

PHẦN 2: ĐỌC HIẾU – VSTEP

Thời gian: 60 phút

Số câu hỏi: 40

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, to each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen. 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, including the time to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

READING 1

Hotels were among the earliest facilities that bound the United States together. They were both creatures and creators of communities, as well as symptoms of the frenetic quest for community. Even in the first part of the nineteenth century, Americans were already forming the habit of gathering from all corners of the nation for both public and private, business and pleasure purposes. Conventions were the new occasions, and hotels were distinctively American facilities making conventions possible. The first national convention of a major party to choose a candidate for President (that of the National Republican party, which met on December 12, 1831, and nominated Henry Clay for President) was held in Baltimore, at a hotel that was then reputed to be the best in the country. The presence in Baltimore of Barnum's City Hotel, a six-story building with two hundred apartments, helps explain why many other early national political conventions were held there.

In the longer run, too, American hotels made other national conventions not only possible but pleasant and convivial. The growing custom of regularly assembling from afar the representatives of all kinds of groups — not only for political conventions, but also for commercial, professional, learned, and avocational ones — in turn supported the multiplying hotels. By mid-twentieth century, conventions accounted for over a third of the yearly room occupancy of all hotels in the nation; about eighteen thousand different conventions were held annually with a total attendance of about ten million persons.

Nineteenth-century American hotelkeepers, who were no longer the genial, deferential “hosts” of the eighteenth-century European inn, became leading citizens. Holding a large stake in the community, they exercised power to make it prosper. As owners or managers of the local “palace of the public,” they were makers and shapers of a principal community attraction. Travelers from abroad were mildly shocked by this high social position.

1. What is the main topic of the passage?
(A) The size of early American hotels
(B) The importance of hotels in American culture
(C) How American hotels differed from European hotels
(D) Why conventions are held at hotels

2. The word “bound” in line 1 is closest in meaning to
(A) led
(B) protected
(C) tied
(D) strengthened

3. The National Republican party is mentioned in line 8 as an example of a group
(A) from Baltimore
(B) of learned people
(C) owning a hotel
(D) holding a convention

4. The word “assembling” in line 14 is closest in meaning to
(A) announcing
(B) motivating
(C) gathering
(D) contracting

5. The word “ones” in line 16 refers to
(A) hotels
(B) conventions
(C) kinds
(D) representatives

6. The word “it” in line 23 refers to
(A) European inn
(B) host
(C) community
(D) public

7. It can be inferred from the passage that early hotelkeepers in the United States were
(A) active politicians
(B) European immigrants

- (C) professional builders
- (D) influential citizen

8. Which of the following statements about early American hotels is NOT mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Travelers from abroad did not enjoy staying in them.
- (B) Conventions were held in them.
- (C) People used them for both business and pleasure.
- (D) They were important to the community.

READING 2

Beads were probably the first durable ornaments humans possessed, and the intimate relationship they had with their owners is reflected in the fact that beads are among the most common items found in ancient archaeological sites. In the past, as today, men, women, and children adorned themselves with beads. In some culture still, certain beads are often worn from birth until death, and then are buried with their owners for the afterlife. Abrasion due to daily wear alters the surface features of beads, and if they are buried for long, the effects of corrosion can further change their appearance. Thus, interest is imparted to the bead both by use and the effects of time.

Besides their wear ability, either as jewelry or incorporated into articles of attire, beads possess the desirable characteristics of every collectible: they are durable, portable, available in infinite variety, and often valuable in their original cultural context as well as in today's market. Pleasing to look at and touch, beads come in shapes, colors, and materials that almost compel one to handle them and to sort them.

Beads are miniature bundles of secrets waiting to be revealed: their history, manufacture, cultural context, economic role, and ornamental use are all points of information one hopes to unravel. Even the most mundane beads may have traveled great distances and been exposed to many human experiences. The bead researcher must gather information from many diverse fields. In addition to having to be a generalist while specializing in what may seem to be a narrow field, the researcher is faced with the problem of primary materials that have little or no documentation. Many ancient beads that are of ethnographic interest have often been separated from their original cultural context.

The special attractions of beads contribute to the uniqueness of bead research. While often regarded as the “small change of civilizations”, beads are a part of every culture, and they can often be used to date archaeological sites and to designate the degree of mercantile, technological, and cultural sophistication.

