTIFY** your opinion.

Example

Your family is planning on a holiday. There are three options that are reasonable to your family time and financial budget: three-day trip to a foreign country, four-day trip to a mountainous area, and a two-day trip at a beach resort. What do you think is the best choice?

Situation: Your family is planning on a holiday.

Options: There are three options that are reasonable to your family time and financial budget: three-day trip to a foreign country, four-day trip to a mountainous area, and a two-day trip at beach resort

Requirement: Which do you think is the best choice?

Answering method:

Step 1: Analyze the topic. (1 minute)

Choose the option that you have more ideas (not the one you are interested in) List 2 advantages (reasons) of the option you choose and disadvantages of the 2 remain options

Step 2: Answer the question

Introduction: (paraphrase the statement) State the option you choose

Body: state 2 advantages and compare with the other 2 options

Conclusion: Summarize your choice

Note:

Don't try to complicate your ideas. Make it straightforward, simple and easy to understand

- Compound and complex sentences are welcome, make sure you produce accurate simple sentences.
- Try to speak without hesitation. Choose the option that you find it easier to explain and support rather than choose what you like.

Languages features:

1. Comparatives and superlatives (to show the similarities and differences between the options, try to highlight the most outstanding features of your option)
2. Signal words to list the reasons and support to create coherence within your answer

ESSENTIAL LANGUAGE FOR VSTEP SPEAKING – PART 2

1. Appropriate language for compare and contrast structures:

Function	Vocabulary	Sample sentence frames
Compare	bothand both have.....
	same	Both And..... Are.....?
	also and are the same because...?
	like also has.....
	similar	Similarly is
	similarly is similar to in many ways
	alike	because and
	whereas	Whereas is, is
	each	and.....?
	likewise and are alike because
	just as is just as difficult as..... because
	in the same way
	akin to	
	as well as	
Contrast	Differentis Different than..... Because...
	Butis, but..... is
	Although	Although ...has....., has
	Different from is However, is.....
	However is on the other hand, is
	One difference	Even though..... has....., has.....
	On the other hand and..... differ because.....
	In comparison is unlike because
	By comparison has....., yet..... has.....
	Instead of is on the contrary, is
	In contrast to	Despite having, is different
	Conversely	because
	Even though	One variation between and..... is
	Unlike	that has.....
	On the contrary	
	Yet	
	Despite	
	Differ	
	Variation	
	otherwise	

PART 3 – TOPIC DEVELOPMENT

In this part of the test, there will be given a **STATEMENT** and some **SUPPORTING DETAILS**, which are displayed in a **MIND-MAP**. You need to **CLARIFY** the statement by using the supporting details and your **OWN IDEAS**

Answering method

Step 1: Analyze the topic (1 minute)

- Find synonym, phrasal verbs, collocation, etc. to change the expressions of the statement topic
- Find example for each supporting detail or clarify it with more information
- Find your own idea and example or more information for it.

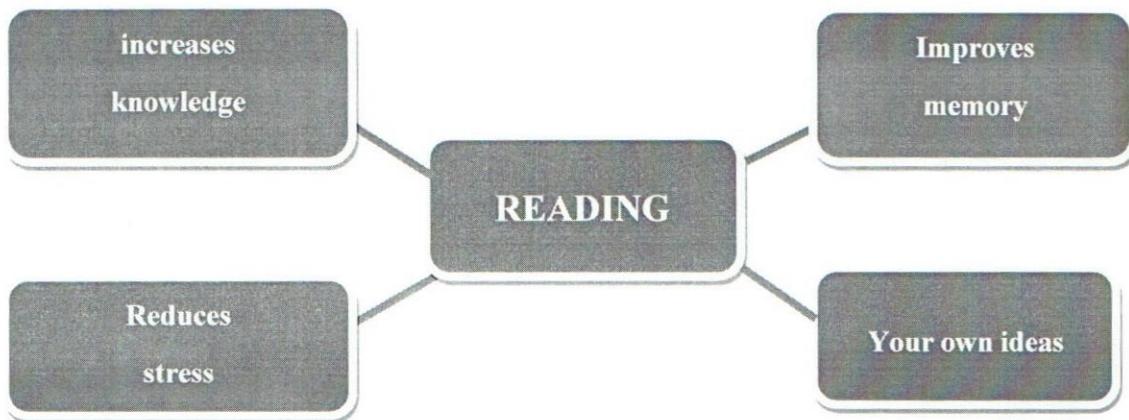
Step 2: State your answer

- Introduction; paraphrase the statement.
- Body: develop the supporting details9 which are given as nouns, noun phrase, verbs phrase, etc.) into sentences. For each supporting detail, present example or further information.
- Conclusion: summarize the topic.

Tips:

- Try to vary your vocabulary by using synonyms, related words, phrasal verbs, etc, instead of using given words
- For the extended questions, use the method of speaking part 1

Example: Reading habit should be encouraged among teenagers.



Statement: Reading habit should be encouraged among teenagers

Supporting details:

- Increases knowledge
- Reduces stress
- Improves memory

Answer sample: Reading habit should be encouraged among teenagers.

Step 1

Statement:

- Reading habit = reading culture, the habit of reading, the culture of reading
- Encouraged =to boost, to inspire
- Teenagers = the youth, adolescence, young people, young generation, teens

Supporting details

- Increase knowledge = broaden/ widen knowledge / understanding Knowledge gathers day by day through books.
- Reduces stress = release stress, get away from pressure, stress reduction Keep people away from reality
- Improve memory = memory improvement
- Have to remember characters, backgrounds, etc => help to gain memory improvement

Own ideas: improve focus and concentration.

Step 2

Reading culture seems to be forgotten because of modern technology. However, teens should engage with reading for following reasons

First of all, the culture of reading allows young generation to widen their understanding. In fact, everything they achieve from book would fill their head with new information.

Next, reading habit would be method to free adolescence's mind. No matter how much stress they have at a school, at home, in their relationships, it all just slips away when they lose themselves in a great story.

Another good point of reading culture is the memory improvement it brings. When you read a book, you have to remember characters, their backgrounds as well as their ambitions, history, etc. It is undeniable that it is a good method to practice memorization skills.

Lastly, teens would improve focus and concentration through reading books. When they read a book, all of their attention is focused on the story. As a result, their ability to concentrate would be increase.

To sum up, the youth should be inspired to read books due to the benefits it brings.

ANSWER KEY AND AUDIOSCRIPTS (Practice Test)

1. ANSWER KEY - LISTENING

1.1. ANSWER KEY - LISTENING TEST 1

Time allowance: approximately 40 minutes

Number of questions: 35

PART 1

1. B 2. A 3. B 4. B 5. B 6. C 7. C 8. B

PART 2:

9. B 10. B 11. C 12. C 13. C 14. B 15. A
16. B 17. B 18. C 19. A 20. C

PART 3:

21. B 22. B 23. C 24. B 25. C 26. C 27. A
28. A 29. D 30. B 31. B 32. A 33. A 34. A
35. B

SCRIPTS:

Q.1: Who is probably making talking on the phone?

Hello, this is Gloria with Dr. Baum's office. This is a reminder of your dental appointment for Thursday, May 22, at 1:00p.m. Since you have several cavities to fill, please allow yourself at least three hours for the visit.

Q.2: Why has the meeting been relocated?

Because the South Tower is undergoing renovations, the design team meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning has been moved to the North Tower conference room on the 12th floor. The meeting will still be held at 10:00.

Q.3: What is the main cause of decreased domestic sales?

Unfortunately, I must report that domestic sales have dropped by 17 percent over the last two quarters. Although the sluggish domestic economy is a factor, the primary cause of this worrying development is increasing competition in the retail clothing sector.

Q.4: What should the listeners do before they skate?

This weekend is the first outing of the in-line skating club for this season. Remember, you are not allowed to skate with the club unless you wear an approved safety helmet. You can ask Rea, the safety coordinator, if you are unsure about your gear.

