

外研社杯·国才杯·2017 年阅读大赛初赛第一场

Questions 1-3 (Suggested completion time: 3 minutes)

Directions: Read the following excerpts. Match the excerpts with the book title. Please note there are three extra options you do not need.

A. A Tale of Two Cities	1.Pretend modesty often is nonsense, sometimes just is the beat around the bush boast.
B. Pride and Prejudice	
C. The Great Gatsby	2.Life is too short to continue hating anyone for a long time.
D. Little Women	
E. Hard Times	3.Whenever you feel like criticizing any one, just remember that all the people in this world haven' t had the advantages that you' ve had.
F. Jane Eyre	

Question 4 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)

Directions: Read the text and answer the question according to the text.

Common sense might suggest that children inherit intelligence from both parents. However, certain genes operate differently, depending on whether they are from the mother or father. The genes that determine intelligence are located in chromosome X. Because women carry two X chromosomes and men carry only one, children are twice as likely to get their intelligence from their mom.

4. Where is the piece of text most probably taken from?

- A) A notice. B) A research. C) An advertisement. D) An instruction.

Question 5 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)

Directions: Read the text and answer the question according to the text.

When friendships were reported as being stressful, people reported higher rates of disease. When friends were supportive, people were healthier. Most of the friendships were reported as being supportive. Family, however, were found to have little influence on an individual' s health and wellbeing. Spouses and children had some effect on an individual' s health and wellbeing, but not as much as friends. With friends you are more likely to do activities—they provide an outlet. You can say things to friends and they are less judgmental. There is a distance there that provides a level of honesty.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A) The ways to relieve stress.
- B) Friends versus family.
- C) The effects of friendship on health.
- D) The benefits of having friends.

Question 6 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)

Directions: Read the text and answer the question according to the text.

With JourneYou, save \$200 on select departures of its Essential Peru tour. The seven-day trip starts at \$899 per person double and includes hotel accommodations in Lima, Cusco and the Sacred Valley; ground excursions; daily breakfast and some lunches; flights within Peru; expedition train to Machu Picchu; entrance fees; and taxes.

6. What is the most possible type of the text?

- A) A tour guide. B) An advertisement. C) A presentation. D) An expert' s advice.

Question 7 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text and answer the question according to the text.*

Welcome to Vatican City, the smallest country (by area AND population!) in the world. Surprised? You might have heard of it, but you might not have guessed that many consider the Vatican a country.

While it could be argued that the Vatican isn't technically an independent nation—it doesn't have a seat at the United Nations—others would dispute that claim. The Vatican abides by the 1933 Montevideo Convention's definition of a country, after all. Article One of the Convention says: "The state as a person of international law should possess the following qualifications: a) a permanent population; b) a defined territory; c) government; and d) capacity to enter into relations with the other states."

According to that definition, the Vatican meets all of the criteria for statehood.

7. Vatican is seen as a nation because it _____.

- A) possesses an established government
- B) abides by the international law
- C) has a seat at the United Nations

D) holds a written constitution

Question 8 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text and answer the question according to the text.*



BSG Wood.b Duomatic

Country of origin: France

Details: French bikemaker BSG's Wood.b line of cycles combine metal pieces with structural components made of exposed ash plywood. The finished product—which is every bit as pricey as it looks—seems closer to art than machinery. Don't be fooled: BSG's frame promises exceptional durability, and the use of painted aluminium components keeps weight to a manageable 35lbs. This beauty is a beast.

Price: €3190 (about \$4230)

8. What do you know about BSG's Wood.b bicycles from the text?

A) They are made out of pricey wood.

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- B) They are durable.
 - C) The components are exposed.
 - D) Their artistic values outweigh practical values.

Question 9 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text and answer the question according to the text.*

We all know the drill. For the last decade, smartphones have gotten thinner and faster and thinner and faster and, well, you get the picture.

But it's too soon to write off our smartphones as boring. The gadgets are still evolving with new technologies. And for a clue as to what the smartphone of the future might look like, turn your attention to the device's cameras and the software and sensors that make them tick.

