**Vocabulary**

1. Posters of the local rock band were displayed in store windows to promote the sale of their c\_\_\_\_\_t tickets.

2. Maria didn’t want to deliver the bad news to David about his failing the job interview. She herself was quite u\_\_\_\_\_t about it.

3. The newcomer speaks with a strong Irish a\_\_\_\_\_t; he must be from Ireland.

**Multiple Choices**

4. Mangoes are a \_\_\_\_\_ fruit here in Taiwan; most of them reach their peak of sweetness in July.

(A) mature (B) usual (C) seasonal (D) particular

5. Writing term papers and giving oral reports are typical course \_\_\_\_\_ for college students.

(A) requirements (B) techniques (C) situations (D) principles

**Passage Completion**

**Question 7-11 are based on the following passage.**

It has long been assumed that creativity is some unusual trait enjoyed by the few. However, according to a wide array of scientific and sociological research, creativity is 16 a sign of rare genius than a natural human potential. Thus, it can be nurtured and encouraged.

It is believed that taking breaks from a problem can help 17 a moment of insight or stimulate new ideas. Unconventional solutions can also be explored. That is why some of the most successful companies in the world, such as 3M and Google, encourage their employees to 18 all sorts of relaxing activities, such as playing pinball and wandering about the campus. During such breaks, the mind turns inward, 19 it can subconsciously puzzle over subtle meanings and connections.

Another way to increase creativity is to take risks. This is because many breakthroughs come up when people venture 20 their usual routines or areas of expertise. This can be done by, for example, learning new skills or traveling to new countries.

6. (A) more (B) less (C) better (D) worse

7. (A) spark (B) carve (C) drill (D) grind

8. (A) refer to (B) answer for (C) take part in (D) put up with

9. (A) if (B) but (C) where (D) which

10. (A) into (B) without (C) under (D) beyond

**Cloze**

**Question 11-20 are based on the following passage.**

Fortune cookies, commonly served after meals at Chinese restaurants in the U.S., are characterized by a fortune, which is written on a small piece of paper tucked inside the cookie. There are several 11 stories about the origin of the fortune cookie. None of them, however, has been proven to be entirely true.

One of these stories 12 the cookie’s origin back to 13th- and 14th-century China, which was then occupied by the Mongols. According to the legend, notes of 13 plans for a revolution to overthrow the Mongols were hidden in mooncakes that would ordinarily have been stuffed with sweet bean paste. The revolution turned out to be 14 and eventually led to the formation of the Ming Dynasty. This story may sound highly credible, but there seems to be no solid evidence that it inspired the creation of the 15 we know of today as fortune cookies.

Another 16 claims that David Jung, a Chinese immigrant living in Los Angeles, created the fortune cookie in 1918. Concerned about the poor people he saw wandering near his shop, he made cookies and passed them out free on the streets. Each cookie 17 a strip of paper inside with an inspirational Bible quotation on it.

However, the more generally accepted story is that the fortune cookie first 18 in either 1907 or 1914 in San Francisco, created by a Japanese immigrant, Makoto Hagiwara. The fortune cookie was based on a Japanese snack, but Hagiwara sweetened the recipe to appeal to American 19 . He enclosed thank-you notes in the cookies and served them to his guests with tea. Within a few years, Chinese restaurant owners in San Francisco had copied the recipe and 20 the thank-you notes with fortune notes. Such fortune cookies became common in Chinese restaurants in the U.S. after World War II.

(A) account (B) appeared (C) competing (D) contained (E) replaced

(F) secret (G) successful (H) tastes (I) traces (J) treats

**Reading Comprehension**

**Question 21-24 are based on the following passage.**

For more than two hundred years, the White House has stood as a symbol of the United States Presidency, the U.S. government, and the American people. In 1790, President George Washington declared that the federal government would reside in a district “not exceeding ten miles square … on the river Potomac.” As preparations began, a competition was held to find a builder of the “President’s House.” Nine proposals were submitted, and the Irish-born architect James Hoban won the gold medal for his practical and handsome design. Construction began when the first cornerstone was laid in October of 1792. Although President Washington oversaw the construction of the house, he never lived in it. It was not until 1800, when the White House was nearly completed, that its first residents, President John Adams and his wife Abigail, moved in.

American presidents can express their individual style in how they decorate the house and in how they receive the public. Thomas Jefferson held the first inaugural open house in 1805; many of those who attended the swearing-in ceremony at the U.S. Capitol simply followed him home. President Jefferson also opened the house for public tours, and it has remained open, except during wartime, ever since. In addition, Jefferson welcomed visitors to annual receptions on New Year’s Day and on the Fourth of July. Abraham Lincoln did the same, but then the inaugural crowds became far too large for the White House to accommodate comfortably, and this also created a security issue. It was not until Grover Cleveland’s first presidency that some effective crowd control measures were implemented to address the problem caused by **this practice**.

At various times in history, the White House has been known as the “President’s Palace,” the “President’s House,” and the “Executive Mansion.” President Theodore Roosevelt officially gave the White House its current name in 1901.

21. What is this passage mainly about?

(A) The design of the White House. (B) The location of the White House.

(C) The importance of the White House. (D) The history of the White House.

22. What does “**this practice**” refer to in the second paragraph?

(A) Holding an inaugural open house.

(B) Accommodating the crowds comfortably.

(C) Decorating the White House.

(D) Joining in the swearing-in ceremony.

23. Who initiated the construction of the White House?

(A) John Adams. (B) James Hoban.

(C) George Washington. (D) Thomas Jefferson.

24. According to the passage, which of the following is **NOT** true about the White House?

(A) The White House has had several names.

(B) The designer of the White House was an American president.

(C) People were not allowed to visit the White House during wartime.

(D) The White House is located in a district not larger than ten miles square.

**Translation**

1. 相較於他們父母的世代，現今年輕人享受較多的自由和繁榮。