Q.5: What profession does the speaker work in?

As a woman and sports announcer, I'm often approached about giving speeches on women in sports.

Q.6: What is the purpose of Ricardo's visit?

Ricardo will be here in the U.S. for three months observing some of the managerial techniques and procedures we use at this office.

Q.7: What kind of business would be making this announcement?

In order to improve customer service, we will be initiating a customer satisfaction survey. The survey will focus on several different areas, including courtesy and promptness by waiters or waitresses, cleanliness, and food quality and selection.

Q.8: Why has confidence increased?

Investor confidence was bolstered by government data indicating inflation rose by barely two tenths of one percent last quarter, meaning that the National Bank is unlikely to raise interest rates.

SCRIPTS:

Q.9- 12:

W: Our copier has been acting strangely today. Could you come and take a look at it for US?

M: Okay, but did you check to see if any paper is jammed inside?

W: Yes, I did, but that's not the problem. I think the problem may be more serious.

M: All right, but I have to run across town this morning to fix a machine there, so I don't think I can make it to your office until after lunch.

Q.13- 16:

W: Hi, there. I'm having trouble finding this certain book on medieval German nobility.

M: Let me check on the computer. Hmm ... it appears that we don't have it.

W: Oh, no. It was really important for an essay I'm working on right now.

M: Well, we have a central computer system that is connected to the other university libraries in the state. I can search them all to see where your book is, then order it from the nearest university. You could borrow it from another library.

W: That would be great. How long will it take?

M: We can usually get a book here in two or three days. But the lending period is shorter than for a normal book - only 10 days instead of two weeks. And if you're late returning books from other libraries, the overdue fine is a lot larger.

W: I won't be late. But does it cost anything to sign out books from other libraries?

M: Not for up to five books. Any more than that, and you would have to pay a small service charge.

Q.17-20:

M: What's the matter, Jane?

W: Oh, I was supposed to meet James for a study session at 4, but he's late.

M: James is like that. I always give myself an extra 15 minutes or so whenever I have an appointment with him.

W: That's not a bad idea. I'd like to have him waiting for me for a change.

M: Yeah, some people are just irresponsible like that. I remember once he was actually late for the exam. Nearly 20 minutes late, and he just comes walking in, like there's nothing wrong. He wasn't worried or anything.

W: I can't imagine myself being like that. I always leave myself extra time, just to make sure I'm always ready and on time.

M: Oh, there he comes now.

W: It's about time.

M: How long are you guys planning on studying?

W: Pretty late. We have a big chemistry test tomorrow and I'm really behind.

M: Well, maybe I'll see you later. I have to get some work done at the library, too.

SCRIPTS:

Q.21-25:

W: Can you believe Professor Kensington postponed the due date for the term paper this morning? It's unbelievable!

M: Yeah, it was crazy! I've been spending days and nights in the computer lab writing up that paper. I only did that because he kept on emphasizing that he won't take any paper that's not in his office by noon today.

W: I heard that, too. Jessica and I stayed up half the night trying to finish it. I think it was three o'clock in the morning when we finally had the third draft. I barely had any sleep.

M: You had Jessica to help you? At least you had someone to proofread your paper and help you with the research. It was a nightmare for me. I didn't even have time to proofread my paper.

W: Well, I'm really upset that Professor Kensington was so inconsiderate. Don't you agree?

M: I guess it was a hasty change, but... I think he did it for US students.

W: You really didn't get enough sleep, did you? You're not thinking straight. I can't possibly see how I can understand his hasty, decision that way.

M: Well, as much as I'm unhappy with his last-minute decision, I think he did it so that we could have one more chance to look over our work before turning it in. Besides, an extension of two days isn't going to change anything drastic in our papers.

W: I suppose. Still, I would have had more time to study for the calculus exam, which was today, if I hadn't had to spend so much time and energy on that paper.

M: Oh well, at least he didn't tell us to hand it in earlier.

W: That's right... anyway, I'm not going to spend another two days on the assignment. I'm handing it in after the next class.

Q.26- 30:

W: Professor Atkins, could I get some help with my chemistry lab?

P: Certainly, Julie. What's the problem? Are you having trouble understanding some of the experiments?

W: Oh, no. I understand the experiment... perhaps I only think that I understand it,

P: What do you mean? Do you or don't you?

W: Well, I tried the latest experiment by myself, based on what I understood from your lectures and lab session ... but I seem to come up with really different results from what the textbook indicates I should be getting.

P: That certainly is a possibility. Remember, the textbook tends to give you an ideal explanation of the experiments. But in real life, any number of factors can cause you to get results that might not be the ideal or preferred outcome.

W: Oh, that's good... so any result is acceptable?

P: No, of course there is a range for this particular experiment, I'd expect your answer to be within... let's see now... perhaps 4 or 5% off the textbook.

W: Really? My answer was nearly 10% off. Wouldn't that be alright?

P: I'm sorry, but that would be a problem. If your answer were that far from the proper answer, and say that even if you could explain the difference, I would have to lower your grade significantly.

W: I see. Alright. I guess I'm going to have to redo it. I want to do well in your class and can't afford to get a bad grade.

P: Very good. But you'll have to hurry, the lab is due Friday, and I won't be giving any extensions.

W: Oh, I was hoping...

P: Yes?

W: Oh, it's nothing. Well, could you please sign a permission slip for me to use the lab after hours? I only have time during late evenings this weekend.

P: Sure, I'll do that for you right now. Here you go..., and a tip... before you start the experiment, wipe the test tubes with alcohol... there might be unwanted residue inside that might be affecting the result.

Q.31-35:

We'll be looking into the largest state in America, Alaska. If you look at the location of Alaska on the map, you can see that it is bordered by Canada on the east, the Arctic Ocean on the north, the Bering Strait and Bering Sea to the east, and the Gulf of Alaska... wait a minute... sorry about that... to the west and the Gulf of Alaska to the south. And as you can see on the map, Alaska has a greater land area than California and Texas combined. Now, although there are many cities in Alaska, the population is so low that an average number of students in a middle school classroom is only about 10. You can imagine many desolate small towns scattered around Alaska. It's probably because roads and railways serve only certain portions of the state. So, it's natural that Alaskans rely heavily on airplanes for transportation, since many parts of Alaska are accessible only via air. Well, of course, there is a railway operating between Fairbanks, a relatively big city in central Alaska, and Seward, a city on the southern coast. It is much more popular than the only major highway in Alaska, the Alaska Highway, which is open throughout the year. Not that there's much traffic. One does not need to venture far to understand the reason for its sparse population. Even though cold climate and other factors make most of Alaska a less-than-desirable location for farming, agriculture is conducted in a few areas between Fairbanks and the southern coast. Most of the food Alaskans need, however, must be imported from outside the state. Also, Alaska is subject to strong earthquakes and occasional volcanic activity. Your textbook describes the explosion of the Alaskan volcano Mount Katmai in the early 20th century as one of the most famous and violent volcanic eruptions in history. I strongly suggest you read up on that chapter, as we'll be touching on some of that the next time. Anyway, where was I? Oh yes, earthquakes... these occasional earthquakes generate seismic sea waves, called tsunamis. As you may have heard, these waves can reach far inland and destroy communities along the shore. It wasn't much different from the terrible tsunami of 2004.