Here's a peek into how the camera may come into play: As soon as you pick up your gadget, it will see you and know you are the owner and unlock the screen. Overseas, you will be able to point the camera at a restaurant menu to translate items into your native language. When shopping for furniture, you can point your phone camera at your living room floor and place a virtual rendering of a coffee table down to see how it looks and move around and peek underneath it.

Some of this futurism is already starting to happen.

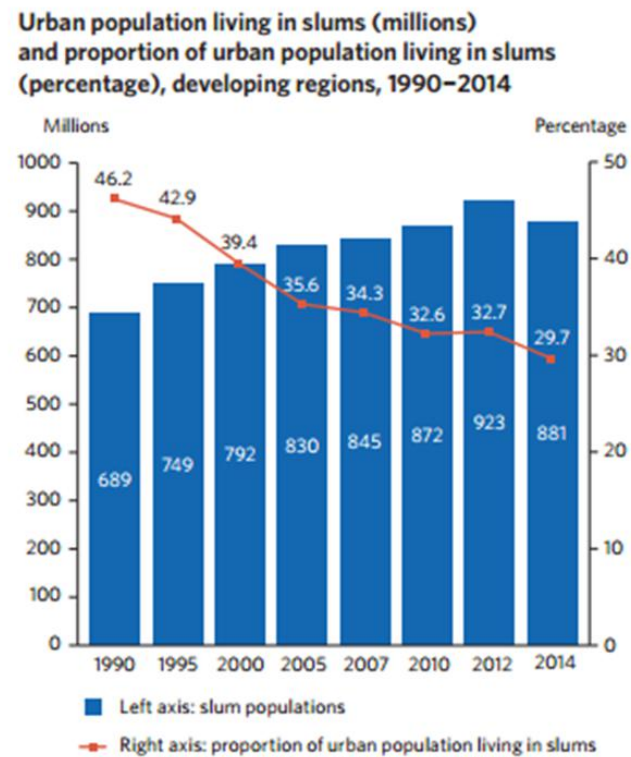
9. What is the most probable title of the text?

- A) How to Keep on Top of Technology with Your Smartphones
- B) The Smartphone's Future: It's All About the Camera
- C) Updating Your Smartphone Sensors for Better Functions
- D) Smartphones: Changes in Ten Years

Question 10 (Suggested completion time: 5 minutes)

Directions: *The bar chart shows the number and proportion of urban population living in slums in developing regions from 1990 to 2014. Answer the question according to the information in the chart.*

10. Which of the following is an INCORRECT description about the chart?



(Source: The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2015)

- A) The proportion of population living in slums of developing regions was declining, but their numbers remained high.
- B) The year 2012 saw the largest population living in slums in urban areas of developing regions.
- C) From 1990 to 2014, urban populations living in slums in developing regions have been on the rise.
- D) The proportion of urban population living in slums fell to nearly 30% in 2014,

which is almost 17% lower than that in 1990.

Questions 11-12 (Suggested completion time: 10 minutes)

Directions: *Read the definitions of two types of logical fallacy. Answer the questions according to the definitions.*

Equivocation

Equivocation is a fallacy that exploits the ambiguity of language by changing the meaning of a word during the course of an argument and using the different meanings to support an ill-founded conclusion.

Appeal to Force

An *appeal to force* is a fallacy that relies on force or intimidation (scare tactics) to persuade an audience to accept a proposition or take a particular course of action.

11. Which of the following provides a typical example of *Equivocation*?

- A) Ten million Americans can't be wrong, can they? So buy it. Read it.
- B) The work permits would run counter to our traditional freedoms and would be the first step toward a police state.
- C) The sign said "fine for parking here" and since it was fine, I parked there.
- D) Scientists tell us we all come from monkeys, and that's why I homeschool.

12. Which of the following provides a typical example of an *appeal to force*?

- A) An environmental group illegally blocked loggers and workers at a nuclear plant.

Therefore, environmentalists are radicals who take the law into their own hands.