9. What is the main subject of the passage?

- (A) Materials used in making beads
- (B) How beads are made
- (C) The reasons for studying beads
- (D) Different types of beads

10. The word “adorned” in line 4 is closest in meaning to

- (A) protected
- (B) decorated
- (C) purchased
- (D) enjoyed

11. The word “attire” in line 9 is closest in meaning to

- (A) ritual
- (B) importance
- (C) clothing
- (D) history

12. All of the following are given as characteristic of collectible objects EXCEPT

- (A) durability
- (B) portability
- (C) value
- (D) scarcity

13. According to the passage, all of the following are factors that make people want to touch beads EXCEPT the

- (A) shape
- (B) color
- (C) material
- (D) odor

14. The word “unravel” in line 16 is closest in meaning to

- (A) communicate
- (B) transport
- (C) improve
- (D) discover

15. The word “mundane” in line 16 is closest in meaning to

- (A) carved
- (B) beautiful
- (C) ordinary
- (D) heavy

16. It is difficult to trace the history of certain ancient beads because they

- (A) are small in size
- (B) have been buried underground
- (C) have been moved from their original locations
- (D) are frequently lost

17. Knowledge of the history of some beads may be useful in the studies done by which of the following?

- (A) Anthropologists
- (B) Agricultural experts
- (C) Medical researchers
- (D) Economists

18. Where in the passage does the author describe why the appearance of beads may change?

- (A) Lines 3-4
- (B) Lines 6-8
- (C) Lines 12-13
- (D) Lines 20-22

READING 3

In the world of birds, bill design is a prime example of evolutionary fine-tuning. Shorebirds such as oystercatchers use their bills to pry open the tightly sealed shells of their prey, hummingbirds have stiletto like bills to probe the deepest nectar-bearing flowers, and kiwis smell out earthworms thanks to nostrils located at the tip of their beaks. But few birds are more intimately tied to their source of sustenance than are crossbills. Two species of these finches, named for the way the upper and lower parts of their bills cross, rather than meet in the middle, reside in the evergreen forests of North America and feed on the seeds held within the cones of coniferous trees.

The efficiency of the bill is evident when a crossbill locates a cone. Using a lateral motion of its lower mandible, the bird separates two overlapping scales on the cone and exposes the seed. The crossed mandibles enable the bird to exert a powerful biting force at the bill tips, which is critical for maneuvering them between the scales and spreading the scales apart. Next, the crossbill snakes its long tongue into the gap and draws out the seed. Using the combined action of the bill and tongue, the bird cracks open and discards the woody seed covering and swallows the nutritious inner

kernel. This whole process takes but a few seconds and is repeated hundreds of times a day.

The bills of different crossbill species and subspecies vary — some are stout and deep, others more slender and shallow. As a rule, large-billed crossbills are better at securing seeds from large cones, while small-billed crossbills are more adept at removing the seeds from small, thin-scaled cones. Moreover, the degree to which cones are naturally slightly open or tightly closed helps determine which bill design is the best.

One anomaly is the subspecies of red crossbill known as the Newfoundland crossbill. This bird has a large, robust bill, yet most of Newfoundland's conifers have small cones, the same kind of cones that the slender-billed white-wings rely on.

19. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) The importance of conifers in evergreen forests
- (B) The efficiency of the bill of the crossbill
- (C) The variety of food available in a forest
- (D) The different techniques birds use to obtain food

20. Which of the following statements best represents the type of "evolutionary fine-tuning" mentioned in line 1?

- (A) Different shapes of bills have evolved depending on the available food supply.
- (B) White-wing crossbills have evolved from red crossbills.
- (C) Newfoundland's conifers have evolved small cones.
- (D) Several subspecies of crossbills have evolved from two species.

21. Why does the author mention oystercatchers, hummingbirds, and kiwis in lines 2-4?

- (A) They are examples of birds that live in the forest.
- (B) Their beaks are similar to the beak of the crossbill.
- (C) They illustrate the relationship between bill design and food supply.
- (D) They are closely related to the crossbill.