1.2. ANSWER KEY - LISTENING TEST 2

PART 1

1. D. food
2. B. two hours
3. D. keep away from the city center
4. A. an interview
5. C. bankers
6. A. overtime pay
7. A. shut down the operations in a certain region
8. C. at a retirement party

PART 2

Questions 9 – 12

9. A. She owns a lot of necklaces.
10. D. It's impossible to find in any other place.

11. C. £20

12. C. £5

Questions 13 – 16

13. C. cycle

14. C. The number of participants was limited.

15. C. It has two bike options to choose from.

16. C. tradelectric.com

Questions 17 – 20

17. D. There are not so many routes.

18. B. the development of cycle paths

19. C. education

20. D. It has been expanded.

Questions 21 – 25

21. A. the theatre.

22. C. the famous actors that appear there.

23. D. souvenirs

24. B. to have a meal.

25. B. It has a green roof.

Questions 26 – 30

26. C. in a large vehicle

27. D. around 600 grams

28. C. The eardrums of the female are a lot smaller than those of the male.

29. D. other frogs

30. B. It consumes the food sources of the native species.

Questions 31 – 35

31. B. will not help countries meet their energy requirements.

32. B. serious problems for food production in some African regions.

33. D. energy companies are afraid the cost will affect their businesses.

34. A. commercial organizations need external help.

35. C. only renewable sources will be able to provide energy in the future.

AUDIO SCRIPTS

PART 1

1. Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Shakespeare Theater for the play The Course of Love. The show will take about two and a half hours, and there will be an intermission. During the intermission, refreshments can be purchased in the lobby. All the lights will be turned off shortly, so please remain seated. After the show, the director and leading characters will appear on the stage to share their ideas about the play. Thank you and enjoy the show.

2. Good morning, passengers. Welcome on board First Express Bus. My name is John Nixon, and I'm your driver for your journey to Hampton today. The trip normally takes one and a half hours. However, I just got a message from the main office that there is heavy traffic congestion on Highway 5R due to road construction. Therefore, it will take an extra 30 minutes to get to our destination. Thank you for your attention and enjoy the ride.

3. This is 101.5 PQBS radio. The weather is beautiful, and a lot of families are out in the downtown area to celebrate the 78th Memorial Day. Starting at 1 P.M., Oak Street will be closed because of the Memorial Day events. Heavy traffic delays are expected, so I would recommend avoiding the downtown area. I'll keep you posted about the traffic conditions. Next up is our correspondent Kelly Diaz. She will be telling us more about the events today.

4. Welcome back to the show. I'm your host, James Parker. Today, we'll be talking to the winner of the Anderson Music Awards, Brantley Lee. His new album released this May is becoming popular all around the world. Right now, let's listen to the title song, "*Why Can't You?*" and then he will join us for an interview about his new album and Asian tour scheduled for December.

5. Good afternoon, IAO International employees. I called this meeting to share some good news. We've finally achieved this quarter's sales goals for funds and stocks. I'd like to tell you how much I appreciate your exceptional work. I know that you've been working hard to get contracts with investors for the last few months. Therefore, management has decided to give you a bonus this month. Thank you again for your hard work!

6. Hello, everyone. I have an announcement to make. I've just been told that Robert Gray, the general manager of North America, will be visiting our restaurant tomorrow. It is very important to make a great impression on him. Since cleanliness is a critical factor when it comes to the restaurant business, I would like you all to stay a little late tonight after business hours to clean the restaurant. I will make sure that you get paid overtime. If you have any questions, talk to me anytime. Thank you.

7. Here is a graph that shows our market shares in different regions of the country. You can see that one of our regions occupies a very small market share. This problem stands out since the other three regions are doing a lot better this year. I am so sorry to announce this, but we have finally decided to close down the operations in the region where sales are much lower than the other regions. This decision was inevitable due to the increase in labor costs and the increased competition in the market. For those of you who have been working in this region, we will make every effort to minimize the damage that could possibly happen to you.

8. Welcome to this special gathering in honor of Dr. Thomas Joyce, who is leaving the Seattle Medical Center after 30 years of employment. While we are very sad to see Dr. Joyce leave, tonight is about celebrating his service and the growth that he has brought to the organization. As we all know, he started his medical career here and had been working as the director of the organ donation center for 10 years. Now that he is stepping down, he is planning to continue his career by teaching students at the Seattle Medical School.

PART 2

Questions 9 – 12

Sales assistant: Good afternoon, can I help you?

Customer: Yes, I'm looking for a gift for my sister. She's going to be 18 next week. So I thought a piece of jewellery would be nice.

Sales assistant: Good idea! Do you have anything particular in mind – a necklace, perhaps?

Customer: Mm, she has so many necklaces. I was thinking of a pair of earrings, possibly.

Sales assistant: Does she have a favourite colour?

Customer: Mm, she likes blue ...

Sales assistant: What about this pair? They have some beautiful little blue stones.

Customer: Mm ... They're quite nice, I suppose.

Sales assistant: They're silver, and they're handmade, so you won't find anything like them anywhere else.

Customer: Oh, really? So, how much are they?

Sales assistant: Well, they were £30, but actually we've got a sale on at the moment, so they're a little cheaper – only £20. So you can save £10!

Customer: Great. I'll take them.

Sales assistant: And would you like me to giftwrap them for you?

Customer: How much do you charge for that?

Sales assistant: For £4 we give you a pretty box and your own choice of wrapping paper. Or for £5 you can have our luxury wrapping service, which includes a silver box and silver ribbon. And if you would like a card to write your own personal message, that will be £2 extra.

Customer: Well, it's a special birthday so I'll take the luxury option. But I already have a card, thank you.

Sales assistant: That's fine. I'll do that for you now. And how would you like to pay – cash or card?

Questions 13 – 16

Rita: No, \$15. So I thought it was really quite cheap. And I didn't have to bring along a helmet to wear either. That was included – and we also got a lock, so it was easy to park our bikes safely when we wanted to stop and take a break!

Jon: Sounds good. Have you got the website address of the place you got your bike from? I quite like the idea of doing a bike tour.

Rita: Yes – it's a really easy one to remember. It's tradelectric.com

Jon: So, how's your very first week at university going, Rita? It's Orientation Week for all you new students, isn't it?

Rita: Yes, that's right - Orientation Week. Yes, it's great fun - there are so many different events going on to help us make friends and find our way around the university. And to get around the city, come to that! But you'll remember all that, Jon. You were a new student once!

Jon: That's true. I remember I went on a walking tour of the city on my first day. And I think some students did a bus tour.

Rita: Well, I did a bike tour - I was sent an email about it and I decided to sign up. There were only eight places and there were seven other names on the list already, so I got the very last place.

Jon: I didn't know you had a bike.

Rita: I don't have a bike but that didn't matter. We all hired them - from a little cycle hire shop on Barkway Street. You probably know the place.

Jon: Barclay Street? Do you mean the 'Barclay Street' on campus?

Rita: No, it's Barkway Street - B-A-R-K-W-A-Y. Number 22 Barkway Street, to be exact. It was great - we could choose a traditional bike or an electric one.

Jon: So I take it you went electric!

Rita: Yes, of course I did! Well, think about it - why ride a traditional bike when you can get around the city much faster on an electric one! And because there was a group of us, it wasn't too expensive. In fact the cycle hire was only a \$120 for the whole group. So the cost was only \$15 per person and that was for three whole hours!

Jon: Did you say \$50?

Jon: Can you say that again?

Rita: tradelectric - T-R-A-D-E-L-E-C-T-R-I-C all one word dot com.

Jon: Thanks, Rita.

Rita: No problem. Hey, maybe we can do a bike tour together. I'd love to cycle as far as the harbour next time.

Jon: Great! That's a date then!

Questions 17 – 20

Jane: Have you got the results from the survey we did about the changes that've been made to Ashtown in the last 25 years?

Bill: Yes, and there've been a lot of changes. Some of them people are happy about and some of them they aren't.

Jane: What, for example?

Bill: Well, for example, the bus system used to be much better and even though the old uncomfortable buses have been replaced with new stylish ones, fewer people use them.

Jane: Why is that?

Bill: A lot of people think it is because fares are higher, but that isn't true. In fact, the cost compared to average salaries is pretty much the same as 25 years ago. The fact is that the buses now just go to the most popular destinations and, as the city centre no longer allows vehicles, there are even fewer places where buses can go.

Jane: Most people must be happy with fewer cars in the town centre though?