B) If you don' t accept that the Sun orbits the Earth, rather than the other way around, then you' ll be excommunicated from the Church.

C) Why are you asking me about Mary' s message? I resent her question.

D) Noisy children are a real headache. Two aspirin will make a headache go away.

Therefore, two aspirin will make noisy children go away.

Questions 13-14 Challenge your brain. (Suggested completion time: 6 minutes)

Directions: *Read the following texts and answer the questions according to the texts.*

13.A food company once said in their advertisement: "Recent studies have highlighted the harmful effects of additives in food (colors, preservatives, flavor enhancers etc.). There are no synthetic substances in the foods we produce. We use only natural ingredients. Hence you can be sure you are safeguarding your family' s health when you buy our products."

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the contention of "the foods we produce" ?

A) Food without additives is unlikely to taste good.

B) Some synthetic substances are not harmful.

C) Some natural substances found in foods can be harmful.

D) Without preservatives some foods could cause harm.

14.One man has a nice portrait in his library. When he was asked whom is represented, he replied:

Uncles and brothers

Have I none,

But that man' s father

Is my father' s son.

What relation was the subject of the portrait to that man?

The portrait is _____

Questions 15-17 (Suggested completion time: 6 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text about food tastes. Answer the questions according to the text.*

Saliva can alter the taste of food.

Saliva is vital in helping us eat food safely, and it lubricates and transports taste molecules from food to our taste buds.

Saliva contains an enzyme called amylase, which breaks down starch into sugars. If you' ve ever noticed that some children keep bread in their mouth for a long time, it' s because as the amylase in their saliva acts on the starch, _____ 15 _____.

There are other enzymes in saliva that act on fat and protein, and control how we perceive food. The composition of saliva in each person is different. It changes throughout the day, and is influenced by what you eat, what exercise you have done, your mood, and even whether it is light or dark outside.

Proteomics (the study of proteins and their function) is an approach that can measure differences in the protein composition of different people' s saliva. The types and level of proteins and enzymes present in saliva vary from person to person, and this changes the way flavour is released from food in our mouth.

The bacteria that live in our mouths, part of our microbiome, also have an influence. For example, bacteria change the flavours of food by increasing the production of molecules that create particular taste experiences. The types of bacteria that are present create a unique response in each individual.

Research into individual food preferences—whether they be as a result of our genetics, saliva or the way we chew—may one day guide food manufacturers to produce healthier options of our everyday foods.

Hopefully this may contribute to consumers making better menu selections and decrease the number of food-related diseases.

15. Which of the following best fits in the numbered space in the text?

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- A) the bread is easier to be chewed and digested
 - B) more nutrients could be transported from food to our mouth
 - C) the digestion process is faster
 - D) more sugar is produced and the bread tastes sweeter