22. Crossbills are a type of

- (A) shorebird
- (B) hummingbird
- (C) kiwi
- (D) finch

23. Which of the following most closely resembles the bird described in lines 6-8?

24. The word "which" in line 12 refers to

- (A) seed

- (B) bird
(C) force
(D) bill
25. The word "gap" in line 13 is closest in meaning to
(A) opening
(B) flower
(C) mouth
(D) tree
26. The word "discards" in line 15 is closest in meaning to
(A) eats
(B) breaks
(C) finds out
(D) gets rid of
27. The word "others" in line 18 refers to
(A) bills
(B) species
(C) seeds
(D) cones
28. The word "deft" in line 19 is closest in meaning to
(A) hungry
(B) skilled
(C) tired
(D) pleasant
29. The word "robust" in line 24 is closest in meaning to
(A) strong
(B) colorful
(C) unusual
(D) sharp
30. In what way is the Newfoundland crossbill an anomaly?
(A) It is larger than the other crossbill species.
(B) It uses a different technique to obtain food.
(C) The size of its bill does not fit the size of its food source.
(D) It does not live in evergreen forests.
31. The final paragraph of the passage will probably continue with a discussion of

- (A) other species of forest birds
- (B) the fragile ecosystem of Newfoundland
- (C) what mammals live in the forests of North America
- (D) how the Newfoundland crossbill survives with a large bill

32. Where in the passage does the author describe how a crossbill removes a seed from its cone?

- (A) The first paragraph
- (B) The second paragraph
- (C) The third paragraph
- (D) The fourth paragraph

READING 4

If you look closely at some of the early copies of the Declaration of Independence, beyond the flourished signature of John Hancock and the other 55 men who signed it, you will also find the name of one woman, Mary Katherine Goddard. It was she, a Baltimore printer, who published the first official copies of the Declaration, the first copies that included the names of its signers and therefore heralded the support of all thirteen colonies.

Mary Goddard first got into printing at the age of twenty-four when her brother opened a printing shop in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1762. When he proceeded to get into trouble with his partners and creditors, it was Mary Goddard and her mother who were left to run the shop. In 1765 they began publishing the *Providence Gazette*, a weekly newspaper. Similar problems seemed to follow her brother as he opened businesses in Philadelphia and again in Baltimore. Each time Ms. Goddard was brought in to run the newspapers. After starting Baltimore's first newspaper, *The Maryland Journal*, in 1773, her brother went broke trying to organize a colonial postal service. While he was in debtor's prison, Mary Katherine Goddard's name appeared on the newspaper's masthead for the first time.

When the Continental Congress fled there from Philadelphia in 1776, it commissioned Ms. Goddard to print the first official version of the Declaration of Independence in January 1777. After printing the documents, she herself paid the post riders to deliver the Declaration throughout the colonies.

During the American Revolution, Mary Goddard continued to publish Baltimore's only newspaper, which one historian claimed was "second to none among the colonies." She was also the city's postmaster from 1775 to 1789 — appointed by Benjamin Franklin — and is considered to be the first woman to hold a federal position.

33. With which of the following subjects is the passage mainly concerned?

- (A) The accomplishments of a female publisher
- (B) The weaknesses of the newspaper industry
- (C) The rights of a female publisher
- (D) The publishing system in colonial America

34. Mary Goddard's name appears on the Declaration of Independence because

- (A) she helped write the original document
- (B) she published the document
- (C) she paid to have the document printed
- (D) her brother was in prison

35. The word "heralded" in line 5 is closest in meaning to

- (A) influenced
- (B) announced
- (C) rejected
- (D) ignored

36. According to the passage, Mary Goddard first became involved in publishing when she

- (A) was appointed by Benjamin Franklin
- (B) signed the Declaration of Independence
- (C) took over her brother's printing shop
- (D) moved to Baltimore

37. The word "there" in line 17 refers to

- (A) the colonies
- (B) the print shop
- (C) Baltimore
- (D) Providence

38. It can be inferred from the passage that Mary Goddard was

- (A) an accomplished businesswoman
- (B) extremely wealthy
- (C) a member of the Continental Congress
- (D) a famous writer

39. The word "position" in line 24 is closest in meaning to

- (A) job
- (B) election
- (C) document

(D) location

This is the end of the reading paper.

Now please submit your test paper and your answer sheets.

Answer

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

Answers

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

Answers

19. B 20. A 21. C 22. D 23. B 24. C 25. A 26. D 27. A 28. B
29. A 30. C 31. D 32. B

Answers

33. A 34. B 35. B 36. C 37. C 38. A 39. A

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