Bill: I'm not so sure. Five years ago a bypass was supposed to be built so that people could easily get from one side of the town to the other, without going into the centre, but those plans still haven't happened. The biggest success in my opinion is the building of areas for cyclists. Far more people are travelling by bike and using the facilities than anybody could have imagined.

Jane: That's all very interesting, but how have the jobs that people do in the city changed? That's sure to have had an impact on what the town looks like.

Bill: You're not wrong there. The town used to be a lot more polluted due to all of the products that were made in factories here. Manufacturing is still important of course and services such as accountancy firms and website developers employ a lot of people in the town, but you only have to see the number of universities and colleges that have opened in the town in the last 25 years to see that is where most of the jobs are now.

Jane: OK, now shall we have a look at how some of the buildings have changed?

Bill: I think that first of all we should look at how the railway station has changed. As there are now fewer buses, more people drive to the railway station to take a train. Twenty-five years ago the car park was much smaller and, although it might not look very modern, most of the spaces have only been there for five years.

Jane: Oh yes, didn't the cinema used to be quite near the railway station? I suppose they built more spaces when they knocked it down.

Bill: That's right, the Grand Cinema used to be next to the railway station, but they rebuilt one exactly the same as the old one over in King Street.

Questions 21 – 25

Hello everyone. So can you all hear me and see me? OK, my name's David Edwards and I'm your tour leader for your shopping tour today. Now, as you can see, we're parked just in front of the main theatre. If any of you would like tickets for tonight's performance, we can arrange that for you. We're just round the corner from the railway station. If you want to come on our Historic Buildings tour tomorrow, the coach will leave from just outside the station. And if you want to go for a drink at the end of our tour today, there are plenty of cafés just behind the station.

We're still waiting for a few people, but while we wait I can tell you a little about the theatre. Although the building is very modern, in fact a theatre has existed on this site for over 200 years. The original theatre used to be very popular because of the musicals it put on. However, it had to be rebuilt after a fire. Some people love the striking modern design, others hate it. These days, its popularity is mainly due to the fact that it attracts a lot of well-known performers.

Now, in a few minutes' time – at 9.30 – we'll be starting our tour. First we're going to make our way down to Market Place, which is one of the most famous squares in the city – that should take us about ten minutes. There's not too much traffic on the roads, so we should get there at quarter to ten at the latest.

Market Place was the city's old food market. People used to come in from the countryside to sell their fresh fruit and vegetables. Remember that these were the days before supermarkets! You won't find any food here now though. It's now a craft market and I think you'll find lots to interest you – especially if you want to take presents home. You'll see all kinds of things like hand-painted local pottery and leather goods. Personally, I suggest that you visit the jewellery stalls. You really won't find anything like it anywhere else! But if you're looking for clothes, I'm afraid you'll be disappointed. Wait for this afternoon's visit.

We'll stop at Market Place for an hour and a half and then continue the tour with a visit to the Regional Food Centre. Here you can find over 50 types of local cheeses! There is also fresh fruit juice on sale – orange juice, peach juice, pomegranate juice, produced in the villages of the region, and local jam too. You're welcome to buy things to take home with you, but the real reason for our visit is lunch. The idea is that you buy food and drink from the stalls and take it to eat in the lovely open-air dining area.

And finally, in the afternoon we will be visiting the Fashion Fair in the exhibition centre on the outskirts of the city. This is a huge venue, so try not to get lost. There is a whole hall devoted just to footwear – every kind of shoes and boots you can imagine. You can easily find it because it has a green roof. Just don't go through the blue doors at the entrance of the centre – you have to pay for that part of the exhibition. And if all that shopping has exhausted you, there's a café where you can rest your weary feet! That's in the building with a red sign. But don't worry, I'll remind you all about that later.

Right, everyone's here now, so, if you've all got your shopping bags, let's go!

Questions 26 – 30

Good morning, everyone. In today's lecture I want to talk to you about a very unpopular animal here in Britain. In fact, you could say that it's one of our least loved animals! It's called the American bullfrog and yes, it does in fact come from America – the east of America, to be exact – and it was brought to Britain in the early 19th century, so you could say that it's been here for quite a long time. It wasn't brought here on purpose – it actually arrived in a big container of aquatic plants. In other words, it was accidentally introduced into Britain.

Now, I'll tell you a little about its appearance. The American bullfrog is a very large – and ugly – species of frog. And when I say it's large, I mean *large*. Interestingly, female American bullfrogs are usually much larger than the males. In fact, they can weigh up to 750 grams, whereas the males only go up to about 600 grams. Take a look at its head – it's really broad and flat, isn't it? And you can see its mouth – just here – that's quite large too.

Now, both the male and the female American bullfrogs have green or brown bodies and have dark spots on the top. But there's one important difference between them – the male's throat is yellow but the female has a white one instead. And the other difference is their eardrums, here just behind their eyes. Those of the male are much larger than the female's.

So, let's move on to why we so dislike the American bullfrog. Well, this is because it has threatened our own native species of frogs. Firstly, it breeds very quickly indeed. For example, female bullfrogs can lay up to 25,000 eggs every single season. And secondly, the American bullfrog is very greedy. In fact, they eat just about anything they can put into their mouths! As well as other frogs, they eat insects, fish and have even been known to eat birds and snakes! So, in other words, they eat the food sources of our own native species. Thirdly, they carry a disease that is dangerous to other frogs. And finally, they don't just damage our natural world, they cause financial damage too. Around £100,000 has been spent monitoring the American bullfrog in the wild.

So, as scientists, we can learn a lesson from this about the dangers of introducing any living species into a new environment.

Questions 31 – 35

Lecturer: While fracking is being used around the world, we've seen that there are serious concerns about it. What's clear is that fracking isn't the answer to the growing worldwide need for energy as countries increase their consumption. Already, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has reached 400 parts per million. This may not seem very high, but we have to remember that 200 years ago the level was around 280 parts per million, so it's increased by over a third since then. As a result, it's estimated that global temperatures have already increased by almost one degree Celsius. This increase changes the climate and affects the weather in many parts of the world. Many places, such as north-west Europe, are expected to become warmer and wetter, and we've seen winter storms becoming worse in this region. Other places such as sub-Saharan Africa are expected to become hotter and drier, with deserts growing in area and seriously affecting farmland. Ice in the polar regions will melt and sea levels will rise, which will put coastal cities in greater danger of flooding.

Clearly, we need to reduce, and eventually stop, using non-renewable resources like coal, oil and gas. It may well be true that fracking can slow down global warming for a while and allow us to develop better renewable resources. However, these resources, like wind, wave and solar power, are currently far more expensive to develop than shale gas production. On top of that, they take a long time to develop and start paying for themselves. Consumers have to pay higher bills to help the development of cleaner sources, and energy companies don't want to lose customers by asking them to pay more. Consequently, it's important for international organisations like the United Nations and national governments to support the development of renewable resources. The problem here, of course, is that governments usually think of short-term answers to energy problems and not longer-term ones. They're afraid that if they reduce the production and use of gas and oil, their economies will do worse than other economies, so they don't want to take action to increase the use of renewable sources.

As I mentioned earlier, there are many people in different countries, like Canada, the UK and France, who don't support fracking, especially if it's going to take place near where they live.

Environmental groups also oppose fracking, not just because they want to protect people living in areas where fracking is planned, but also because they see fracking as part of the old way of doing things, like burning coal, oil and gas and increasing global warming. They want to see continued action and are trying to persuade governments to develop wind, wave and solar power, as well as other renewable forms of energy, to fight global warming and ensure the supply of energy in the future. Certainly, coal, oil and gas will run out one day, and if we haven't developed other forms of renewable energy, we'll then have serious problems with supplying energy to the growing world population, and the problems of fracking will seem relatively unimportant.