16. Which of the following is NOT true about enzymes?

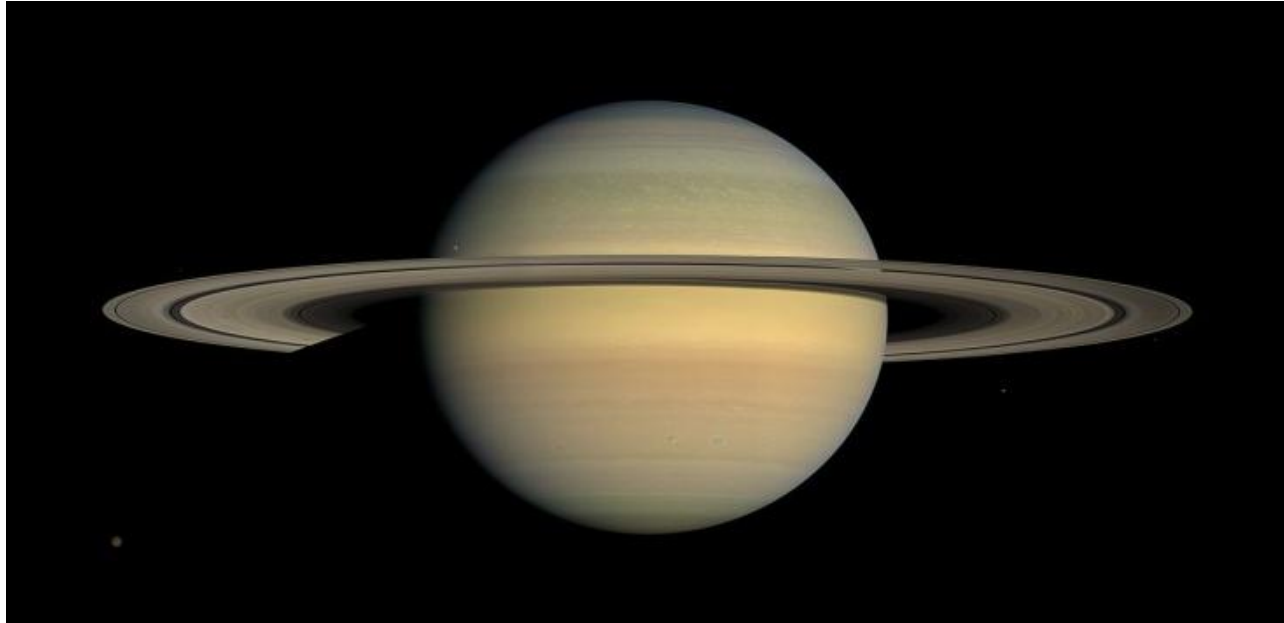
- A) It alters the flavours of food by increasing the production of molecules.
- B) It is one of the key compounds in the composition of saliva.
- C) It can act on starch, fat and protein in food to create different flavours.
- D) Its types and level have personal variations which contribute to different tastes of food.

17. Which of the following can be inferred from the text?

- A) The bacteria in our mouths would spoil the tastes of food.
- B) This study of taste can help customers choose healthier diets.
- C) That we have different tastes to the same food is because of enzymes in our saliva.
- D) The ingredients of your saliva remain the same when you' re happy or not.

Questions 18-19 (Suggested completion time: 5 minutes)

Directions: Read the text about Saturn. Decide whether the statements are True or False according to the text.



Saturn in natural color, photographed by *Cassini* in July 2008

NASA announced new discoveries that would help in the search for life beyond Earth. The new data comes from the space agency's *Cassini* spacecraft, which orbits the planet Saturn and its moons. *The Hubble Space Telescope*, which was launched into Earth orbit in 1990, provided additional information. It has studied the planet and its many natural satellites since arriving there in 2004. In one key finding, *Cassini* scientists have determined that plumes of gas erupting out of Saturn's icy moon Enceladus contain hydrogen. The researchers also discovered hydrogen gas pouring into Enceladus' subsurface ocean from hydrothermal activity on the seafloor. Hydrogen gas could potentially provide a chemical energy source for life. On Earth, hydrothermal vents are filled with microscopic life forms. Confirmation that the chemical energy for life exists within the ocean of a small moon of Saturn is an important milestone in the search for habitable worlds beyond Earth.

18. *Cassini* is a spacecraft orbiting Saturn and has studied Saturn for at least nine years.

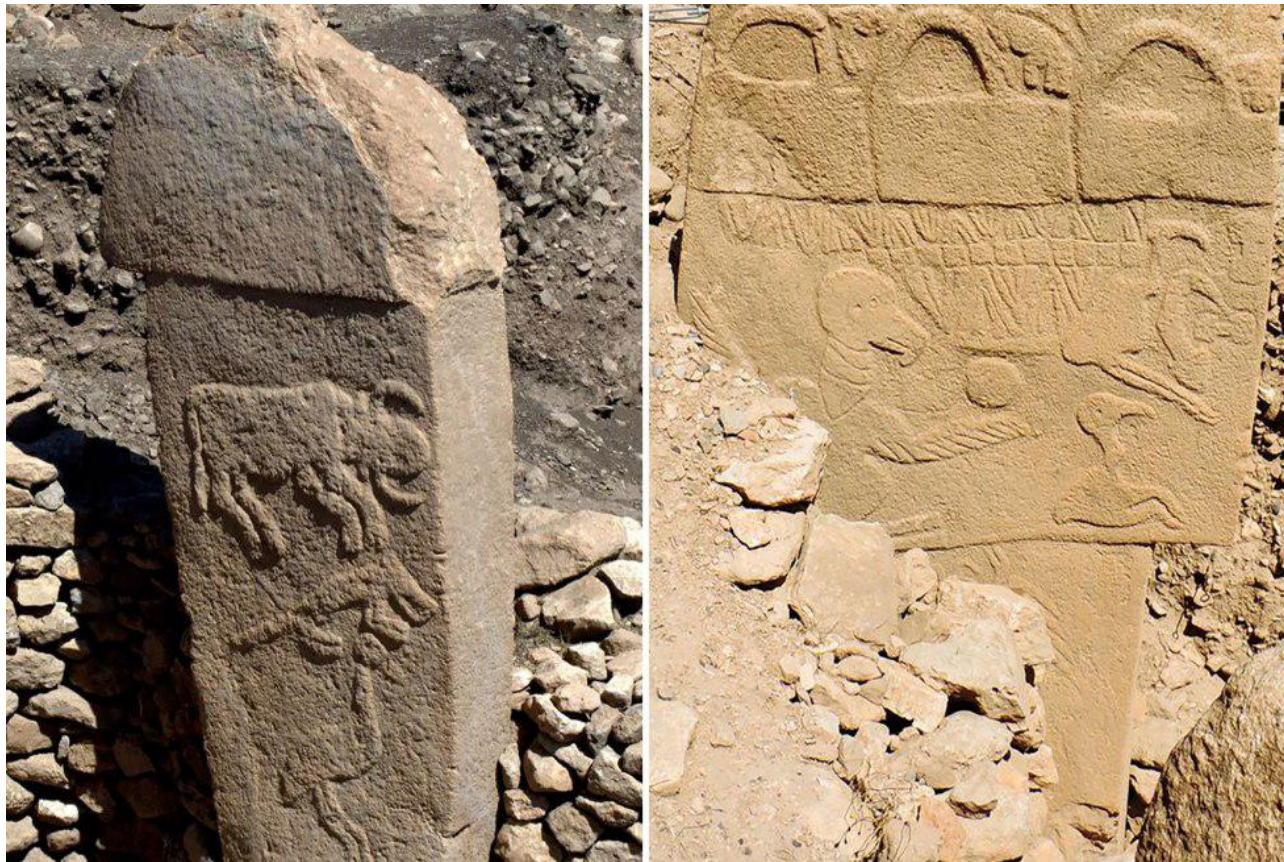
A) True B) False

19. The detection of hydrogen gas is a powerful evidence of the habitability of Saturn.

A) True B) False

Questions 20-21 (Suggested completion time: 6 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text and answer the questions according to the text.*



Ten thousand years from now (assuming humans haven't been wiped out by a plague, space rock or our own destructive tendencies,) it'll probably be fairly easy for the average person to research what life was like in 2017. For us here today, finding out what life was like in 11,000 BC is much more challenging, but by studying ancient stone carvings and pairing the somewhat confusing messages with archeological data, researchers believe they've discovered concrete evidence that may have altered the future of mankind: a comet strike.

The study, performed by a team of researchers from the University of Edinburgh, suggests that a potentially cataclysmic comet strike rapidly and dramatically altered the Earth's climate for hundreds of years, sending humanity into a mini ice age with nearly glacial conditions. The time period when this occurred is known as the Younger Dryas, and has been well-documented thanks to ample evidence of the cooling found in core samples, but its cause has been theorized and debated for a long while. Now, thanks to stone carvings left by ancient people in modern day Turkey, researchers believe that a comet was the culprit.