2. ANSWER KEY - READING**2.1. ANSWER KEY - READING TEST 1**

PART 1	PART 2	PART 3	PART 4
1. A	11. D	21. B	31. C
2. C	12. A	22. A	32. C
3. A	13. B	23. B	33. B
4. D	14. A	24. C	34. A
5. B	15. A	25. A	35. B
6. A	16. C	26. B	36. B
7. C	17. C	27. C	37. B
8. D	18. B	28. A	38. A
9. D	19. C	29. C	39. C
10. A	20. B	30. D	40. D

2.2. ANSWER KEY - READING TEST 2

1. C	11. A	21. B	31. B
2. D	12. D	22. D	32. A
3. C	13. A	23. A	33. A
4. B	14. A	24. C	34. C
5. A	15. C	25. D	35. D
6. B	16. C	26. C	36. D
7. A	17. C	27. B	37. C
8. B	18. B	28. D	38. A
9. C	19. A	29. B	39. C
10. D	20. D	30. D	40. D

ANSWERKEY AND AUDIOSCRIPTS (Skill Practice)

LISTENING

ANSWER KEY AND TAPESCRIP

PRACTICE 1

Practice 1.1.

1. D 2. A 3. C 4. B 5. A 6. B

SCRIPT

1. I am pleased to introduce Mr. Lee Kim, author of Amazon Adventure. Mr. Kim, a retired lawyer, amateur photographer, and now a writer, spent the last year traveling by canoe down the Amazon River. He will discuss his travels in the Amazon region on which he based his book, and show some of the photographs he took during his trip. He's sure to have some amazing stories, so hold on to your seats.

2. Thank you all for taking the time to attend this meeting. I'd like to keep it brief, so let me get straight to the point. Staff members have been making unauthorized charges to the office expense account for things like lunches and taxi rides that are not related to your jobs. As a result of this, in the future, all charges to the office expense account must be approved by me ahead of time.

3. All schools will be closed today because of last night's snowstorm. The streets are still icy and dangerous for cars and buses. It is possible that schools will remain closed for several days as it could take some time to get all the streets cleared and safe for travel. Listen to the evening news to find out tomorrow's school schedule.

4. Do you get your sports news from television? Are you getting tired of all the commercial interruptions on TV? You don't have to be annoyed by commercials any more. Our magazine gives you all the latest sports news commercial-free. Read it to find out what's happening in the world of football, baseball, and basketball. Learn all about your favorite athletes. Our magazine gives you all this and more. Subscribe today.

5. Let Services, Inc. plan your next conference. We take care of it all—reserving rooms, printing schedules, ordering food, arranging entertainment. Our experienced planners take the headache out of conferences. Services, Inc. guarantees that your next conference will be a success. Call today for your free initial consultation.

6. Winter weather got you down? Chase those winter blues away by taking a trip to a sun-filled island. We offer both weekend and weeklong packages to the Sunshine Islands. Choose a cruise, stay at a resort, or relax at a quaint village inn. Take a fast-paced tour of the island hot spots, or opt for a slow-paced, low-key visit to the beach. You'll love our luxury accommodations and our economical prices. Call today to book your tour.

Practice 1.2.

1. C 2. A 3. B 4. B 5. D 6. A

SCRIPT

1. Welcome to Introduction to Economics. The textbook for this course, Economics for the New Millennium, is available at the university bookstore. The price is a bit steep, but I think you will

find it is well worth it. Please bring your books to the next class. There will be two exams—a midterm and a final—in addition to which you will write several short research papers.

2. All of you need to be aware of our return policy. Please don't accept any returns from customers without a dated receipt. Also make sure all returned items are in good condition before accepting them. Check the items carefully as we have had problems in the past with customers returning damaged goods. Remember we issue store credit, not cash, for returns. If you receive complaints about this, please let me know.

3. You have reached Dr. Galbraith's office. If this is an emergency, please hang up and call an ambulance. If you would like to make an appointment or ask for medical advice, please call back during our regular office hours. We are open from ten to six Monday through Friday, and from nine to twelve on the first Saturday of each month. You need to make an appointment because we don't accept walk-ins. Thank you.

4. Remind the passengers that we will be landing shortly. Check to make sure all seat belts are fastened and ask the passengers to turn off all cell phones and recording devices. Find out if there is anyone with small children requiring extra assistance or if anyone needs help getting to a connecting flight.

5. The following is a public service announcement, brought to you by Radio XYZ. Because of the drought, government officials are asking all city residents to conserve water. Residents are asked not to fill their swimming pools or water their gardens until further notice. Right now, the government is asking residents to do this on a voluntary basis, although if the situation becomes severe, it is possible that fines will be imposed. Stay tuned to Radio XYZ for all the latest updates.

6. Thank you for calling the city hotline, your information source for all city events. For theater schedules and ticket orders, press 1. For museum information, including information on special exhibits, the lecture series at the art museum, and the foreign film series at the history museum, press 2. To hear about upcoming sports events at the city stadium, press 3. To speak to an operator, please stay on the line.

Practice 1.3.

1. B 2. A 3. B 4. D 5. D 6. C

SCRIPT

1. We are having a sale on specialty coffee. Today only you can get two pounds of coffee for the price of one. All of our South American and Central American blends are on sale. Our coffee is available whole bean or ground. Coffee is located on aisle five next to the produce section. There is a limit of four pounds per customer.

2. Good morning, passengers. This is the green line train to the airport. Please remember that the specially marked seats next to the doors are reserved for physically challenged passengers. Smoking, eating, and drinking are not allowed. Next stop, Central Square. Transfer there to the blue line for all uptown destinations.

3. All members of the soccer team are reminded that the bus to the out-of-town game will leave from the front of the school at 3:15. Please be on the bus and ready to go by then. The computer club will meet in the auditorium today and the Spanish Club will meet in the cafeteria. Due to the illness of several of its members, the graduation dance committee meeting has been postponed until next week.

4. Hi, it's Martha. I guess you've already left home. OK, well, I'm leaving the gym now. I had a great workout and now I'm really hungry and looking forward to dinner. So you'd better not be late. It'll probably take me about twenty minutes to get to the restaurant. I'm walking because I don't want to have to park the car. See you soon.

5. Move to the back, move to the back, please. The fare's \$1.50, exact change only. Please stand behind the white line. Move away from the door, please. I can't go anywhere until you let me close the door. Thank you. Next stop, Fifth Avenue, Fifth Avenue and the downtown shopping district.

6. To your right are several paintings by Picasso. Close examination shows the fine brushwork he used. These paintings represent some of Picasso's lesser-known work and are among our more recent acquisitions. We'll take a restroom break next, then continue on to the second floor galleries, where we'll view works by nineteenth-century artists. We'll start in the East Room, which houses our collection of pastoral landscapes.

PRACTICE 2

1. D 2. B 3. C 4. B 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. C 9. B 10. A

SCRIPT

1. This is your captain. I hope you're enjoying the flight. It's a beautiful day out there. Off the left of the aircraft you can see Mt. Rushmore, and on the right, the approach to Deadwood, South Dakota. Our radar indicates some turbulence ahead, so I'm going to ask you all to fasten your seat belts and stay in your seats.

2. Welcome aboard our Tropical Garden Tour. I'm Kathy, your tram operator and tour guide. Please remain seated in the tram for the duration of the tour. I also ask that you please keep from leaning out the windows. Sometimes I'll be taking us very close to some large tree branches, and I don't want anyone getting hurt. Also, please refrain from picking any leaves or flowers. Our plants are for everyone to enjoy! So much for the precautions. Our first stop is coming up on your left. It's our rare orchid collection. About half of these plants are in full bloom. Some give off a very pleasant scent, and they're all colorful.

3. Next week is our community clean-up drive. Last year it was a dismal failure. Only fifteen people showed up. This year we hope to do better—much better. I want to see all of you at this year's event. To help convince you to participate, I remind you that making our neighborhood clean of trash and litter is for your benefit. Also, to help you convince members of your family to join the drive, remind them that when we finish, there will be free hot dogs and refreshments as well as games for the kids. See you next Saturday. We'll start at ten in the morning and finish at one in the afternoon.