The carvings are remarkably preserved and appear to have been created to document an apocalyptic event which devastated the land. Figures depicted in the carvings, including

apparently deceased, headless human bodies and other wildlife, were made at around the time the Younger Dryas began, suggesting that the event archived in stone could have been the same one that caused the thousand-year cold snap. The carvings were found at what is considered to be one of the oldest and most important temple sites on the planet, and for the images to appear there suggests that they have enormous historical significance.

The Younger Dryas is often credited with pushing ancient humans to band together out of pure necessity, forming the foundation of modern agriculture and other huge advancements in civilization. The idea that a comet may have been responsible for pushing humanity forward is an extremely interesting, and potentially frightening possibility.

The findings are far from an iron-clad confirmation, but the timing matches up shockingly well and would have to be a fantastic coincidence if the two events are actually unrelated.

20. Which of the following is TRUE about the Younger Dryas according to the text?

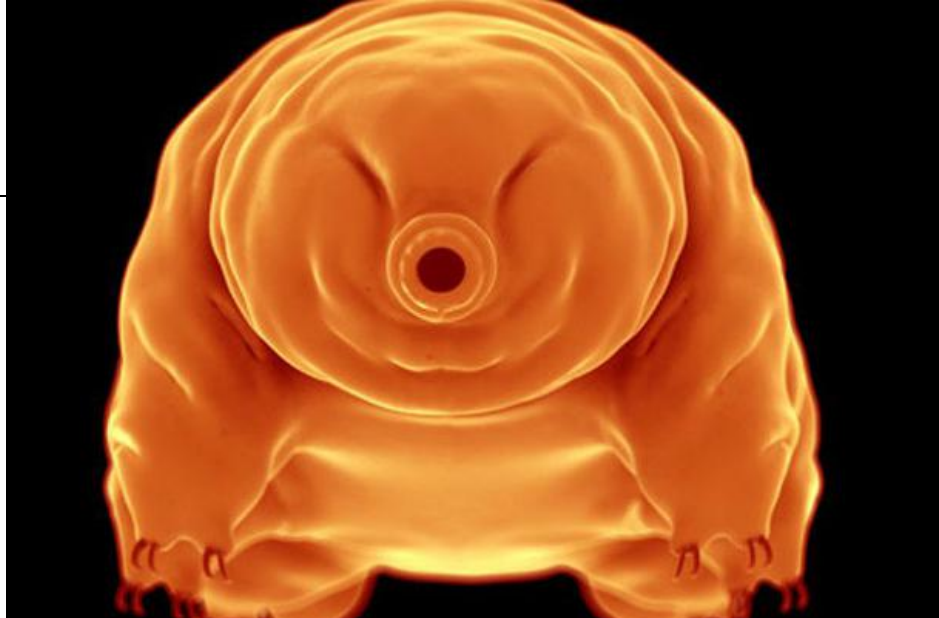
- A) A comet devastated the land and killed living creatures during the Younger Dryas.
- B) The recent research findings prove that the Younger Dryas is related to a comet strike.
- C) Many stone carvings were well-preserved and discovered in the Younger Dryas.
- D) The Younger Dryas is usually considered as the foundation of modern agriculture.

21. What is the possible main idea of this text?

- A) Early civilization began in the Younger Dryas.
- B) Ancient stone carvings help a lot in archaeology.
- C) A comet strike may have changed human' s history.
- D) Researchers found the cause of climate change.

Questions 22-23 (Suggested completion time: 7 minutes)

Directions: *Read the text about tardigrade. Answer the questions according to the text.*



The world's most indestructible species—a stout, microscopic animal with four pairs of legs, known as the water bear or tardigrade—will survive until the sun dies, according to new research from Oxford University and the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA).

_____ 22 _____ The water-dwelling micro-animals are known to be able to live for up to 30 years without food or water. They can endure temperatures of up to 150 degrees Celsius, the deep sea, and the frozen vacuum of space.

And they can even survive the risk of extinction from cosmic catastrophes—asteroids, supernovas, gamma ray bursts—and likely last for at least 10 billion years, far longer than the human race, according to the new study published in *Scientific Reports*.

Not bad for an animal that grows to a maximum size of 0.5mm.

“A lot of previous work has focused on ‘doomsday’ scenarios on Earth—astrophysical events like supernovas that could wipe out the human race. Our study instead considered the hardiest species,” said David Sloan, co-author and postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Physics at Oxford University.

Sloan said researchers were surprised by the extent of the tardigrade's resiliency. “It seems that life, once it gets going, is hard to wipe out entirely. Huge numbers of species or even entire genera may become extinct, but life as a whole will go on.”

The research implies that life on Earth will extend as long as the sun keeps shining. It also reveals that once life emerges, it is surprisingly difficult to destroy, opening the possibility of life on other planets.

“Tardigrades are as close to indestructible as it gets on Earth, but it is possible that there are other resilient species examples elsewhere in the universe,” said Dr. Rafael Alves Batista, co-author and post-doctoral research associate in the Department of Physics at Oxford University.

22. Which of the following best fits in the numbered space in the text?

A) Tardigrade reproduces through sexual and asexual reproduction, depending on the

species.

- B) Tardigrade may be little but they are the toughest form of life on Earth.
- C) Tardigrade' s legs resemble those of crabs, spiders, and other bugs of similar genera.
- D) Tardigrade' s truly bizarre genetic constitution is revealed by geneticists.

23. What would the author most likely write about in the following parts of the text?

- A) Previous research on the influence of "doomsday" scenarios.
- B) The resilience of life in general beyond the scope of Earth.
- C) The situations when new threats to tardigrades occur.
- D) The reasons for species to survive extreme conditions in the universe.

Questions 24-31 (Suggested completion time: 30 minutes)

Directions: *Read three passages about game addiction. Answer the questions according to the passages.*

Passage A

Chinese games giant Tencent intends to calm parents' fears of gaming addictions by introducing time limits for younger players.

The firm has begun by implementing restrictions in mobile title *Honour of Kings*, one of its most popular games with 200 million users.

Reuters reports that users aged 12 or younger will only be able to play the game for one hour per day, with this extending to two hours for those between 12 and 18 years old.

Tencent has also said it will lock under-12s out of the game if they attempt to log in after 9 pm. It will even increase restrictions on how much money kids can spend in the game.

Honour of Kings will be the first title to impose these limits, but Tencent has also said it will make improvements to the rest of its portfolio, which encompasses more than 200 games.

Planned measures include an upgraded parental control platform, so parents will be able to monitor their children' s gaming activities, and an increased requirement for users to register under their real names.

"There are no rules to prevent indulgence in online games in China, but we decided to be the first to try to dispel parent worries by limiting play time and forcing children to log off," a Tencent spokesperson wrote.

Mobile games in particular have been under scrutiny by parents for years—particularly those that easily allow in-app purchases, with countless reports of children racking up huge bills through microtransactions. With mobile very much the dominant games platform for kids around the world, not just in China, it's not unlikely we'll see more companies introduce similar measures to *assuage* fears that children are becoming addicted to such titles.

Passage B

Most addictions, such as substance abuse addictions have a set ability to be defined based on use of a substance alone. Unfortunately, video game addiction cannot be defined quite so easily. It can take more than just insight into one's ability or enthusiasm in a video game to define it as an addiction. A true video game addiction is a compulsive disorder, a clinical impulse to play a video game. Psychiatrist Michael Brody defines video game addiction as:

1. A need for the person to play the game constantly or take part in gaming activities more and more frequently
2. Irritability or miserableness related to not getting the video game action one desires

These signs are really no different than those present with a substance abuse addiction and in many ways, compulsive video gaming can be treated using similar methods that are used to treat substance abuse. Compulsive gaming not only has many of the same signs as substance abuse addictions or problems, it also has many withdrawal symptoms or stages that come when the addict stops playing video games such as insomnia, anger, violent behaviors and other disorders, most of which are treatable with time and therapy. According to the National Academic Advising Association, an excessive gaming problem becomes an addiction when it is used to change a person's mood.