4. Hello. Welcome to Sunday Evening Radio News Talk. Our guest this evening is Dr. Quimby Jones, professor of economics at National University. During the first half hour of the show, Dr. Jones will talk about the current economic situation in our country, especially about the problems in the agricultural sector, and answer your questions about the economy. So please call us at 649-555-2594 to speak with Dr. Jones. Following that, we will have our usual weekly news review. During the last ten minutes of the show we will read from your letters and e-mails commenting on last week's show. So settle in for the next hour to enjoy Sunday Evening Radio News Talk.

5. Good afternoon, class. Today we'll continue our discussion of ancient Chinese history. I'm sorry, the video I planned to show is unavailable. Instead, I have some slides to show you. These slides show some examples of ancient Chinese art and architecture, some views of the Great Wall, and

some other things. If you read the assignment in your textbook, then you already have some background on the building of the Great Wall. Speaking of assignments, I have some articles for you to read for next week, some of the best written on the subject of Chinese history, in my opinion. Also, don't forget that next week we have a special guest, Dr. Smith, our own university president, who will talk about his recent trip to China.

PRACTICE 3: REVIEW

1. C 2. A 3. C 4. B 5. D 6. A 7. C 8. A 9. A 10. B 11. B 12. C
 13. D 14. C 15. A

SCRIPT

[Questions 1 through 3 are based on this announcement]

Paging Glasgow-bound passenger Kim, Mr. Chang Su Kim. Mr. Kim, please come to the ticket counter of British Airways International or pick up one of the white information telephones located throughout the airport to receive an important message.

[Questions 4 through 6 are based on this announcement]

Attention, shoppers. It's time for seafood month again at Food King. Be sure to stop by our fresh seafood department to see our catch of the day. Today's catch is delicious salmon steaks, perfect for grilling over charcoal. Today only, these salmon steaks are two for the price of one. And while you're at it, stop by our bakery for some French bread, still warm from the oven.

[Questions 7 through 9 are based on this announcement]

Attention, all passengers, this is your captain speaking: There is a four-year-old boy named Nicholas who says he became separated from his mother and father in the snack bar on Deck A. He's waiting for his parents in the purser's office on Deck C. And to all our other passengers: we should be docking in the next few minutes. I hope you've enjoyed your trip despite the rough seas.

[Questions 10 through 12 are based on this talk]

The next two-hour tour of Monument Cavern will depart in fifteen minutes. You may purchase your tickets in the gift shop. Tickets are six dollars for adults, four dollars for children six to twelve, and children under six are free. As soon as you have purchased your tickets, please come to the elevators at the north side of the building. The elevators will take you down to the top level of the cave.

[Questions 13 through 15 refer to this announcement]

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen: we have reached our cruising altitude of 36,000 feet, and we're about 60 miles northwest of Flagstaff, Arizona. Those of you seated on the right-hand side of the aircraft should be able to see the Grand Canyon off in the distance. We're estimating our time of arrival at Denver International Airport at around nine a.m. Mountain Standard Time — about two hours from now. We're running about twenty minutes late due to our delayed departure from Los Angeles. In just a few minutes, our cabin attendants will begin food and beverage service, but for now, we'd like to invite you to sit back, relax, and enjoy the flight.

PRACTICE 4

1. B	5. C	9. A	13. C
2. C	6. A	10. C	14. A
3. A	7. B	11. C	15. C
4. A	8. C	12. B	16. B

Questions 1-2: Listen to a conversation between a teacher and a student.

M1: Professor Mueller, I've almost finished preparing my presentation for your class, but I'm not really satisfied with it. Could you give me some advice?

F2: I'll be happy to. What topic did you choose?

M1: It's about methods of predicting earthquakes, but so far, it's just a lot of facts and figures. How can I make it more interesting?

F2: Maybe you could use some computer graphics to help the class make sense of your statistics.

Questions 3-4: Listen to a conversation that takes place on a college campus.

F1: Hi there, Doctor Newman. Do you remember me?

M2: Oh, sure. We met at the reception in the dean's office last week, didn't we?

F1: That's right. I'm Alice Hart. Are you on your way to a class?

M2: Yes, I am, but I'm not in any great hurry. How about you?

F1: Me, too. I've got a German class in a few minutes.

M2: Well, I'm going to a language class myself. You see, I teach signing.

F1: Signing?

M2: Right, signing. Signing is just a short way of saying American Sign Language. It's the language deaf people use to communicate.

Questions 5-6: Listen to the following conversation.

F1: I'm in Professor Quinn's psychology class. She told us that she'd put some articles on reserve for her class.

F2: Yes, those would be at the reserve desk.

F1: Do I need a library card to look at those articles?

F2: No, just a student ID card. If you've never checked out any reserve materials, I can tell you what you need to do.

Questions 7-9: Listen to a conversation that takes place at a hospital.

F1: Good afternoon, Dr. Marshall. I know you must be very busy, so I appreciate your taking some time to talk to me. .

M2: That's all right. What can I do for you?

F1: Well, I'm interested in a career in hospital administration. My academic advisor suggested I speak to you. I was hoping you could give me some information about the field.

M2: I'd be glad to. Is there something particular you wanted to know?

F1: I was wondering what type of educational background a hospital administrator needs. Is a degree in medicine required?

M2: No, not necessarily. Some hospital administrators are medical doctors, but many of us aren't. My own doctoral degree is in public administration.

Question 10: Listen to the following conversation.

M1: Come on, Dorothy, turn off that television and let's go. The softball game starts in twenty minutes.

F2: Just a second-I want to find out who won the race.

M1: What race-a marathon?

F2: Well, it's kind of a marathon, but for dogs and dog sledgers. It's called the Iditarod. It's run every year in Alaska.

Questions 11-12: Listen to the following conversation.

M1: Well, I had a nice, relaxing vacation. How about you, Tina?

F2: I wouldn't exactly call it relaxing, but it was interesting.

M1: I remember you said you were either going to Europe or you were going to work at your parents' company.

F2: I changed my mind and didn't do either of those. My anthropology professor talked me into volunteering for an archaeological project in New Mexico.

M1: That *does* sound interesting.

Questions 13-14: Listen to the following telephone conversation.

(Ring... ring.... Sound of phone being picked up.)

F1: Good morning. Thanks for calling the Sales Office of Hillman and Johnson Publishers.

M2: Yes, hello. This is Dave Gruening. I'm the manager of Kennedy Bookstore at Southwestern State University. I'm calling to check on the availability of a textbook, *Case Studies in International Business*, for the spring semester.

F1: Let me just check that on my computer. (Sound of keystrokes.) Um, let's see, is that the text by Sternberg?

M2: That's right. I'll need at least 120 copies sent to the bookstore at the latest by next Wednesday.

F1: I can't really promise they'll be there by next Wednesday-it may be the following week.

M2: But that class starts on Monday of the following week.

Questions 15-16: Listen to a conversation that takes place in a university office.

M1: Hi. How can I help you?

F2: I'm looking for an application form for the graduate school-can I pick one up here?

M1: No, this is the Financial Aid Office. Graduate Admissions is across campus from here. Do you know where Nicholson Hall is? It's in the office building next to that.

F2: Um, I'm not sure-I'm not very familiar with this campus.

PRACTICE 5

1.C	4.C	7.A	10.A	13.C	16.C
2.B	5.A	8.B	11.C	14.C	17.B
3.C	6.A	9.A	12.C	15.B	

Questions 1-2: Listen to Portion 1 of Conversation A.

F1: I just read an article in a magazine that talked about different types of exercise. Guess what kind it recommended?

M1: Let's see-was it jogging?

F1: No, according to the article, jogging can cause leg and foot injuries for some people.

Questions 3-4: Listen to Portion 2 of Conversation A.

M1: Then what kind of exercise did the article suggest?

F1: Cross-country skiing. The article said cross-country skiing exercises almost all of the muscle systems of the body, and that it's good for the heart and lungs.

M1: Cross-country skiing! I would never have guessed that-Tell me, how is cross-country skiing different from downhill skiing?

F1: Well, for one thing, you don't have to go to the mountains to go cross-country skiing. You can go anywhere there's snow.

Questions 5-6: Listen to Portion 3 of Conversation A.

M1: But what if there isn't enough snow to go skiing?

F1: The article said that there are exercise machines that provide almost the same kind of exercise. The only problem is, they're fairly expensive.

M1: I see. So if you have one of these machines, you can get the best kind of exercise and not even get your ears cold!

Questions 7-8: Listen to Portion 1 of Conversation B.

F2: You look exhausted this morning, Steve.

M1: I *am* pretty tired. I stayed up nearly all night getting ready for a midterm exam this morning.

F2: Have you gotten the results of the test yet?

M1: Yes, and unfortunately, my grade could have been much better. No matter how much time I spend studying, I never seem to do well on tests.

Questions 9-10: Listen to Portion 2 of Conversation B.

F2: You know, Steve, if I were you, I'd consider taking some of the seminars offered by the Study Skills Center.

M1: The Study Skills Center? Never heard of it.

F2: Well, it's run by a group of graduate students and professors who help undergraduate students improve their study techniques. See, last semester, I had to do a research paper for a sociology course, but I had no idea how to collect research materials until I took one of the seminars at the Center.

Questions 11-13: Listen to Portion 3 of Conversation B.

M1: What kind of seminars does the Center offer that could help me?

F2: They have one on test-taking skills. There's also a seminar that teaches you to manage your time efficiently. You should find *that* useful, I should think.

M1: You're probably right. Where is the Center?

F2: They hold most of their seminars in the library, but the main office is in Staunton Hall, right across the quadrangle from the Physics Tower.

M1: You know, I think I'll go over there right now.

F2: Why don't you wait until tomorrow? Right now, you should go home and catch up on your sleep.

Questions 14-15: Listen to Portion 1 of Conversation C.

F1: Hello, Roger. You're looking thoughtful today. What's on your mind?

M2: Well, Margie, you know the public television station is having an auction to raise money. They need to build a new transmitter tower so that viewers can get a clearer picture. I watch that channel a lot. I'd like to help out, but I don't really have anything to donate to the auction, and I can't afford to buy something new.

F1: Why not donate a service?

M2: What do you mean?

F1: Well, Roger, you're an experienced carpenter, right? Why don't you offer two hours of your carpentry work for free to whoever makes the highest bid?

Questions 16-17: Listen to Portion 2 of Conversation C.

M2: That's a great idea! Thanks. And say, I know you watch some shows on that channel yourself. Why don't you donate a service too?

F1: You know, I'd like to help, but I have final exams coming up, so I'd better not make too many commitments. But I will come to the auction, and I'll bring my parents with me. I know they'd like to get some expert carpentry work done.

PRACTICE 6

1. B	5. B	9. B
2. A	6. A	10. C
3. C	7. C	
4. B	8. A	

Questions 1-2: Listen to the following talk.

F1: Hello there, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Larabee Springs Wildlife Preserve. Today, you'll have the chance to see one of the largest herds of buffaloes in North America and many other types of wildlife. I hope all of you have your cameras with you.

Question 3-4: Listen to a talk given at an athletic club.

M1: I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for coming out to the Edgewood Athletic Club for our exhibition match. Before the match gets under way, I'd like to give you all a little background on how the sport of handball is played. Even though it's a game with a long tradition, some people aren't as familiar with the rules of this sport as they might be with, say, those of tennis.

Questions 5-6: Listen to a talk given at a factory.

M1: Good morning. On behalf of our management team and our workers, I'd like to welcome all of you to our plant. You may have wondered, how do soft drinks get in those cans? How are the cans sealed? By the end of the tour, you'll know the answers. Now, please follow me out onto the factory floor.

Questions 7-8: Listen to the following talk.

F2: Since all of you have expressed interest in joining the university dance program, I probably don't have to say much about the physical and psychological rewards of being in a dance program such as this one. Instead, I want to concentrate on some of the drawbacks-the demands that will be put on your time and the sacrifices you'll be called on to make if you are chosen for the program.

Questions 9-10: Listen to the following talk.

M2: As president of the State Historical Society, I'd like to call this meeting to order, and welcome all our members and guests. Tonight, I'm going to give you a short presentation on some famous shipwrecks, especially shipwrecks that took place in the waters off New England.

PRACTICE 7

Talk A	Talk B	Talk C
1. B	7. B	13. A
2. A	8. C	14. C
3. C	9. B	15. B
4. B	10. B	16. A
5. C	11. C	17. B
6. B	12. A	18. A 19. C 20. C 21. B

Questions 1-2: Listen to Portion 1 of Talk A.

M1: I'd like to welcome all of you to what is, I think, the most unusual course offered by the biology department—the Ecology of Coral Reefs. This course is unique because of our research methods. We don't just collect data from the library. Instead, we go to a coral reef in the Virgin Islands to do field studies.

Questions 3-4: Listen to Portion 2 of Talk A.

M1: To prepare you for this trip, we'll first do some formal classroom work in biology. We'll also be going to the university pool to practice scuba diving and to learn the basics of underwater photography. And we'll be talking about precautions you must take to avoid damaging the reef. A coral reef is a very fragile environment, as you'll see.

Questions 5-6: Listen to Portion 3 of Talk A.

M1: Because of the nature of this course, it does require a certain financial commitment on your part. The department can only provide basic equipment for you. You have to pay for your own air fare to the Virgin Islands as well as for your food and lodging. There are a few limited scholarships available for those who might have financial problems. See me after class if you're interested in applying for one of these. Any questions?

Questions 7-8: Listen to Portion 1 of Talk B.

F1: The largest American land mammals are bears. Maybe because bears can stand up and walk on two legs, we humans have always found them fascinating. Another characteristic bears have in common with humans is their range of appetite. As a matter of fact, they'll eat almost anything: berries, roots, nuts, meat, fish—and of course, they're particularly fond of honey.

Questions 9-10: Listen to Portion 2 of Talk B.

F1: The largest bear is the giant kodiak of Alaska. When this giant stands up, it may reach a height of ten feet, and it may weigh up to fifteen hundred pounds. Ten feet tall and weighing three quarters of a ton—what a sight they must be! Outside of Alaska, the largest bear in the United States is the grizzly bear. There aren't many of these bears left in North America—probably only a few thousand. Most of those live in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

Questions 11-12: Listen to Portion 3 of Talk B.

F1: Now, the most common bear in the United States is the black bear, which you'll see in many parts of the country. These bears are smaller than grizzlies and may seem friendly, but watch out! Like all bears, they are unpredictable and can be dangerous.

Questions 13-14: Listen to Portion 1 of Talk C.

F2: The skies above Earth are turning into a junkyard, according to space scientists. Ever since the Soviet Union launched *Sputnik*, the first satellite, way back in 1957, virtually every launch has contributed to the amount of debris in Earth orbit. Luckily, most of this junk burns up after it reenters the Earth's atmosphere, but some will be up there in orbit for years to come.

Questions 15-16: Listen to Portion 2 of Talk C.

F2: Today, there are about 8,000 bodies in orbit being monitored from Earth. Out of all those, only around 3 to 4 hundred are active and useful. There are also probably half a million pieces of debris too tiny to be monitored.

Questions 17-18: Listen to Portion 3 of Talk C.

F2: Some orbital debris is as big as a bus, but most is in the form of tiny flecks of paint or pieces of metal. The debris also includes food wrappers, an astronaut's glove, the lens cap from a camera, broken tools, and bags of unwashed uniforms. The largest pieces-mostly empty booster rockets-are not necessarily the most dangerous because they can be detected and spacecraft can maneuver away from them. And the smallest particles generally cause only surface damage. However, a collision with a piece of metal only an eighth of an inch in diameter-say about the size of an aspirin-could puncture the hull of a spacecraft or space station and cause a catastrophic depressurization. That's because these particles are moving so incredibly fast!