Many methods of treatment can be found to help those who are addicted to video games to stop the cycle of gaming and get on the right track to social and emotional recovery. Because many video game addictions are the result of an inept social being or the result of masking emotions, most treatment methods revolve around helping the teen, child or adult to become more social, overcome negative emotions and reduce boredom by finding more productive things to do. In many ways, treatment for video game addiction is treated the same way as the treatment for any other addiction such as a substance abuse problem or alcoholism.

Passage C

Adam figured he needed to avoid temptation, so he limited his contact with friends who were hardcore gamers. He used filters on the popular Reddit website to avoid any discussion of gaming topics.

And in the most radical step, he rendered his online gaming account unusable by resetting his username and password to strings of randomly generated numbers and letters. He then burned the paper on which he had written them, ensuring they were lost forever.

"Once I removed all stimulation that was game-related, not playing became very easy," he said.

As Adam's obsession cooled, he grew interested in meeting others who had endured similar experiences. He formed a Chicago chapter of Computer Gaming Addicts Anonymous, a support group that loosely follows the 12-step approach to recovery (it recently began holding weekly meetings at the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation on the Near North Side).

Through the group, Adam met a 55-year-old Chicago woman with a very different gaming problem. She didn't get sucked into elaborate fantasy worlds or high-adrenaline shooters—her issue was smartphone games like *Burger Shop* and *Words with Friends*. "I lost a good job six years ago, and maybe a contributing factor was being tired from being up until 3 a.m. playing games on my phone," she said.

Therapy, prayer and traditional 12-step meetings didn't provide much help. But when she met Adam, talking things over in a Chicago coffee shop, she found someone who understood her issues and kept her accountable when she tried to stop.

The woman said she played her last video game in 2015, though she still finds herself pulled toward text-based trivia games.

"It's not that fun, but I think there's still some dopamine in it," she said. "Things are moving on my phone."

As for Adam, he works as a computer programmer, a situation he jokes is similar to a recovering alcoholic working in a liquor store. Constant proximity to a screen has not led him back into uncontrollable play, he said, though he still fools around with simple computer games for a few minutes a week.

In the end, he sees himself as a recovering addict, but he says the label isn't important. Video games were his deliverance from depression, loneliness and social anxiety. When he finally dealt with those problems, he said, he didn't need the games anymore.

24. According to Passage A, Tencent plans to take the following anti-addiction measures EXCEPT _____.

- A) an increased requirement for real-name registration
- B) an improved parental control system
- C) a limit on the sum of in-game purchases
- D) a curfew on the players aged 12 and under

25. The word ***assuage*** in Passage A is closest in meaning to _____.

- A) confront B) inspire C) fuel D) relieve

26. It can be learnt from Passage B that video game addiction _____.

A) can be defined similarly as substance abuse addictions

B) can be treated the same way used to treat most addictions

C) has exactly the same symptoms as substance abuse addictions

D) has restricted withdrawal symptoms compared with other addictions

27. According to Passage B, which of the following group of people are more likely to be addicted to video games?

A) Those who are pessimistic.

B) Those who are not socially skilled.

C) Those who cannot control their emotions.

D) Those who are afraid of challenges in real life.

28. The game addict Adam in Passage C has taken all the following ways to recover himself from game addiction EXCEPT _____.

A) keeping himself away from computer

B) making his online gaming account unusable

C) reducing his contact with game-loving friends

D) forming a support group that follows recovering steps

29. The 55-year-old Chicago woman in Passage C found it helpful for her recovery from game addiction when she had _____.

A) found some creative things to do

B) participated in 12-step meetings

C) talked things over with Adam

D) received therapy and kept praying

30-31. Decide whether the statements are True or False

according to the three passages.

30. From Passage B and Passage C it can be inferred that many game addicts may get better if they can solve their social and emotional problems.

A) True B) False

31. All the three passages point out the bad effects of game addiction and provide some solutions.

A) True B) False