Questions 19-21: Listen to Portion 4 of Talk C.

F2: So what can be done about this problem? Well, two engineers recently proposed a novel solution to the problem of orbital junk, a device that consists of an array of water-spraying cones lined with plastic fibers to collect the debris and canisters to store it in. I brought a model of this device along with me so you could see what it looks like. Although this invention is still in its conceptual stage, two possible uses have been proposed. It could be launched as a free-flying satellite that actively seeks out debris or it could be launched into orbit with a spacecraft and serve as its shield.

ANSWERKEY – READING - SKILL PRACTICE

Question type 1: VOCABULARY

Strategy 1: Connect the word to the one you already know.

The answer is [A]. We know the meaning of the word “former”, so you can probably guess the answer is related to the meaning of “former”

Strategy 2: Understand through context

The answer is [D]. Let's first simplify the meaning of the sentence that contains the prompt word. The release of heat energy is retarded by the tall vertical city walls that do not allow infrared radiation to escape as readily as does the relatively level surface of the surrounding countryside. ----> The tall vertical city walls are doing something to the heat energy because they do not allow infrared radiation to escape.

Now we can use context to answer. So what are they doing? It's going to be something similar to “not allowed”, so we can eliminate answer choices [B] and [C]. Can heat energy be disguised? Maybe, but it doesn't seem to match up quite right, making [D] our best choice here. So the sentence is saying that the city walls slow down the heat energy, which fits with the rest of the passage

Strategy 3: Check if the word is an adjective, adverb, verb, or noun and eliminate incorrect choices

(B) is the correct answer, meaning leaving no doubt. Using this strategy, we know that the word “unequivocal” is an adjective, so we can eliminate choice (D) largely, which is an adverb. Now, let's use context to answer. Both “deniable” and “unclear” carry a negative meaning, but the rest of this passage clearly describes what evidence scientists found from coprolites. Therefore, (A) and (C) can be eliminated.

PRACTICE 1

B is correct because increase is closest in meaning to augment.

PRACTICE 2

C is correct because accurate is closest in meaning to precise in this situation.

PRACTICE 3

D is correct because contracting occurs when our muscles or something tighten. Options A and C are very similar and can, thus, be eliminated. In the context, this word is directly followed by “...and relaxing...”, so “contracting” must somehow be complementary to relaxing. In this situation, “tightening” (D) fits best.

Question type 2: REFERENCE

Sample Question

C is the correct answer. It is referring to who traded guns and other weapons for beaver fur. A and B are in the passage but do not trade for beaver fur.

PRACTICE 1

A is correct because the word “diffusion” is another word for “spread”, and the specific spread to which “this diffusion” is referring is the “spread of technology”. The answer is in the same sentence but it still comes before the pronoun referent.

PRACTICE 2

B is correct because the pronoun “they” refers back to “people”, which is in the same sentence but comes before the pronoun referent.

Question type 3: FACTUAL INFORMATION**Sample Questions**

B is correct because we can immediately eliminate option **a** as it was a male scientist, not a female. A sentence with some of the keywords in option **b** – “diseases”, “injuries”, and “1900’s” – is in the passage and is true. Like most answers, it is restated using synonyms. Options **c** and **d** contain modifiers that might signal to us that they are wrong as well as other words that greatly change the meaning from the passage.

PRACTICE 1

B is correct because the other 3 options are all untrue – they each contain at least a word that changes its original meaning. The passage states “Human anatomy was first studied by observing the exterior of the body and observing the wounds of soldiers...”. While the words “human anatomy” are mentioned a few times, the answer can be found by searching for other keywords like “soldiers” and “wounds”.

PRACTICE 2

A is correct because the final sentence states that bones experience “remodeling” or “changes” based on the “forces or lack of forces” – which is also referred to as mechanical stress in the paragraph – put on them. For this question and answer, it is necessary to read most of the passage because the keyword “bones” from the question is mentioned several times throughout. Since the keywords in option **a** are spaced out throughout the paragraph also, it might be necessary to go on to options **b**, **c**, and **d** and eliminate incorrect choices first. Option **b** has some keywords that help us locate the sentence quickly – “1-2 percent” and “mass” – but the answer does not match what is written in the paragraph. For, it says “astronauts can lose 1- 2 percent...per month,” not that they do every month. Options **c** and **d** are untrue; the actual facts can be found by searching for the keywords “size”, “weight” and “thicker”.

Question type 4: NEGATIVE FACTUAL INFORMATION**Sample Questions**

D is the correct answer. Selective breeding is not the major hole, but the presence of irreducibly complex systems is.

A is incorrect because it is stated in this paragraph “As Darwin himself admitted, “To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus for different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection”.

B is incorrect because it is stated in “One of the major holes in Darwin's theory revolves around “irreducibly complex systems.” An irreducibly complex system is known as a system where many different parts must all operate together. As a result, in the absence of one, the system as a whole collapses” and “These complex systems, if so inter-reliant, would be resistant to Darwin's supposition of how evolution occurs”

C is incorrect as the irreducibly complex system is the major hole in the theory of natural selection and modern technology proves the existence of the irreducibly complex system.

PRACTICE 1

A is correct because the modifier “sole” has been added and is not included in the original statement about altitude sickness in paragraph 2. In fact, the sentence states that the lower pressure is only part of the cause of altitude sickness.

PRACTICE 2

D is correct because the passage does not specifically mention “disrupted for a time” or “no real long-term effects”. Some of the keywords – “functions” and “stroke” – can be found in more than one sentence in the passage, but none they only refer to the “loss of functions” and do not make mention of the duration.

Question type 5: INFERENCE**Sample Questions**

[C] is the correct answer.

[A] There's no mention of the geologists keeping this event a secret, so we can eliminate A.

[B] The Yucatan wasn't discovered as being the location until later in the passage, meaning it wasn't well-known, so we can eliminate B.

[D] Climate isn't named as a factor in the discovery, so answer choice D can also be eliminated.

[C] Choice C is the best choice, as we see from our notes under the main ideas, the collision occurred in 1980 and geologists didn't locate the area until 1990.

PRACTICE 1

Answer: Option C.

In the given question, the answer can be inferred from the lines: Or to state the same point in a somewhat different manner: the teacher should be occupied not with subject matter in itself but in its interaction with the pupils' present needs and capacities.

Hence simple scholarship is not enough.

This leads us to option 3. Option 2 reverses the actually given fact, option 1 is insufficient and option 4 is not related to the given paragraph.

PRACTICE 2

Answer: Option C.

The paragraph has one simple outcome: in a social environment, an individual cannot act, think or feel without considering others. This simple fact is illustrated by option 3. Option 4 commits the mistake of using the word retrospectively (In a manner contemplative of past events). Option 1 commits the mistake of only quoting the actions of others, and option 2 brings in ‘motivations’, something which is not mentioned in the paragraph.

Question type 6: SENTENCE INSERTION**Sample Questions**

[B] is the correct answer. Our prompt sentence contains specific information regarding seagrasses. Now we need to find the sentence that has general information and place this one after. Sentence [B] introduces seagrasses and defines the term. The next sentence discusses seagrass beds, a term used in our prompt sentence, so we need to place the prompt sentence between these two, making [B] the correct choice.

PRACTICE 1

[B] is the correct answer. Here, we need to match back “this type of art” to what it is referencing in order to correctly place the prompt sentence. It’s referencing rock art, named in the first sentence, making the correct answer [B].

PRACTICE 2

D is correct. The sentence mentions “biochemistry” which is explained in the previous sentence, so it makes sense for the missing sentence to be placed here. Also, the missing sentence fits nicely in place D because it introduces the “sub-branches” of chemistry that the next sentence lists and explains. It does not fit in place C because the following sentence explains what biochemistry is and does not mention any sub-branches or subdisciplines. The sentence does not fit or flow in any other place in the paragraph.